

# The Parishioner

Volume 24. Issue 8

A Publication of St. Mark's Evangelical Lutheran Church

November 2019

November, for we Americans, is traditionally the month of Thanksgiving. Thanksgiving for another successful harvest of God's blessings showered upon us. November – a time to remember these blessings with joyful acts of praise and devotion: with family reunions around a beautiful table laden with food; with acts of caring for those less fortunate. As a November thanksgiving meditation I want to share the following devotional written by a fellow seminary classmate and friend of mine, the late John Ferrence.

#### The Miracle Began With The Boy

Text: John 6:1-15

Can you visualize this text; the mental cartoon of a scantily clad boy scurrying into the crowd with his precious lunch of bread and fish and a dozen grown men in ardent pursuit with arms waving and coarse voices yelling – "Stop that kid! Somebody, stop that kid!" This simply delights me.

Even better yet, the picture too of a nine year old lad standing right up front with the picture of devilish innocence in his eyes and two fish neatly tucked under his one arm and his buns under his other arm – all of which are carefully concealed under his shirt – while Jesus is saying, "Anybody bring food? Did anybody bring food? This also brings a smile to my heart.

Kids do have a way of being up front where the action is. This little fella may have heard Jesus and His disciples discuss their dilemma. In the beautiful innocence of a boy wanting to help – looks up into the face of the Christ and says, "Teacher! Teacher! I have a couple of fish and a few buns. You may have them if you want them."

This may well have brought a torrent of rollicking laughter from the gathered crowd in front of Jesus. After all 5 loaves and 2 fish for a multitude of 5,000 plus is quite a bitter-sweet chuckle.

But, the boy was thoroughly generous and His master was filled with gratitude and He expressed it openly. Then He shared the food with all who were present.

The boy took a man-sized risk that day. Any way you look at it, those loaves and fishes were precious to him. That may have been his lunch ...or he may also have been on his way home from the market. His mother would be waiting. Or those fish may have been a prize catch. When he gave them away – he had nothing. He stood nutritionally naked – empty. Until this moment he had all he needed. He had food. He was the only one in a great multitude with a bite to eat and it was enough for him. Indeed he could have stolen away taking his food with him. But that boy risked all that day.

In so doing he became a partner with Jesus and together – they feed 5,000 men plus women and children with 5 barley loaves and 2 fish.

We too, in so doing, become partners with Christ and together we "feed" the world. "Oh – but that was a miracle," we say! "Jesus did that! We can't do that!"

But hear this – the miracle began with the boy – when he gave all he had.

Footnotes Volume III, July, 1970 Waterloo Lutheran Seminary

Each week here at St. Mark's we are invited to be a part of an ongoing miracle ... through our gifts and offerings we encourage and support the many ministries that "feed" those who hunger for God's Word. Remember, the miracle of the five loaves and two fish all began with a boy when he gave all he had. That miracle can still happen today!

PRAY! THANK! BLESS! GIVE!

Pastor Neal+



#### FROM THE STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE

"For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also." - Matthew 6:21

In August we wrote to you broadly on the topic of stewardship and in September we wrote more specifically on tithing. This month we want to talk about the financial needs of St. Mark's Lutheran Church. It's no secret that we have been running a budget deficit for several years now and that we have been able to keep our doors open only by taking funds from our reserves every year.

We're not going to beat around the bush, we'll be perfectly frank with you. At our current level of stewardship our reserves will be gone in 3-4 years. That's the bad news. Now the good news: the solution is very simple; it's not complicated at all. There are three things we need to do in order for St. Mark's to survive and thrive: we will need to cut expenses, we need to grow and we need to give. Actually, there's a fourth thing we need to do and that is pray for our church, but that should already be evident to everyone. We are taking steps to increase our level of community outreach to help this church grow, and now we are also asking all of our members to give, to pray about their financial commitments and make a pledge to St. Mark's for 2020.

Pledge cards are included with this newsletter and we ask that all members pray, search their hearts, fill out and turn in their pledge cards on Stewardship Sunday, which is November 24.

This church has been in Butler since 1813, that's roughly seven generations. St. Mark's has made it through the depressions of 1815-1821, 1873-1879, 1920-1921 and 1929-1933; the financial panics of 1857, 1873, 1893, 1896, 1907 and 1910-1911, as well as dozens of recessions, including the great recession of 2007-2009. Today we are living in what is probably the most prosperous time in American history and yet our giving is way below the level needed to sustain our church long-term.

Your Church Council does not intend to be part of the generation that failed to keep our congregation and Lutheran heritage alive after over 200 years of ministry in Butler, and we're sure you don't intend that either. Every generation of people who worshipped here had its own challenges to deal with but every generation of St. Mark's parishioners has faithfully passed on a legacy of biblical, orthodox, Lutheran Christianity to the next generation. Frankly, we think that's an important heritage that should not end with us, it should be passed down to the next generation and every succeeding generation after it.

The decisions and actions we take now will have an impact on the lives of people in Butler for generations to come. Please pray about your role and calling at St. Mark's in helping this church grow and join your Church Council on November 24 in pledging your financial support to continue our Lutheran legacy in this community.

"Let each man give according as he has determined in his heart; not grudgingly, or under compulsion; for God loves a cheerful giver." – 2 Corinthians 9:7





The Festival of All Saints celebrates the mystery of God's presence and the power of God's Grace in ordinary human beings. In the waters of baptism we enter into the Communion of Saints. In the bread and wine of Holy Communion we are nourished by Christ and united with all the Saints.

On All Saints' Day we especially give thanks for loved ones who are now part of the Great Cloud of Witnesses with God in Heaven. This morning we remember in Prayer those members from St. Mark's Church who have entered the Church Triumphant this past year and loved ones as requested by our members. All Saints' Day reminds us that there comes a time for each of us to give our loved ones back to God. Just as He first gave them to us and did not lose them in the giving, so we have not lost them in returning them to Him - for life is eternal, love is immortal and death the entrance to the Joy of Heaven for those who have faith in Jesus Christ. This year we remember with thanksgiving and gratitude to Jesus Christ Our Savior:

### ~St. Mark's Members ~

LaVaune E. Matuszewski Joyce A. Black

Charles G. Wagner Deborah J. Archer

James B. Barnhart James L. Brewster

Marie E. Aldinger Ralph H. Bachman

Penny L. Ferne Ellen P. McElhaney

Leila D. Protzman Donald W. Wee

Lawrence C. Stewart Susan G. Anderson

Joyce C. Voland Hilda M. Zorb

Janet N. Rettig Donald P. Miller

Join us for this special Holy Day as we remember in prayer, in Word, and in the Sacrament of Holy Communion all the faithful people of God.

Confirmation Corner answers: 1. "a statement of faith, written or spoken. 2. The Apostles' Creed, The Nicene Creed, The Athanasian Creed. 3. (1)God the Father, (2)God the Son, (3)God the Holy Spirit. 4. To Teach the basics of Christianity, To Warn against what we do not believe, To Unite us in a public statement of faith

<u>Trivia</u>: 1. That is the date on which World War I ended 2. President Eisenhower 3. The ships had to be able to go beneath the Brooklyn Bridge and through the Panama Canal.

#### We need you!

A letter from Mary Ellen was read at a recent Church Council meeting stating that she has decided now is the right time for her to retire. For us, there is no "right time". We've counted on her for oh so many years to keep the "ship" on course. While we wish Mary Ellen the very best in retirement, we need to keep the ship afloat.

So, we are looking to hire a person to join Wendy Holt in the office. We would love to clone Wendy as she has been doing an excellent job since April of this year. We are hopeful to find another of our faithful members that might be willing to work as a permanent part time employee in the office.

The job would be 24-30 hrs/wk. We hope to make it a job share position with Wendy to take care of the day-to-day operation of our church. Proficiency in Microsoft Office (Word, Excel, etc.) and computer literacy is essential. We will teach other responsibilities through on-the-job training and online webinars.

For consideration, please drop off your resume at the church office or mail your resume to:

St. Mark's Lutheran Church

Attn: Personnel 201 W. Jefferson St. Butler, PA 16001

### Council Notes from October Meeting

- Pastor Neal stated we are going to make our own bulletins.
- Changes to holiday services:
  - O No Thanksgiving Service, it will be celebrated the previous Sunday services.
  - O Christmas Eve services ~ No 11:00 pm Service / 4:30 pm designated as a Family Service with focus on the children / 7:00 pm will stay the same.
- Personnel Committee is in the process of updating the Policy Manual.
- Committee reports are due to Mary Ellen by Oct. 15.
- A monetary reduction was approved for several committees.
- Approved a patron or donor list to assist with music series advertising costs.



Eve Bible Study will meet on Tuesday, November 26 at 3:00 pm in the Church Lounge. The study that day is "Wicked Tenants" from the study book, <u>The Wise and the Foolish.</u>

#### Sanctuary Choir

- ✓ Rehearsal times have changed Wednesdays 6:00 – 7:30 pm
- ✓ No rehearsal Wednesday, Nov. 6, 2019



A great big THANK YOU to everyone that donated, volunteered, and/or made purchases at the 2019
Katie's Kitchen Yard Sale. All your hard work and dedication turned many families "formerly loved" treasures into a monetary donation of \$1032.00. Those dollars will now go on to bless many others in the Butler Community.

### ANNUAL CONGREGATION MEETING SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 2019 9:00 AM SUNDAY SCHOOL

# >ONLY 10:15 AM CHURCH SERVICE<

### NO SATURDAY SERVICE

### >11:00 AM CONGREGATION MEETING<

Please encourage each other to attend the Annual Meeting this year on Sunday, November 10 following the 10:15 am Worship Service.

### Please note there will be only ONE Worship Service that weekend.

\*Please plan to attend and bring your copy of the Annual Report that was mailed to each St. Mark's Evangelical Lutheran Church member's home.\*



After the Annual Meeting, have lunch in the Fellowship Hall! The youth of St. Mark's are holding their Fall Spaghetti Dinner

\*\*\*Sunday, November 10 from 12:00-4:00pm

\*\*\*

Serving: Salad, Spaghetti, Meatballs, Bread, Drink & Ice Cream Sundaes

Eat-In or Take Home Donations: Adults \$8.00 / Children under 12 yrs. \$3.00

Come support the Youth of St. Mark's Evangelical Lutheran Church!

Volunteer! Join the Katie's Kitchen Team.

Several long serving volunteers have decided to retire leaving the Katie's Kitchen crews in need of a few good "men" (& women).

Serve
wholeheartedly, as
if you were serving
the Lord, not
people.
Ephesians 6:7

Give your time to a Church Committee.

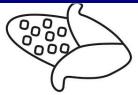
Your voices are needed.

Many of our committees are in need of your gifts.

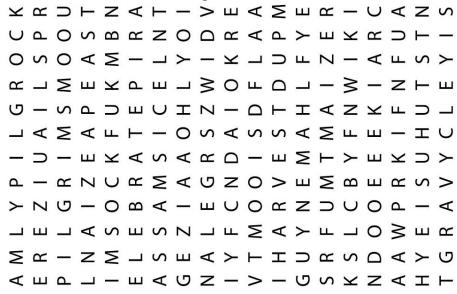
Thanksgiving Celebration





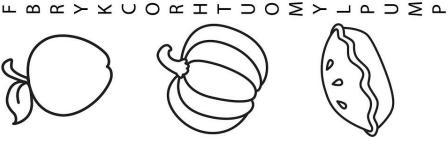






Chief Massasoit **Turkey Pardon** November Plymouth Rock Celebrate







Trivia 1. Why is Veterans Day observed on November 11?

- 2. Who was the President who signed the 1954 bill proclaiming November 11 **Veterans Day?**
- 3. How were the height and width of modern American battleships originally determined? Answers page #3

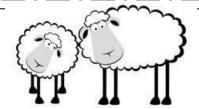
### **Confirmation Corner**

- 1. What is a "creed?"
- 2. The Lutheran Church uses three official Creeds, what are they?
- 3. Each major section of the Apostle's Creed is called an "article." Who is the main subject in each of the three articles?
- 4. What are the three main reasons we have creeds?

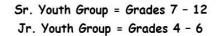
Answers page #3

**Something to think about from the Pastor:** 

"In order for a Pastor to fulfill the Lord's Commandment to feed God's flock, the sheep need to show up during feeding times."



# St. Mark's Kids stuff



## Youth Page November 2019



### Spaghetti Dinner

The Youth of St.

Mark's are hosting a

Spaghetti Dinner in

Fellowship Hall of

St. Mark's on Sunday,

November 10th from

12PM to 4PM

### Attention all Youth!

You are needed to decorate, prepare food, set tables, serve people, fill bread baskets, man drink table, fill take-out orders, run stations, etc.

There is a place for you.

Call or text Darcie
today to get the best
position or show up
Saturday, Nov 10th
at 10AM!

# Save The Date

Annual Youth and Family Christmas
Pageant.

When: Sunday, December 15th at 4PM



# For kids during the Annual Meeting

There will be activities, crafts, and snacks available for the kids in Fellowship Hall during the Annual Meeting of the Church.

When: Sunday, November 10th

Time: Directly after Church

# Quake/Zone 2020

Quake/Zone is a transformational weekend for grades 6-12 where lives are renewed and Faith becomes real!

Event Date: Feb. 7-9, 2020

ALL WEEKEND! - in a beautiful hotel with lots of kids your age - music, fun, celebrations, devotions, friends –WOW!!! (Call/ text Darcie to reserve your spot)

Music guest—Bread of Stone!



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

Darcie (724) 996-9245 cell
Director of Youth
Darcie.Pomykata@stmarksbutler.org

The family of Hilda Zorb acknowledges with grateful appreciation your kind expression of sympathy. "Thank you for your thoughts and for the flower at the funeral of Hilda Zorb."

~Gary Keck~

Dear Members of Saint Marks, Thank You so much for the bud vase sent to the funeral home. Thank you also for the lovely luncheon that you put together for us. Everything was so good and it was so nice to sit with everyone and enjoy a meal together.

You blessed us, Marlys Miller & family

To All Who Were Involved,

My Husband wants to tell you how much He appreciated the beautiful blankets he received while in Butler Memorial Hospital. All your blankets were beautifully done. You have such talented people!

I am sorry this note is later than I wanted to send, but you all have been on my mind continually! My husband had a stroke and is unable to write — in other words putting sentences together — we are working on it. He can sign his name. He lost part (half) his sight in right eye and his side vision in left eye.

Thank You So Much. Sincerely,

Donald L. Hortert, & Helen E. Hortert,

Hello!

Just a not to say a big
THANK YOU for the lovely
quilt I was given while I was
a patient at Butler Memorial
Hospital! I really enjoyed it while
I was there and am now
enjoying it at home. I know a

lot of work went into making it and I much appreciate it!

With love and thanks, Nancy Nicholson

Hi, My Husband was in the Butler Hospital for 21 days in August and September and he received one of your blankets you made. It is very nice and we appreciate you giving it to him. Nice work you did on it. Three of us daughter, Fayme, Karen, & Jane and my brother, Ron Lasichak all went to Sunday school there and Ron & his wife, Jean (Brackett) Lasichak were married there in the 60's. I went to Religious Education there.

Thanks so much for the blanket, nice to know there are people out there who care,

&

God Bless you all. Fayme (Lasichak) Orloski

And let the peace of God rule in your hearts. . . and be ye thankful. Col. 3:15

Keep our Call Committee and our future Pastor in your prayers.

April Quinn, Reuben Pink, Bob Niggel, Elaine Walker, Jacob Pomykata, Alma Atkison

You!



Sixty-four members and guests attended this year's Fall Luncheon for our "Over 80 Luncheon" on October 15, 2019, in the Social Hall, sponsored by the St. Mark's Lutheran Church Women. The butterfly theme was well received by everyone, down to the butterfly on top of our delicious chicken pot pie, and the cupcakes.

Pastor Neal had a challenging message on "Saying Thanks," followed by Holy Communion. Pastor's stories, jokes, and walking among the guests while he spoke, was a big hit with everyone.

Thanks to Melissa Sommerville for taking pictures of individuals, and group pictures of those in their 80's, 90's, and a special individual picture of Maddline Golic, 101 years young. The smiles and fellowship will provide memories for years to come.

Special thanks to Raylene Jindra and her "kitchen elves," Paula Stepp, Phyllis and Jerry Kaltenbaugh, and Karen Blum, for preparing and serving the excellent meal.

Additional thanks to Dennis and Gert Hindman, Joanne Lozier, Carol and Bob Scott, Vera and Bob Niggel, and Darcie Pomykata, for their help in providing the organization, bulletins, decorations, aid to members with mobility needs, music, and all the other issues required to make the event a success.

We look forward to generating new memories and fellowships at next spring's luncheon, along with welcoming the new "mile stone" over 80 members who will be joining our group.

Thank you again to everyone who has made these luncheons such memorable events.

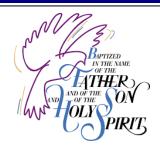


Noble Nineties





### Welcome, Carlee May Masciarelli



We welcome into Christ's Kingdom through Holy Baptism Carlee May Masciarelli, infant daughter of James II and Leeanna Masciarelli, Her Godparents are Robert and Franky Duffield. Carlee's grandparents are Carol McDonald and the late Daniel McDonald, and Chris and James Masciarelli. Through Water and the Word, God brings His gifts of forgiveness of sins, protection from the evil one, and the promise of everlasting life. As this child is born into God's Family today she will become part of our Church Family at St. Mark's. Pray for her and her parents, encourage them in their faith.

We rejoice with you!

## Welcome to the Lord's Table Receiving their First Holy Communion

Cayden Jeremy Quinn
-son of Jeremy and April Quinn

Landon John Wiles
-son of Chad and Danielle Wiles

"By water and the Holy Spirit we are made members of the Church which is the body of Christ. As we live with him and with his people, we grow in faith, love, and obedience to the will of God." ~ LUTHERAN BOOK OF WORSHIP -







Remember



# NOV2019



SUN MON TUE WED THU FRI SAT

01



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

03

9:00am-3T

04

05

06

07

80

09

9:30-11:30am Children's Hour

5:30-6:30pm Bell

NO Choir Practice

5:00pm-Katie's Kitchen

NO CHURCH ANNUAL MEETING SUNDAY!



10

11

12

**13** 

14

**15** 

*16* 

9:00 am Sunday School 10:15 am CHURCH 11:00 ANNUAL MEETING 12-4 pm SPAGHETTI DINNER

5:30-6:30pm Bell Choir

Choir

9:30-11:30am Children's Hour 1:00pm Prayer Shawl

6:00-7:30pm Choir

5:00pm-Katie's Kitchen

5:00pm-Church

**17** 

18

**25** 

19

20

21

22

23

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

> Thank Offering Weekend

5:30-6:30pm-Bell Choir

9:30-11:30am Children's Hour 5:30pm Worship & Music Meeting 6:00-7:30pm Choir

5:00pm-Katie's Kitchen

5:00pm-Church

24

26

27

28

29

*30* 

8:00am Church 9:00am S.S. 10:15am Church 1:00pm Evangelism

3:00pm EVE study 5:30-6:30pm Bell Choir

NO CHILDREN'S **HOUR** 6:00-7:30pm Choir

OFFICE CLOSED

Happy hanksgiving

OFFICE CLOSED

ADVENT begins

5:00pm-Church

NO KATIE'S **KITCHEN** 

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

Parish Hours: 8:00 AM -- 4:00 PM Monday - Thursday 8:00 AM - 12:00 PM Friday **WORSHIP SERVICES** 

Saturday: 5:00 PM Sunday: 8:00 & 10:15 AM Sunday School: 9:00 AM

Non-Profit **ORGANIZATION** U. S. POSTAGE **PAID** PERMIT 92 **BUTLER, PA** 

#### ADDRESS CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

#### St. Mark's Staff and Council Officers Interim Pastor ~ Pastor James Neal STS

Parish Administrator ~ Mary Ellen Tack maryellen.tack@stmarksbutler.org Administrative Assistant ~ Wendy Holt wendy.holt@stmarksbutler.org Director Children/Youth Ministry ~ Darcie Pomykata youth@stmarksbutler.org

Custodians ~ John Lingenfelter

~ Larry Rettig

Aaron Ministers ~ Robert Niggel

~ Wm. Oehlschlager

Director of Music ~ Ralph Christy Jr.

Organist ~ Dr. Regina Kettering

Assistant Organist ~ Rebecca Veith

Bell Choir Director ~ Rebecca Veith

Children's Hour Director ~ Darcie Pomykata

Katie's Kitchen Director ~

Council President ~ April Quinn

Council Vice President ~ Ron Atkison

Council Secretary ~ Judy Minehart

Treasurer ~ Sherry Young

Financial Secretary ~ Toni Tassey



November 3, 2019 ~ Daylight Savings Time Ends November 3, 2019 ~ All Saints Sunday

November 9, 2019 ~ NO Saturday Worship

November 4, 2019  $\sim$ 

November 10, 2019 ~ Annual Meeting

November 10, 2019 ~ Spaghetti Dinner November 11, 2019 ~ Veteran's Day AAAAAAAAAAA

November 17, 2019 ~Thank Offering Weekend November 26, 2019 ~ Eve Bible Study November 13, 2019 ~ Prayer Shawl

November 28 & 29, 2019 ~ Church Office Closed November 28, 2019 ~ Thanksgiving Day

North American Lutheran Church A Congregation of the



# Christmas Floral Memorials



## Poinsettias

Each poinsettia arrangement includes three 8" Poinsettia plants in foiled pots.

Plants are "grade A" nursery quality.

Cost: \$20.00

# Outdoor Wreath

Members are invited to donate a Christmas Wreath. They will be hung outdoors to adorn the Church for the community to share in love of God's Son.

(12 wreaths are needed)

Cost: \$16.00



### Floral Gifts:

Please make check payable to St. Mark's Lutheran Church with "*Floral Gift*" in the memo. Order forms and checks/cash may be placed in the Offering Plate or given to the Church Office by **November 17**<sup>th</sup>.

	 u wish to remember with your gift: In Honor Of
Name:	
Given by:	 
# of Poinsettias _	 Cost:
# of Wreaths:	 Cost:
	TOTAL COST:



# 4F

(Food, Fun, Family, Friends)
Stuffed Pork Chop Dinner
Bake Sale & Basket Auctio

### **Bake Sale**

Saturday, December 7, 20

Before and after church

Come stock up on your favorite holiday goodles. (PSST! You get first pick of all the freshly baked DELICIOUSNESS!)

Sunday, December 8, 2019

Shop all morning long for your holiday favorites.



### **Basket Auction**

Saturday, December 7, 2019 Sunday, December 8, 2019

Auction baskets winners will be chosen Sunday afternoon. Winners do NOT need be present.

> 4F Dinner Sunday, December 8, 2019

11:00 am - 12:30 pm

### Fellowship Hall

\$10 - Adult Dinner

\$3 – Child's Dinner \$2 –

Child's Peanut Butter & Jelly or Hot Dog

All proceeds go to St. Mark's General Fund, for the Good of the Church

### Reservations due by Wednesday, December 4, 2019

Take outs available. Come...bring your friends and family!!

#Child Dinners
# Child Hot Dog

### St. Mark's Lutheran Church

Name:

We ask that you return this card on Stewardship Sunday, November 24, 2019.

How to return this card:

1. Place it in the wooden chests at the altar rail.

2. Mail it to: St. Mark's Lutheran Church 201 West Jefferson Street Butler, PA 16001

### 2020 Giving Pledge

With thanksgiving to	o God, I commit to give:
□ \$	per week
□ \$	per month
□ \$	_ per year
For a total of: \$	in 2020