



The Parishioner

Volume 25, Issue 5

A Publication of St. Mark's Evangelical Lutheran Church

Jun 2020

TAKE THE TIME TO

Memorial Day marks the un-official start of Summer and fortunately – praise God! – the un-official start of our return to worship (Pentecost / May 31st) at St. Mark's after nearly three months of a “stay-at-home” mandate and our community churches being in a physical lock down stage as a result of the Coronavirus19 pandemic. As we all eagerly anticipate a gradual return to normalcy, in all aspects of our life let us each practice **PATIENCE**, **UNDERSTANDING** and **RESPECT** for all of God's people as this slow return demands a total conscientious effort on all our parts.

Also, as we are on the threshold of summer's theme of rest & relaxation ... may I also suggest that we **take the time** for spiritual renewal following what has been an emotional, physical and social endurance aspect of this current global pandemic. In **taking the time**, we can renew our confidence in God's grace and love for us all on several fronts this summer:

- **take the time** to worship with God's people ... either actually going to church when and where possible ... or via the many virtual worship opportunities.
- **take the time** to read your Bible ... as often as you can.
- **take the time** to make use of your Daily Devotional ... daily.
- **take the time** to talk with God often; pray! God loves hearing from you.
- **take the time** to read a good book. When's the last time you picked up The Good Book?
- **take the time** to enjoy a sunrise / sunset ... and give thanks to God for the blessings of summer
- oh yes, **take the time** to consider your gift / offering to your church this summer. After all, the church's bills & commitments continued even during our shut-down ... and will continue to go on even in the summer.



In closing, as I worked on this page the following words of this song came to mind. Believe it or not, I actually sang this song some 45 years ago (*at a wedding I believe of one of my cousins*). To find it, I actually had to do a bit of digging through a number of storage boxes. The words, by Ron Griffin, appropriately encourage us to Take The Time ... to reflect: to remember, to share, and to love one another as God so loves us. *-continued-*

R: Take the time to reflect upon your yesterdays.

Take the time to dream about the things that must be done.

**And you will have the time to reach out to each other
and build a new tomorrow with your love.**



We are born in the Springtime! Like a child who gives joy and love

She spread her arms to embrace the sun, She learns to dance with the wind.

R: Take the time to reflect upon your yesterdays.

Take the time to dream about the things that must be done.

**And you will have the time to reach out to each other
and build a new tomorrow with your love.**

We grow strong in the Summer, As we share the joy of our youth

As the seasons change, We go on our own with our families with our friends.

R: Take the time to reflect upon your yesterdays.

Take the time to dream about the things that must be done.

**And you will have the time to reach out to each other
and build a new tomorrow with your love.**

In the Winter comes the silence. A time to reflect. A time to dream.

As the years go by we will carry on as we reach out: We share, We love.

R: Take the time to reflect upon your yesterdays.

Take the time to dream about the things that must be done.

**And you will have the time to reach out to each other
and build a new tomorrow with your love.**

Words by Ron Griffin Music arr. by John Jackson

Do **take the time** to reflect ... on those many blessings ever-so-great and small; those miracles seen and unseen in our life; and give God the glory for the great things He has done ... and continues ... do!

Have a safe, healthy, blessed Summer!



Pastor Neal +

Church Open for Worship

A letter sent to Parishioners from our Council

President and Pastor about getting back to church.

Dear Fellow Parishioners:

We pray that you are safe and healthy in this troubling time. Please know you are in our thoughts and prayers daily.

This letter is to inform you that Church Council met via a virtual meeting on May 12th and voted unanimously to resume Church Services beginning on **Pentecost Sunday, May 31st** with only **one Service at 9:00 a.m.** At this time there will be no Sunday School or other activities. As we try to get back to our normal routine we will have one Service as the church must be disinfected following each gathering to meet the guidelines of the CDC.

Holy Communion will be offered; please be assured that the Pastor and Altar Guild will be taking every precautionary measure to make this a safe process for everyone.

To minimize contact of surfaces, all Hymnal Books, Bibles, envelopes, etc. will be removed from the pew racks. The entire service will be printed in the bulletin and you are expected to take it home.

Please know that as we do return to Church, we pray that you will respect these temporary changes as we follow the CDC and State guidelines. We are still required to maintain social distancing, meaning you are not to be closer than six feet from a non-family member. Our ushers will assist in seeing that every-other pew is sanctioned off to assure safe distancing. Families who live together may sit together. **Also, everyone must wear a mask upon entering the church.**

Only two entrances will be used to enter and exit the church: **the door for access to the elevator** and **the Washington Street with the ramp.** The only restroom available for use will be the one at the back of the Church.

While it will be great to see everyone, we are asking that we **do not shake hands or offer hugs at this time.** We will do this soon when we are able.

We know how excited everyone is to get back to church - but again, a word of caution, if you feel ill, please refrain from attending Church until you are feeling better.

Also, if you should become ill during Church you are to go immediately to the Cry Room as this has been designated as the sick room to comply with CDC guidelines.

We look forward to seeing you on May 31st as we celebrate Pentecost – the out pouring of God’s Holy Spirit upon His church. We want you to feel welcomed and confident that we have everyone’s well-being in mind as we begin to emerge from this viral pandemic. We admit that our coming together may be a bit uncomfortable at first as we ease into these new “rules” for group gatherings,

.....continued

but if we all practice understanding, respect & patience for these temporary guidelines the joy of worshipping our Lord together will truly return. Our immediate goal is that all will stay safe; and to primarily give God the glory for He is turning something bad into something good. Also we want to recognize that if you don't feel that you are yet ready to return to Church at this moment in time, we understand and pray that you will return when the time is right for you and yours. Also, those who are in vulnerable demographics are encouraged to still stay at home.

With this decision we realize that we will be criticized by some as acting too hastily and yet congratulated by others. To quote our Mission District Dean: "These are very emotional times. Throughout *these uncertain times* I have been condemned by the shrillest of voices and congratulated vociferously for keeping my church open. You know how to make up your own minds and how to use common sense."

See you figuratively and literally and virtually in Worship. If you are unable to join us in church, please virtually join us each week on the radio (WBUT 1050AM, Sundays at 10:30 AM) or on YouTube (St. Marks Butler PA).

Sincerely yours and God Bless,

Reuben J. Pink

Reuben Pink
Congregational President
724-486-3079

Pastor Neal

Pastor Neal +
Interim Pastor
724-991-4942

P.S. If you wish to discuss anything in this letter, please contact either one of us.

2020 Church Council

President – *Reuben Pink* Vice-President – *Ronald Atkison* Secretary – *Judy Minehart*

Treasurer – *Sherry Young* Financial Secretary – *Toni Tasse*

Council Members – *Shirley Bilowich, Jonathan Bookamer, Elaine Walker, Karen Cooper, Chas Tanner, William Oehlschlager, Richard Beamer, Michael Montag, Paula Stepp*

Church Staff

Interim Pastor – *The Reverend James F. Neal S.T.S.* Parish Administrator – *Wendy Holt*

Administrative Assistant – *Faye Carbin* Custodians – *John Lingenfelter, Larry Rettig*

Organists – *Regina Kettering, Rebecca Veith* Bell Choir – *Rebecca Veith*

Director of Music – *Ralph Christy Jr.* Katie's Kitchen – *Justine Brown*

NOTES FROM KATIE'S KITCHEN..... As I sit on my back porch on this beautiful Memorial Day, I am very grateful for all of the veterans who have fought to give us the freedoms that we have and I'm very happy that we are here to serve any vets & others who need the meals & fellowship we provide.

We are into the 3rd week of serving Grab n Go meals at the door of the Fellowship Hall and see this continuing for the foreseeable future. We continue to get some food weekly from Butler Farm Market & Panera, & milk & juice courtesy of Marburger Dairy! We are very grateful for the food they provide for us. Within the next month or so, we will be able to receive some food products from the Food Bank as a result of monies coming to Butler County in the CARES Act. Currently, we will not be getting food from 412 Food Rescue as they are packaging food for individuals according to CDC guidelines. The boxes they package are not convenient for us to store or distribute as they need to be refrigerated.

Our great volunteers continue to be an important part of our ministry. Please continue to pray for the safety of all of our volunteers & everyone who serves to support Katie's Kitchen. With God's grace we will get through this together♥



ACTS OF
KINDNESS

While in the hospital for 16 days my husband Don Received the beautiful quilt. With the pandemic keeping everyone from home he felt lost and missing his family. The quilt came at a time he really needed something. What a wonderful gift to remind him of home and that God is always with us. Don is now on dialysis 3 times a week. Doing a lot better.

Thank You & God Bless, Betty McConnell

THANK YOU! I was a patient on TCF and received on of your beautiful blankets. It is absolutely gorgeous. Thanks again, Cindy Bennenger



To Whom It May Concern: My mother was a patient in the rehab unit of Butler Memorial Hospital and passed away on April 28, 2019. When she came home with the beautiful blanket, I wanted to send a note but the funeral arrangements, etc., precluded me from writing the note as quickly as I had intended. But I saved the address as I always knew I wanted to take the time to write and thank your group for the blanket. When I was cleaning out some of Mom's funeral remembrances I found the note – I think that my mother was wanting me to be sure I sent a thank you note. May God Bless All of You for taking the time to do such a courteous gesture. Sincerely, The Family of Dena Ottobre

HOW WELL DO YOU KNOW YOUR HYMNS QUIZ

QUESTION ONE

What hymn contain these words?

The Prince of Darkness grim; We tremble not for Him; his rage we can endure.

- A. Praise to the Lord, the Almighty
- B. A Mighty Fortress Is Our God
- C. Praise My Soul, the King of Heaven
- D. All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name

QUESTION TWO

Fill in the blank for the hymn "What a Friend We Have in Jesus"

Can we find a friend so faithful, who will all our _____?

- A. burdens bear
- B. pain to bear
- C. troubles share
- D. sorrows share

QUESTION THREE

Horatio Spafford penned the words of this beloved hymn soon after discovering the tragic deaths of his four daughters at sea

- A. Take My Life and Let It Be
- B. Be Thou My Vision
- C. It Is Well With My Soul
- D. And Can It Be

QUESTION FOUR

Name the hymn with these lyrics

When Christ shall come with shout of acclamation and take me home, what joy shall fill my heart

- A. To God Be the Glory
- B. Safe in the Arms of Jesus
- C. Blessed Assurance
- D. How Great Thou Art



QUESTION FIVE

Fill in the blank for the hymn “Amazing Grace”

The Lord has promised good to me, His Word my hope secures; _____

- A. But God, who called me here below/ will forever be mine
- B. I shall possess, within the veil / a life of joy and peace.
- C. He will my Shield and Portion be / as long as life endures.
- D. Tis grace hath brought me safe thus far/ and grace will lead me home.

QUESTION SIX

Name the hymn with these lyrics

Swift to its close ebbs out life’s little day. Earth’s joys grow dim, its glories pass away.

- A. My Jesus, I Love Thee
- B. Child of the King
- C. Abide With Me
- D. ‘Tis So Sweet to Trust in Jesus

QUESTION SEVEN

Which of the following is known as the “Father of Hymnody”

- A. Thomas Chisholm
- B. Isaac Watts
- C. William Cowper
- D. Charles Wesley

QUESTION EIGHT

Who authored “Amazing Grace”?

- A. John Newton
- B. Fanny Crosby
- C. Johann Von Rist
- D. Martin Luther



ANSWERS: 1. B 2.D 3.C 4.D 5.C 6. C 7. B 8.A

St. Mark's
Kids stuff

Congratulations to
St. Mark's 2020 High
school and College Grads

Youth Page
June 2020

Everyone at St. Mark's Lutheran Church is praying for all the youth of the Church.

If you need anything at all or just want to chat, please do not hesitate to call/text.

(724) 996-9245
Darcie



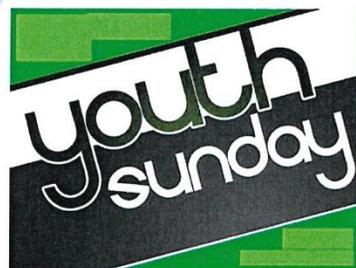
The NALC In"tents" camp is not opening for the 2020 Season. This decision was not made lightly. Everyone is saddened by having to follow these regulations; however, we will all work hard to make sure that the 2021 Camping Season is better than ever!

Praying for you and hoping to see you soon in Church! Trusting God's Plan.

Miss Darcie
Miss Wendy
Miss Kelly
Miss Carri

Because of Current Situation and Restrictions—the Kids can not meet for Children's Church.

St. Mark's loves the Kids and is welcoming to the Kids in the pews with their Parents/Grandparent. It's okay that they make a little "joyful" noise. It's okay that they turn around and wave. The others around them will be blessed by their actions and their delight! The Kids are the Church and all NEED to hear them as the Kids Worship.



Thank you to all the Youth members that worked hard on Mother's Day to extend a "Youth Sunday" virtual message through the St. Mark's youtube channel. If you did not have a chance to see it, check it out at

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FDvuw4o2HBo>

Sermon: 5th Sunday of Easter, Youth Sunday with Madison Pomykata and Josie Reott, preaching.



KIDS CHURCH
In a Bucket

Please take a bucket. The papers go along with the liturgy for the day.

Coloring Pages! Puzzles!
Paper for "Creativity"!
Crayons! Scissors! Pencils!

Our Young Church Members, as well as ALL God's Children, have missed out on a lot of activities offered by St. Mark's during this pandemic. Please keep all those affected in your prayers with the hopes that St. Mark's can make next year's activities even better!

We are all so blessed that Pastor Neal was able to keep our Church alive offering weekly Sermons on the Youtube Channel.

Looking at all the events that were cancelled. It let's us realize that Wow! St. Mark's is on Fire! God is Good! All the Time!

"Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus." **Philippians 4:6-7**

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

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

St. Mark's Events affected
by Covid -19 Restrictions

3T gatherings
4F Dinner
Afternoon at the Movies
Bell Choir
Bible Bowl 2020
Bible Studies
CH End of the Year Program
Children's Church
Children's Hour
Council Meetings
Easter Garden
Easter Walk
Eve's Circle
Funerals
Katie's Kitchen
Meetings
Mother's Day Flowers
NALC Youth Camp
Palm Walk / Egg Hunt
Pet Blessing
Prayer shawl Team
Senior Luncheon
Spaghetti Dinners
St. Mark's Choir
Sunday School
The Blood Drive
The Easter Flower Garden
Trip to the Ark
Vacation Bible School
Youth Group Activities

Recently I was asked to give prayer at the monthly meeting of the Butler City Council. Now, it is expected that clergy are naturals at prayer for since it is a vital part of their ministry. But there may be those times when you are asked to offer prayer for a particular situation or event. Dare I assume you are a “natural” at prayer for St. Paul (Romans 12:12) encouraged us to be constant in prayer as our Lord Jesus practiced. If not, the following is shared as a helpful guide in shaping your prayer.

What to Do When Asked to Pray in Church or a Public Setting

- Understand the context. Is the event purely secular (non-religious), or within your particular faith circle? Make sure you employ a prayer style and vocabulary which everyone can relate to.
- Be who you are. If you have been invited to pray, then do your best to represent your tradition or faith-community well. Make sure that you speak to God on behalf of the entire group.
- Pray for what is appropriate, given the occasion – and then stop. A rambling or repetitious prayer soon becomes offensive. Be very careful to abide by whatever time restraints have been put upon you.
- Make sure you pray in a voice that is slow and loud enough to be heard by everyone present. On the other hand, most people dislike a preachy or ranting tone in prayer.
- Be genuine. Far better than simply mouthing eloquent words; aim at true communication with God.
- There is nothing wrong with writing out your prayer beforehand. This will prevent saying something silly or unclear. If you read your prayer, put your hearts and mind into the words you are saying.
- Remember, you are asking God’s blessings on the gathering in some way. That alone is enough to take the assignment very seriously.



- adapted from mbogartministries
02/27/2020





June 2020

Sun.	Mon.	Tue.	Wed.	Thu.	Fri.	Sat.
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7 	8	9 7:00 Council	10	11	12	13
14 	15	16	17	18	19	20 
21 	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

June Flowers - Rose and Honeysuckle June Birthstone - Pearl or Alexandrite
 June wisdom - "Cut your thistles before St. John [June 24], You will have two instead of one."

"We continually remember before our God and Father your work produced by faith, your labor prompted by love, and your endurance inspired by hope in our Lord Jesus Christ." —1 Thessalonians 1:3

St. Mark's Evangelical Lutheran Church
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BUTLER, PA

Parish Office Hours:

9:00 AM -- 1: 00 PM

Tuesday – Friday

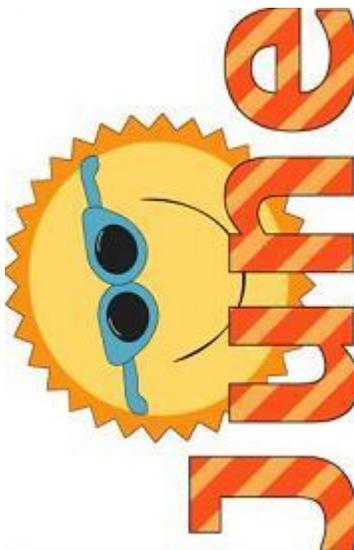
WORSHIP SERVICES

Saturday: 5:00 PM

Sunday: 8:00 & 10:15 AM

Sunday School: 9:00 AM

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED



- Sunday, June 7, 2020 – Trinity Sunday
- Tuesday, June 9, 2020 – Council Meeting
- Sunday, June 14, 2020 – Flag Day
- Saturday, June 20, 2020 – Summer Solstice
- Sunday, June 21, 2020 – Father's Day

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

