



# The Parishioner

Volume 29 Issue 4

A Publication of St. Mark's Evangelical Lutheran Church

April 2024

## From the Pastor's Desk:

*What, then, shall we say? That we are to remain in sin, in order that grace may increase? Absolutely not! How can we who died to sin still live in it? Or are you ignorant of the fact that as many as were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? We were crucified with him, therefore, through baptism into death, in order that as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, in this way we also might walk in newness of life. For if we have become united with him in the likeness of his death, we will certainly also be in the likeness of his resurrection” (Romans 6.1-5; my translation).*

These powerful words of St. Paul affirm the reality that baptism is about new life – resurrection life. No life is lived out in one moment; it goes on and on. We *live* as Christians, followers of the crucified, risen, ascended and reigning Lord, Jesus Christ. Becoming a Christian – being brought “into Christ” – is not a single transaction with no lasting effects; it is the beginning of that new life, being born anew (“walking in newness of life”).

We just celebrated the Feast of the Resurrection of our Lord – Easter. We affirmed together, “He is risen! He is risen, indeed!” Until the Feast of Pentecost, we will be in the Easter Season; the Sundays are the Sundays of Easter. But the effects of Easter do not end on Pentecost Sunday; in fact, on Pentecost we celebrate the outpouring of the life of the crucified, risen, and ascended Jesus through the power of the Holy Spirit, “the promise of the Father.”

The resurrection is essential for everything that we are and believe as Christians. Paul makes that abundantly clear in 1 Corinthians 15: “If Christ has not been raised, our preaching is futile and your faith is empty; you are still in your sins. If Christ has not been raised, then those who have fallen asleep (i.e., died) in Christ have also perished.” Without the resurrection there is no hope. Without the resurrection we worship an exceptional man who died and was buried, period.

The resurrection of Jesus set a new order into motion – the age to come has already begun, here and now. The very thing that the Jews of Jesus’ day expected to happen at the end of history – the resurrection – happened to the man Jesus in the middle of history. That’s why the Jewish leaders arrested Peter and John: “they were teaching the people and announcing *in Jesus* the resurrection of the dead” (Acts 4.2). The issue was

not that they were proclaiming the resurrection – most Jews believed that it would happen, but only at the end of all things; the issue was that Peter and John were proclaiming the resurrection *in Jesus*, that it had already happened to someone *before the end!*

Our life, today, is life in Christ, life empowered by the Holy Spirit, the Spirit of resurrection. How we live matters, because it is no longer our lives; it is Christ’s life. Being his disciples – his followers – means yielding ourselves – totally and unreservedly – to him so that he lives in us and through us for the sake of the world, for the sake of those who do not know him, for the sake of those whose lives are broken. By living the resurrection life we announce the Good News of Jesus, the Son of God, who gave himself for us and for the whole world, to make us whole and to restore us to God the Father. Living the Resurrection means living in hope and certainty, whatever we may face.

That is not a “seasonal” occupation; it’s about the life we live every day: on Easter, at Pentecost, during Advent, Christmas, Epiphany, and Lent. May God the Father continue to empower us with his Holy Spirit and form more and more of our lives into the likeness of Christ.

He is risen! He is risen, indeed! Alleluia! ~Pastor Phillips

New life  
in  
Christ



+++++

++++

Stay Connected

We are working hard to continue reaching out, serving and “being witnesses” through a variety of old and new ways. Find us, “Like us” and Share us!

- [Website](http://stmarksbutler.org) – stmarksbutler.org / [Facebook](#) – St. Mark’s Evangelical Lutheran Church (Butler, PA)
- [YouTube](#) – St. Marks Butler PA / [Radio Broadcast](#) – WBUT 1050 AM, Sunday mornings @ 10:30 am
- [Newsletter](#) – “The Parishioner” - sent monthly to your mailbox and found on the website
- [Email](#) – Parish Administrator, [wendy.holt@stmarksbutler.org](mailto:wendy.holt@stmarksbutler.org) / Phone – (724)-287-6741
- [Mail](#) – 201 West Jefferson Street, Butler, PA 16001

Help us stay connected to you. Share and/or update your contact information so that we can keep you informed.

Address Updates for your directory- Please notify the church office with any address/phone number changes, or directory corrections, so that we can keep all contact information up to date. Thank You.

\*\*\*Latest Updates for your directory:

- Carole Fibick (zip code correction) - Room 305B, c/o Bonifay Nrsg. Rehab. Center, 306 West Brock Ave., Bonifay, FL 32425
- Buck Holt – 211 Londonderry Dr., New Brighton, PA 15066
- Oliviah Montag – 232 Oakvale Blvd., Butler, PA 16001
- Michelle Martin – 109 Olivia Court, Coraopolis, PA 15108
- Ralph Hildebrand – Room #3599, c/o Community Living Center, 353 North Duffy Road, Butler, PA 16001

insert puzzle answers: 1:BRILLIANT, 2:UPBEAT, 3:STRAIGHTFORWARD, 4:OPTIMISTIC, 5:ENERGETIC, 6:FEARLESS, 7:CHUCKLE, 8:LEGENDARY, 10:EFFECTIVE, 12:ENDORSE, 13:GENEROUS, 14:SKILLFUL, 15:IMAGINATIVE, 16:ADMIRE



### 3T-Wednesday, April 3 @ 9:00 am

Time of talk, task & tea - lite lunch @ 11:30am, bring a dish to share

Join us in this time of fellowship as we cut, stitch, tie, sort, weave. All abilities and hands are encouraged and welcome.

We are collecting for our 2<sup>nd</sup> bench. The updated rules require 1000 lbs. of plastic donated in a 1-year period. Any questions about plastic donations can be directed to Carol Scott; all plastic used for this project diverts it from ending up in our landfills and waterways.

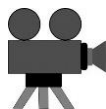
\*Our collection bins are located at the bottom of the steps coming in from the parking lot.

\*Find the list of acceptable plastic items that qualify on the table near the elevator and start recycling today!

#### Afternoon @ the Movies

Thursday, April 4

“Amish Grace”



*“When a gunman killed five Amish children and injured five others in a Nickel Mines, Pennsylvania schoolhouse shooting in October of 2006, the world media attention rapidly turned from the tragic events to the extraordinary forgiveness demonstrated by the Amish community. Through the eyes of a grieving mother, Ida Graber, and other devastated families, this movie explores the Amish’s astonishing reaction to the horrific shootings - of forgiveness and compassion.”*

Thursday, April 18

“Bruce Almighty”

*“Bruce Nolan, a television reporter in Buffalo, NY, is discontented with almost everything in life despite his popularity and the love of his girlfriend Grace. At the end of the worst day of his life, Bruce angrily ridicules and rages against God and God responds. God appears in human form and, endowing Bruce with divine powers, challenges Bruce to take on the big job to see if he can do it any better.”*

Viewing time is 1:30 pm; bring a friend!

#### Congregational Council

>Next meeting<

Tuesday, April 9 @ 6:30

Please have your reports into the office by Thursday, April 4. Envelopes will be available for pick-up in your mailboxes, Saturday, April 6.

St. Mark’s Financial Overview  
February 2024

Receipts \$26,669.41

Expenses \$40,923.63

Deficit (\$14,254.22)

#### Prayer Shawl Group



Wednesday, April 10 @ 1:00 pm.

If you are unable to join the group at the church, but would still like to add your talents, please reach out to Elaine Walker.

Old Testament Bible Study Thursdays @ 6:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall with Pastor Phillips.



Eve Bible Study will meet on Tues., April 23 at 3:00 p.m. in the Conference room. The study that day is "Walking in Love" from the study book, "By the Will of God".

#### RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE

Tuesday, April 30 Noon – 5:30  
St. Mark’s Fellowship Hall  
Please call 1-800-733-2767 or visit RedCrossBlood.org and enter: Butler to schedule an appointment.

### 80+ Luncheon, Wednesday, May 22

#### MARK YOUR CALENDARS

- Fellowship, Food, Friends!
- Communion will be shared **before** lunch @ 12:00 pm.
- Make sure to invite your 80+ St. Mark’s friends. We will not be sending out invitations, so consider yourself invited!
- 
- 
- Please call the church office by May 14 to make your reservations

let's do lunch



*“You’ve got to get up every morning with determination if you’re going to go to bed with satisfaction.”*

— George Horace Lorimer



**T**he North American Lutheran Church is now 500 congregations strong! When the NALC was formed in 2010, it began with 17 charter congregations. This week, we grew to 500 congregations—thanks be to God!

+++++

NALC Disaster Response continues to:

- conduct disaster preparedness trainings: 9 disaster preparedness trainings and 1 “train the trainer” event, as we are training mission district disaster coordinators to do training!
- 12 NALC Disaster Response Sundays have been held at this time. Gift cards are really needed!
- coordinate servant event mission trips – 22 volunteer teams of youth and adults have completed servant event mission trips to date – thank you Jesus!
- hold “Stuff the Truck” events – 29 Stuff the Truck events have been held in addition to numerous deliveries to our warehouses. After the Arkansas tornado outbreak, we emptied 5 of our regional disaster warehouses and your help is needed to restock! Schedule a “Stuff the Truck” now...

For more information on how to volunteer and support NALC Disaster Response, please contact Mary Bates at 740-509-1132 or [disasterresponse@thenalc.org](mailto:disasterresponse@thenalc.org)

**Texas Wildfires** – NALC Disaster Response is responding to the million acre or 1,700 square miles of wildfires blanketing the panhandle of Texas and moving into Oklahoma. Texas Gov. Greg Abbott issued a disaster declaration this week [February 27] for 60 counties as the Smokehouse Creek Fire became the second largest in Texas history. Thousands of people were ordered to evacuate as the wildfire remains 3% contained and other wildfires burned, leaving at least one person dead in addition to thousands of head of livestock. [On March 14<sup>th</sup> the fire is 89% contained]

The Smokehouse Creek fire broke out Monday, February 26 and NALC Disaster Response is delivering the first load emergency relief supplies to the town of Borger and Fritch today, [Thursday, February 29]. The second load is scheduled for Saturday to the town of Canadian, TX. Future loads are in the process of being scheduled.

Monetary donations and gift cards are the priority needs and may be sent to NALC Disaster Response as soon as possible. Mary Bates has been in touch with each community and has identified the emergency needs, which are quilts (no power to heat homes left standing), school supplies, health kits & baby care items such as diapers for those in shelters, flood buckets/cleaning supplies (to start washing down homes), kitchen kits for those sheltering in hotels, and Bibles. Future needs will include water hoses, rakes, shovels and gift cards to purchase ranch supplies such as feed cubes, feed, and fencing supplies.

Please help if you possibly can – the high temperatures, the dead winter grass and the high winds combined to create this disaster of wildfires that are impacting so many people.

Please send gift cards to NALC Disaster Response, 16500 Noble Ave. Caldwell, Ohio 43724 and please send monetary donations to: NALC Disaster Response, PO Box 130455, Saint Paul, MN 55113. Thank you & God Bless! ~ Mary Bates

*“Don’t judge each day by the harvest you reap but by the seeds that you plant.”*

*— Robert Louis Stevenson*



# Katie's Kitchen Newsletter for April 2024.....



As we end this Lenten season and celebrate Christ's glorious resurrection, let this be a time to rejoice in all that the Living God does for us. The new green growth of Spring signals a time of growth & renewal! May we all look forward with hope to the warm days ahead and to all of the blessings that God has in store for us!

## Notes from the Kitchen....

- Things are going well in the kitchen. We still are serving well over 200 meals each week. The first week of March, the Average number of meals served by the Community Meal Ministries was 214. The first week of the month is typically the fewest number of meals served during the month, so it will be interesting to see our numbers by the end of the month.
- We continue to be blessed with weekly donations from Butler Farm Market, Panera, & St Vincent DePaul. These donations help us to stretch our food dollars while providing hot nutritious meals to our neighbors who need them the most. Make sure to patronize these businesses & thank them for their support!
- Our flexible pot filler faucet has been installed & has made filling large pots of water for cooking noodles, pasta, or rice so much easier on our cooks. An additional GFI outlet has been added to the wall by the smaller prep sink to prevent blowing the circuit breaker.
- While we are talking about appliances- KK will be purchasing an additional upright freezer/refrigerator in the next couple of months. The church freezer at St Mark's died in mid-March & they needed to replace it quickly. They had to purchase a smaller freezer/refrigerator but are hoping to get a larger one in the next couple of months. Anyone helping at KK knows how short we are of refrigerator space, especially during growing season! As Raylene says, " God always provides". ♥
- Jean Stockburger & I recently completed the Serve Safe certification through Penn State Extension that is required for food service professionals. Food safety is a critical part of this course. It will help insure that the meals we serve weekly are safe for our neighbors to eat.
- Plans for the Gala are being finalized. We are looking forward to an exciting evening of great art, wine by Anna Marie, light refreshments, music, & fellowship! Our Butler Lions will be tending the bar & making announcements as needed. There will be an ATM in the hall for your convenience. Please make plans to join us! Tickets can be purchased for \$30 at the church office during regular hours or at the door. Sunday afternoon is free to the public. We will be drawing for the basket raffle, quilt raffle, & 50/50 about 2 pm. Winners need NOT be present!

*May the Risen Christ bless you this Easter & Always!*

*- Justine*

+++++



*"Winter's done, and April's in the skies. Earth, look up with laughter in your eyes!"*

*— Charles G.D. Roberts*

# COMMUNITY MEAL GALA AND ART SHOW

Saturday and Sunday, April 13 & 14, 2024 at  
St. Michael's Church Hall, Butler, PA 16001

## Sponsorship Opportunities

\_\_\_\_\_ Yes, my company/organization will be a Sponsor for the Gala & Art Show as listed below.

\_\_\_\_\_ Enclosed is our check payable to "St Mark's"

\_\_\_\_\_ Please send an invoice

\_\_\_\_\_ *\$1,000 Platinum sponsor*

(Full page ad in program, 6 tickets to event)

\_\_\_\_\_ *\$500 Gold sponsor*

(1/2-page ad in program, 4 tickets to event)

\_\_\_\_\_ *\$250 Silver sponsor*

(1/4-page ad in program, signage at event, 2 tickets to event)

\_\_\_\_\_ *\$150 Bronze sponsor*

(Business card available in program)

\_\_\_\_\_ *\$100*

(Listing of name or company in program)



\_\_\_\_\_ No, my company/organization cannot be a Sponsor, but accept our donation in the amount of \$\_\_\_\_\_.

\_\_\_\_\_ I would like to donate a basket to the event.

Email your Camera-ready artwork (jpg) and Logo (if receiving signage at the event) to: [wendy.holt@stmarksbutler.org](mailto:wendy.holt@stmarksbutler.org)

Payment for the Gala and Art Show is due by **March 15, 2024**. Checks should be made payable to "St Mark's Church".

Please mail this form with your payment to:

**Justine Brown**  
**St Mark Church Attn: Community Meal Gala**  
**201 West Jefferson Street**  
**Butler, PA 16001**

Please print your information

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Title \_\_\_\_\_

Company/Organization \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

## Hoppin' John

Black-eyed peas simmered with a smoky ham hock until creamy and tender and full of flavor!

### Ingredients

- 1 tablespoon oil
- 1 cup onion, diced
- 1/2 cup celery, diced
- 1/2 cup green pepper, diced
- 1 tablespoon garlic, chopped
- 2 cups black-eyed peas, soaked overnight and rinsed
- 4 cups ham broth or chicken broth or chicken stock
- 1 small ham hock (or 2 cups cubed ham)
- 1 bay leaf
- 1 teaspoon thyme
- cayenne to taste
- salt & pepper to taste
- 4 green onions, sliced



Source: <https://www.closecooking.com/hoppin-john/>

### Directions

Heat the oil in a pan over medium heat.  
Add the onions, celery and pepper and cook until tender, about 10-15 minutes.  
Add the garlic and cook until fragrant, about a minute.  
Add the peas, broth, ham hock, bay leaf, thyme, cayenne, salt and pepper, bring to a boil, reduce the temperature and simmer until the black-eyed peas are creamy and tender, about 60 minutes, adding more broth if required.  
Remove the ham hock and shred the pork and mix it into the black eyed peas.  
Serve over steamed rice and garnish with green onions.  
**Option: For One-Pan:** Make this a one-pan meal by adding 1 cup of rice and 2 cups broth or water (or 8 ounces of pasta and 2 1/4 cups broth or water) to the sauce after step 4 and simmer, covered, until cooked, about 20 minutes (or 12 minutes for pasta)

Dear St. Mark's WNALC,

Thank you so much for all your help & prayers – I've also enclosed a report on current activity including the Texas wildfires – God bless, Mary [Mary Bates' report can be found on page 4]

Thank you greatly for the blankets we received from you. The residents will love them! ~Your Concordia Family!

*Thank you*

Dear Rev. Phillips,

I just wanted to send a small note of appreciation to you. The service for Glenn Shearer was so peaceful and comforting to [our family]... Thank you for being a comfort to people who in this day and age are in much need of comfort.

Take care...in love and light, Cindy Lord

Dear Women of St. Mark's,

Thank you for your very generous donation to Butler Meals on Wheels. I'm sure you are aware of how important it is to feed our shut-ins who so appreciate a daily hot meal. During this Lenten season you are fulfilling the mission to feed the hungry. Sincerely,

Kathleen Rutkoski, MOW Board Member

## Stop by the Church Library

A few book-loving volunteers have been busy doing some Spring cleaning / reorganizing and are eager for you to spend some time browsing the old and new books.



New titles to take a look at:

- *Old Bones* (Douglas & Child)
- *Finding God in the Shack* (Olson)
- *Redemption at Hacksaw Ridge* (Boonton)
- *Oh, God, Where Are You?* (Abraham)

We love having a large selection of fiction, non-fiction and children's books to share with our church family & friends.

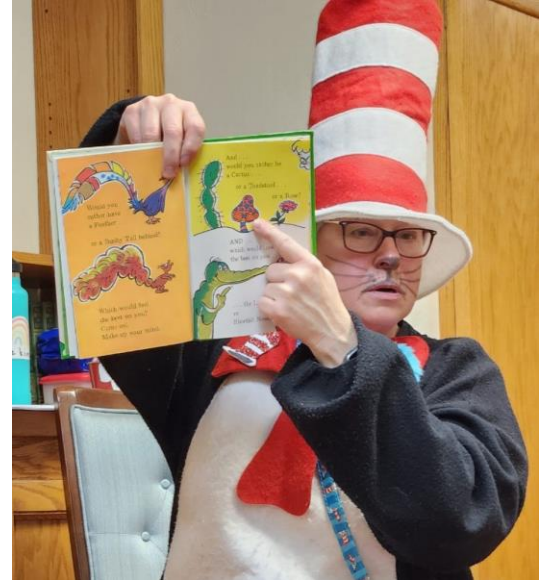
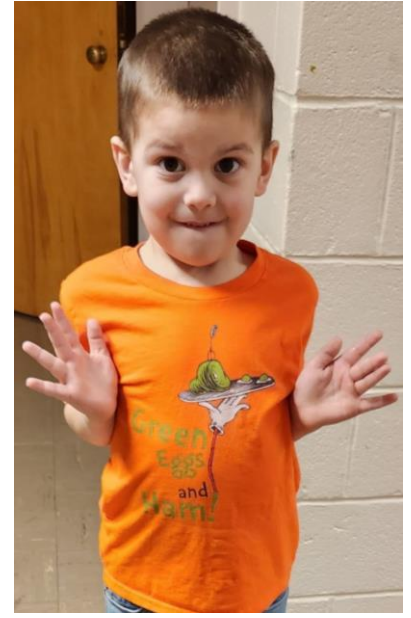
One note:

Please help us find the books missing from our library collection. Check through your books at home for titles that might need to be returned. Also, consider volunteering some time to our library. Contact Carol Scott for information on how you might help.

A BIG thank you for the donation of many new books.

# Children's Hour Fun in March

"Dr. Seuss, Science Experiments and Crazy Socks, oh my!"



"It's high time you were shown  
That you really don't know  
All there is to be known."  
~ On Beyond Zebra, Dr. Seuss



"Education is the kindling of a flame,  
not the filling of a vessel." – Socrates



## Youth News!

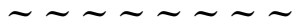
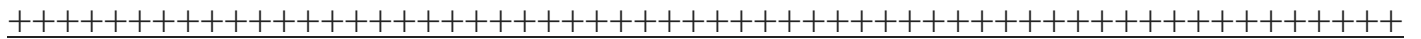
Good Day, My Name is Shelley D. O'Donnell, I have attended St. Mark's Church as a child. I was married here and 3 of my 4 children were baptized here. Though throughout the years I may not have attended, my heart has always been with this church. I feel like I am coming home.

With that being said I am excited for the next chapter in my life and working with the children and youth along with every one of the church. I have thought and prayed about this and feel with God's Guidance, working with Pastor Phillips, the Council Members and the Congregation of the church we can grow our church Youth Programs, from Children's Hour to Sunday School Programs, to Children's Church, Youth Group, Young Adults to all the families of the church, young and old.

I would like to thank everyone who has made this possible for me to do and those that are supporting me. Please feel free to contact me if you have questions, suggestions or would like to volunteer in any of the programs, any and all help is needed as we Continue to Grow our programs here at St. Mark's.

Thank You all Again and God Bless.

Shelley D. O'Donnell Children/Youth Director



*"Hallelujah, for the hands that hold you now."*

Thank you to Matthew Protzman's family for the beautiful art, created by his sister, Sandra. The gift of Matt's life in service and fellowship at St. Mark's reaches forward through the touching message lovingly expressed in this gift. Matthew is forever in our hearts!



81 pies assembled! Many THANKS to our pie assembly crew;  
front row- Cathy Pakutz, Karen Grossman, Jessie Phillips, Phyllis Kaltenbaugh,  
back row- Gert Hindman, Peggy Barron, Raylene Jindra.  
All proceeds benefit NALC Disaster Response



## Historical Trivia for April

**This Day in History: FDR vs. Montgomery Ward - April 26, 1944** - Federal troops seized the Chicago offices of Montgomery Ward and removed its chairman after his refusal to obey President Roosevelt's order to recognize a CIO union. The seizure ended when unions won an election to represent the company's workers.

The use of federal power was brazen, to say the least. But FDR had spent his entire presidency expanding the scope of federal power. Perhaps his audacity wasn't so surprising after all.

During the war years, FDR reinstated a WWI-era War Labor Board. He didn't want worker strikes to affect the war effort. His Labor Board was supposed to prevent such a situation by helping to arbitrate labor disputes.

At Montgomery Ward, none of this went over so well. Indeed, there was a dispute about whether the company's products even affected the war—at all. Should they really be subject to the decisions of this Labor Board?

The retailer had its own set of problems to deal with, even without FDR's demands.

Montgomery Ward had survived the Great Depression, but the company had struggled to keep up with competitors such as Sears. In order to save his company, CEO Sewell Avery took many cost-cutting actions: He saved the company financially, but his actions also led to a series of disputes with the company's workers. By April 1944, the company's labor agreements were expiring, which meant the workers could again go on strike. FDR jumped in, ordering Avery to sign a new contract or to have his company seized. Avery refused.

He was literally carried out of his company, feet first, by soldiers. Just before he was carried out, he snapped at the U.S. Attorney General: "I want none of your damned advice. . . . To hell with the government!"

The Attorney General was "deeply shocked," as historian Thomas Fleming explains. "He later claimed he saw Avery's defiance endangering the entire war effort. Exactly how, the attorney general never adequately explained."

The company was returned to Avery's control in early May, but Avery still refused to accept the Union contract. Matters simmered again for a while, then came to a head in December when Montgomery Ward's workers went on strike. On December 27, FDR again ordered seizure of the retailer. He told the country: "The Government of the United States cannot and will not tolerate any interference with war production in this critical hour."

The second time around, Avery was not carried out of the building. He stayed in his office while Major General Joseph Byron used an office nearby. It would be nearly a year before the government would relinquish control of the company back to Avery.

The retail giant was never the same again, partly because Avery became so suspicious of the government that he sat on hordes of cash. Other retailers, such as Sears, were investing in their companies and growing. Avery was not. The free market, finally back at work again, did not reward Avery's decision. Eventually, as we all know, Montgomery Ward could not stay afloat, and it went out of business.



Sources: <https://www.historyplace.com/specials/calendar/april.htm>  
<https://www.taraross.com/post/tdih-montgomery-ward>

## Wild flowers of Pennsylvania

Creeping Charlie - *Glechoma hederacea*

Also known as Gill-over-ground, Ground Ivy, Hedgemaids, Field Balm, Tunhoof, Catsfoot, Run-away-robin, and Alehoof.

### Growing Information

- **USDA Hardiness Zone:** 3a-10b
- **Life Cycle:** Perennials
- **Approximate mature size:** 5-8" (12.5-20 cm)
- **Bloom Time:** Spring, Summer
- **Sun Exposure:** Sun to Partial Shade



This wildflower grows in large groups in moist semi-shaded areas and tolerates the sun very well. Bees especially love collecting pollen from Creeping Charlie.

### Many people in Pennsylvania consider this wildflower a weed.

If you were to search for Creeping Charlie on the Internet you'll quickly discover that there are more websites that offer suggestions to eradicate this plant instead of eating it. This aromatic, perennial, evergreen creeper is in the mint (*Lamiaceae*) family. Creeping Charlie is an herbaceous plant that spreads by seed and by stolons (creeping stems). Native to Europe, it was brought to North America by the European settlers as medicine and as a ground cover. This minty edible contains a lot of vitamin C and offers a multitude of health benefits. This plant overwinters maintaining its colour under the snow.

**Flowers** - Flowers can appear as early as March in the northern hemisphere depending on location. They are purplish to blue and are quite small, about 1 cm long. Creeping Charlie flowers usually grow in clusters of three in the axils (between the stem and petiole) and are two-lipped. They have five petals, and the petals are fused into a cup or tube. Flowers grow in axillary whorls, often one-sided. Each flower produces four seeds.

**Leaves** - Creeping Charlie leaves produce bright, shiny green, round or kidney-shaped leaves that are broadly cordate and have scalloped margins. Sometimes the leaves may appear to be tinted purple, especially the under side. The leaf surface has sparse, short hairs. Leaves are opposite on square stems that root at the nodes. Leaf veins rise from the same point and they have palmate veins.

**Edible Parts** - Young leaves can be eaten raw or cooked. The leaves have a mild mint-like flavour and can be tossed into salads to add a slight aromatic tang. Creeping Charlie leaves can also be cooked like spinach, added to soups, stews, or omelettes. Tea is made from the fresh or dried leaves. It is often used mixed with verbena leaves or lovage. This wild edible has been added to beer in much the same way as hops in order to clear it and also to improve its flavour.

Read more here; source: <https://www.ediblewildfood.com/creeping-charlie.aspx>  
or here: <https://birdwatchinghq.com/wildflowers-in-pennsylvania/#purple>



### Old Wive's Tales for Spring:

"A cold May and a windy April, a full barn."

"A cold and moist April fills the cellar and fattens the cow."

## JOKE OF THE MONTH

Q. What did the baker's son do over spring break?????????  
 ??  
 ??  
 ??  
 ??  
 ??  
 ?????A: He loafed around!???????



## Fun Spring riddles to exercise your brain

1. In a one-story pink house, there was a pink person, a pink cat, a pink fish, a pink computer, a pink chair, a pink table, a pink telephone, a pink shower – everything was pink! What color were the stairs?
2. Which tire doesn't move when a car turns right?
3. How can you throw a ball as hard as you can, only to have it come back to you, even if it doesn't bounce off anything?
4. What belongs to you but other people use it more than you?
5. What is the one question you can never answer?

Answers on insert page  
 Source:  
<https://www.fatherly.com/entertainment/66-brain-teasers-for-adults-kids-and-everyone-in-between>

## April is National Poetry Month

Take this opportunity to read poetry through the book of Psalms.

Happy are those  
 who do not follow the advice  
 of the wicked  
 or take the path that  
 sinners tread  
 or sit in the seat of scoffers,  
<sup>2</sup>but their delight is in the law  
 of the Lord,  
 and on his law they  
 meditate day and night.  
 ~Psalms 1:1-2

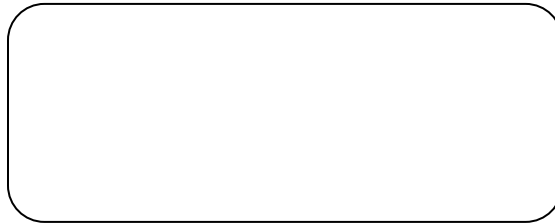
St. Mark's Evangelical Lutheran Church  
201 West Jefferson Street  
Butler, Pennsylvania 16001  
Phone: 724-287-6741  
Fax: 724-287-6747  
Website: [www.stmarksbutler.org](http://www.stmarksbutler.org)

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

Parish Office Hours:  
9:00 AM -- 1:00 PM  
Tuesday – Friday  
**WORSHIP SERVICES**

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

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED



Learn more about The North American

Lutheran Church

[www.thenalc.org](http://www.thenalc.org)

Christ Centered

Mission Driven

Traditionally Grounded

Congregationally Focused



**St. Mark's Staff**

Rev. David Phillips, Senior Pastor  
Wendy Holt, Parish Administrator  
John Lingenfelter, Custodian  
Larry Rettig, Custodian  
Rebecca Veith, Director of Music  
Shelley O'Donnell, Youth Director  
Sherry Young, Treasurer  
Toni Tassey, Financial Secretary

SUNDAY		MONDAY		TUESDAY		WEDNESDAY		THURSDAY		FRIDAY		SATURDAY		
				1	5:00 Bell Choir 6:00 Choir	2	9:00 3T 9:30 Children's Hour	3	1:30 Afternoon @ the Movies 5:00 Katie's Kitchen 6:00 Bible Study	4		5	5:00 Worship	6
9:00 Worship 10:15 S.S.	7		8	5:00 Bell Choir 6:00 Choir 6:30 Council	9	9:30 Children's Hour 1:00 Prayer Shawl	10	5:00 Katie's Kitchen 6:00 Bible Study	11		12	Community Meal Art Show Gala 5:00 Worship	13	
Community Meal Art Show Gala 9:00 Worship 10:15 S.S.	14		15	5:00 Bell Choir 6:00 Worship & Music Mtg. 6:30 Choir	16	9:30 Children's Hour	17	1:30 Afternoon @ the Movies 5:00 Katie's Kitchen 6:00 Bible Study	18		19	5:00 Worship	20	
9:00 Worship 10:15 S.S.	21		22	3:00 Eve Bible Study 5:00 Bell Choir 6:00 Choir	23	9:30 Children's Hour	24	5:00 Katie's Kitchen 6:00 Bible Study	25		26	5:00 Worship	27	
9:00 Worship 10:15 S.S.	28		29	12:00-5:30 Red Cross Blood Drive 5:00 Bell Choir 6:00 Choir	30									
<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;"> <p>Fun Dates to Celebrate: 4/4 – Walk Around Things Day, 4/7 – National Coffee Cake Day 4/13 – Scrabble Day, 4/20 National Banana Day, 4/23 – Talk Like Shakespeare Day 4/27 – National Prime Rib Day</p> </div>														

# APRIL 2024

## SCRIPTURE:

1 2	1 2 3 4
3 4 5 6 7 8 9	5 6 7 8 9 10 11
10 11 12 13 14 15 16	12 13 14 15 16 17 18
17 18 19 20 21 22 23	19 20 21 22 23 24 25
24 25 26 27 28 29 30	26 27 28 29 30 31
31	

"For whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, that through endurance and through the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope."

~ Romans\_15:4 ESV

MARCH 2024

MAY 2024

Riddle answers from page 11: (1.) There weren't any stairs, it was a one-story house. (2.) The spare tire. (3.) Throw the ball straight up in the air. (4.) Your name. (5.) "Are you asleep yet?"

April Scriptures and Prayers

April 7, 2024 – Acts 4:32-35, Psalm 148, 1 John 1:1-2-:2, John 20:19-31

*\* Almighty God, we have celebrated with joy the festival of our Lord's resurrection. Graciously help us to show the power of the resurrection in all that we say and do; through Your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.*

April 14, 2024 – Acts 2:11-21, Psalm 4, 1 John 3:1-7, Luke 24:36-49

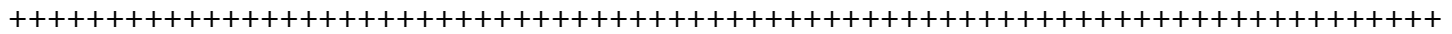
*\* O God, by the humiliation of Your Son You lifted up this fallen world, rescuing us from the hopelessness of death. Grant Your faithful people a share in the joys that are eternal; through Your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.*

April 21, 2024 – Acts 4:1-12, Psalm 23, 1John 3:16-24, John 10:11-18

*\* God of all power, You called from death our lord Jesus, the great shepherd of the sheep. Send us as shepherds to rescue the lost, to heal the injured, and to feed on another with knowledge and understanding; through Your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.*

April 28, 2024 – Acts 8:26-40, Psalm 150, 1 John 4:1-21, John 15:1-8

*\* O God, form the minds of Your faithful people into a single will. Make us love what You command and desire what You promise, that, amid all the changes of this world, our hearts may be fixed where true joy is found; through Your son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.*



**POSITIVE TRAITS**

Looking for words with positive meanings.

- ACROSS**
4. Positive
  8. Famous
  10. Efficient
  12. Recommend
  13. Giving
  14. Adept
  15. Creative
  16. Highly regard
- DOWN**
1. Knowledgeable
  2. Cheerful
  3. Frank
  5. Lively
  6. Courageous
  7. Laugh
  9. Achieve
  11. Lucky

Answers on page: 2