

St. Mark's Messenger

March 2018 St. Mark's Lutheran Church 601 Washington Avenue ~ Hagerstown, MD 301-733-7550 ~ Website: lutheranchurchhagerstown.com The Reverend G. Stanley Steele, Senior Pastor

Pastoral Musings...

The days are longer, the leaves on the trees are beginning to show, flowers are reappearing in the garden, song birds are in the air and Spring is near. This is the time of year we are reminded of the rebirth of life, of the earth as well as of ourselves. We shed the heavy clothing and yearn for the warmth of the sun. There is also the nearness of celebrating once again the miracle of life over death in our Easter celebration. We hear again of the wonderful act of love of God in the sacrifice of Jesus on the cross and the miracle of the resurrection. Jesus is given new life, and, in His resurrection, we too are promised life, now and or eternity. It is a time to take in not only the warmth of the sun in the sky but the Son of God in our heart and spirit. Life it renewed as is our hope and confidence.

On February 25th the congregation agreed in a strong favorable vote to proceed in the renovations to the parish hall, kitchen, bath rooms and air conditioning. This came after years to discussion and prayer. While the work is beyond necessary it is a decision of faith as well. On the surface there is reason to be concerned, yet there is more reason to believe God is leading us into a future or renewed life and mission. We do this not for ourselves but for the good of the kingdom and to better serve our neighbors. This will enable us to strengthen our fellowship ministries, to offer better hospitality and to be able to allow all people access to our parish auditorium. There is mush yet to be done and you will be hearing update reports as we go along. We will need first and foremost your prayers, and your presence to offer guidance and financial support. This is a new and ambitious start for St. Mark's, one that I believe will strengthen us as we trust God to empower us to fulfill the mission and the future that God has called us to fulfill.

As we begin this journey I hope you will catch the excitement and vision. One way to begin this journey is to join with your fellow disciples here at St. Mark as we come together to remember the last days of Jesus' life and the glory of His resurrection. I invite you to come and celebrate the miracle of renewed life in our congregation and the gift of new life in Jesus our Savior.

May God bless us as we travel to Jerusalem to witness the resurrection and the birth of new life!

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

The whole people of God in Christ Jesus, for the church, those in need, and all of God's creation especially today for Jenna Zoak, Andrew Bitner, Ruth Grove, Patricia Pile, Brook Upton, Julie Shanhotz, Terry Haller, Daris Phillips, Rosalie Tritch, Bertha Haden, David Taylor, Sheila Capelle, Janie Fisher, Wayne Smith, Jerry Carroll, Tynisha Gaines, Dawn Ford, Mary Ann Kriner, Christine Foltz, Alex McGinley, Holly Funk, Sammy Neff, Theresa Shaeffer, Susan Doub, Sara Jean Horn, Bud Kelley

Council Members and contact info:

| Elaine Rose | gerose@verizon.net | 301-730-0750 |
|-----------------------|----------------------------|--------------|
| Pat Kelley | patakelley@aol.com | 443-880-0263 |
| Pat Myers | patmyers40@gmail.com | 301-730-2308 |
| Ralph Bartles | ralphbartles@yahoo.com | 301-667-5727 |
| Julie Stouffer | jbstouffer@myactv.net | 240-329-1457 |
| Steve Elsen | goaltend2000@yahoo.com | 281-393-5882 |
| Holly Funk | | 240-625-7362 |
| Sandy Jakoby | sandyjakoby@gmail.com | 240-500-8600 |
| Rhonda Bowers | rbowers542@aol.com | 301-739-9016 |
| Bob Hornbecker | bobhornbecker68@myactv.net | 301-665-9030 |
| Patrice Kifer | pskifer11@gmail.com | 240-385-2985 |
| Mikala Stouffer | mastouffer11@gmail.com | 240-291-1856 |
| Carol Seibert | caseibert@myactv.net | 301-992-3083 |

Church Officers:

President - Elaine Rose Vice President- Pat Kelley Secretary - Rhonda Bowers Treasurer - Ralph Bartles

Council Notes:

Thank you everyone who attended the special congregational meeting on Sunday, February 25. There was a lot of good discussion, and we know everyone is excited about moving forward to update our building, although perhaps just a little nervous about the loan. It is important to take care of the items that will be included in the renovations, such as updating the kitchen, making the building ADA compliant, updating the plumbing in the restrooms, new HVAC equipment, etc. These are not frivolous, but necessary, updates, way overdue. With prayer and faith, all will go well with the process and loan payments. *The things which are impossible with men are possible with God. Luke 18:27*

The Council will provide dinner before the Lenten service on Wednesday, March 7. We hope you will consider joining us for some good food and even better fellowship. The March Council meeting will be held following the service that evening, hopefully no later than 8:00 pm. As always, anyone in the congregation is welcome to attend. Also, please feel free to ask questions or express concerns or suggestions to any Council member to bring before the entire Council.

Easter is just a few weeks away. Our hope is that you will reach out to members who have not attended St. Mark's for a while and to those who maybe have never attended a service at St. Mark's, and invite them to one of our beautiful services. Also, don't forget to support the Altar Guild by ordering their delicious Easter eggs and ordering flowers to remember or honor a loved one or someone special to you.

God Bless.

• Holy Week Schedule

| • | Holy Wednesday March | 28, 2018 | 6:00 pm Lenten Supper 7:00 pm Worship |
|---|--------------------------------|----------------------------------|---|
| • | Maundy Thursday | March 29, 2018 | 12:00 pm Communion Service 6:00 pm Dinner/Worship |
| • | Good Friday Sunrise Service | March 30, 2018 April 01, 2018 | 12 noon & 7:00 pm Service of Tenebrae 6:45 am Rose Hill Cemetery in "The Garden of the Cross" |
| • | Early Service | April 01, 2018 | 8:15 am Communion Service |
| • | Breakfast between Services | | |
| • | Late Service | April 01, 2018 | 10:45 am Communion Service |

NOTE FROM OUR MUSIC DIRECTIOR

If you don't think we have fun at choir rehearsal, read on......

All choir members keep a pencil in their music folder. This is so they can make notes in their music - circle problem notes, mark where to breathe or not breathe, or make some sort of notation for any other instructions the director may give. As the director, when I want choir members to mark something in their music, I usually tell them to mark whatever will help them to remember my instructions for that spot. This can mean different things to different people. For example, where one person might write "Watch" in their music, another person may draw a pair of eyeglasses.

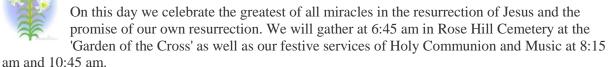
If we "rerun" an anthem, and you have the same copy of the music that you had before, you recognize - and understand- the notations that you made in the music. **BUT**, if you have a copy of the music that someone <u>else</u> used before, you never know what you might find in there.

Recently, I handed out to the Chancel Choir an anthem (for Easter) that they had sung together with the Chapel Choir a few years ago. It quickly became obvious that at least some of the singers received a copy that had been used previously by some- one <u>else</u> - most likely someone from the Chapel Choir. When we got to page 3, Pat Myers discovered a handwritten notation in his music that read, "All peeps in da hood". We still can't figure out what that is supposed to mean or how it relates to that particular spot in the music. (But if Pat starts laughing in the middle of our anthem on Easter, you'll know why!) On the last line on the last page, Sandy Myers discovered this notation: "Pop it, son!" My closest guess here, is that it could have meant to keep the sound strong to the end. Maybe.......

On a more serious noteRecently, I was reading another music director's newsletter article. She had included a paragraph from an article she read in "The American Organist" magazine. A few of the lines in that paragraph, I thought, really described our Chancel Choir quite well. I already read this to them, and I'd like to share it here, too. "Music gathers people together. When people sing together, a community of love is forged in which everybody is welcomed and affirmed. This kind of community provides spiritual nurturing and a glimpse of the love of God, which helps us all to go forth and serve."

Your co-worker in Christ, Kathy Barr





As you enter Rose Hill Cemetery, please watch for signs directing you here. If you plan to attend this service, and have trouble standing, please bring a lawn chair.

Please make a special effort to come celebrate new life with your fellow believers of St. Mark's.



St. Mark's Orchestra and Breakfast

Breakfast & Sunday School Orchestra Next Sunday at 9:15.





Lunch Bunch

The next lunch bunch date is March 20th at 12 noon they will meet at The Grille at Runways located at 18421 Henson Blvd, Hagerstown, MD 21742. Hope to see you there!



Please do not forget to set your clocks

forward on March 10, 2018

LEARNING PARTIES:

The next session of Learning Parties will be held beginning Thursday evening, April 12, 5:30 - 7:00 pm, and each Thursday evening through May 3. As always, volunteers are needed to help prepare and serve the dinner, clean up, and to assist with the 3 - 5 year olds. Please contact Elaine Rose at 301-730-0750 or gerose@verizon.net if you can help one or multiple weeks. Thank you.

Altar Flowers:

God Bless you all as you place your flowers on St. Mark's altar in honor/memory of loved ones. They bring beauty to our church and joy to those who receive them. We have two dates for 2018 which is May 27 and December 30. If you are interested taking this date, please contact Judy Mundey at 301-739-4669.

BINGO NIGHT AT TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH:

There will be Bingo for all ages at Trinity Lutheran, Hagerstown on Thursday, April 26th in Fellowship Hall. A light supper will be served at 6:00 p.m. with Bingo following at 6:45 p.m. Everyone is invited.

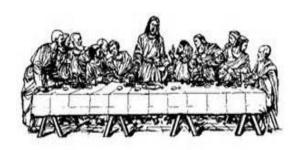
Please bring an item for the prize table. We will be collecting non-perishable food items for the Trinity Food Bank that evening.

This event is sponsored by the Trinity Senior Ministry Team. Please RSVP by calling the church office, (301) 733-2878 or by emailing, cgildee@tlchag.org.

The Altar Guild will be collecting donations for Easter memorials until **March 18th.** Please complete the form below.

PLEASE *PRINT LEGIBLY!*Altar Guild Donations 2018

| In honor/memory of: | |
|--|--------|
| Given by: | |
| Are these individuals the same as those you listed for Christmas 2017? | Yes No |



Maundy Thursday Table Communion Reservation Form

Thursday, March 29, 2018 6:00 pm St. Mark's Lutheran Church, Hagerstown

| Yes, I/we plan to attend the Maundy Thursday Table Communion | | | | |
|--|--------|--|--|--|
| Name | | | | |
| Number attending | | | | |
| Sweet or Yeast Bread | Cheese | | | |

PLEASE RSVP BY THE MORNING OF WEDNESDAY, MARCH 28

Solemn Choral Evensong

The Fourth Sunday in Lent

The Rev. Todd Young, Officiant for the service

Choral music by Christopher Tye and Francis Woolley
Flute/Organ music by George Frideric Händel and Jehan Alain
Julie Belle Huff, flute

Saint John's Parish Choir

Mark King, director



Sunday, March 11, 2018 at 5:00 p.m.

Saint John's Episcopal Church

101 South Prospect Street ~ Hagerstown, Maryland 21740 ~ 301-733-2560 x 108

Parking in the church lot at the corner of Walnut and Antietam Streets



Happy March Birthday to:

- 2 Conner Spessard
- 3 Suzann Hovermale
 - Mary Nelson
- 7 Roger Fiery
 - Jennifer Morris
 - Michelle Leatherman
- 8 Thomas Hoover
- 9 Dennis Kendle
- 10 Gary Doub
- 14 Ethel Schmidt
 - Michael Huntsberry II

- 16 Kaitlin Suter
- 19 Virginia Altman Shaun White
- 20 Breanna Myers
- 25 Amanda Fiery
 - Marian Wiebel
- 26 Bethany Hovermale
- 30 Sandie Willard
- 31 Barbara Myers



If you would like to become a sponsor for the newsletter, the cost is \$50. Please contact the church office 301-733-7550.