



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 much 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!

Pastor Stan

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:

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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.



Easter! A Celebration of Life!

On this day we celebrate the greatest of all miracles in the resurrection of Jesus and the promise of our own resurrection. We will gather at 6:45 am in Rose Hill Cemetery at the 'Garden of the Cross' as well as our festive services of Holy Communion and Music at 8:15 am and 10:45 am.

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 Munday 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!*

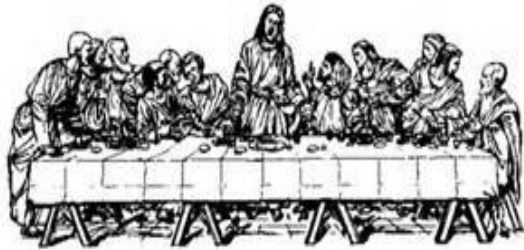
Altar Guild Donations 2018



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	16	Kaitlin Suter
3	Suzann Hovermale	19	Virginia Altman
	Mary Nelson		Shaun White
7	Roger Fiery	20	Breanna Myers
	Jennifer Morris	25	Amanda Fiery
	Michelle Leatherman		Marian Wiebel
8	Thomas Hoover	26	Bethany Hovermale
9	Dennis Kendle	30	Sandie Willard
10	Gary Doub	31	Barbara Myers
14	Ethel Schmidt		
	Michael Huntsberry II		



In Loving Memory

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