



St. Mark's Messenger

April 2015

St. Mark's Lutheran Church

601 Washington Avenue ~ Hagerstown, MD

301-733-7550 ~ Website: lutheranchurchhagerstown.co

The Reverend G. Stanley Steele, Senior Pastor



Pastor Stan is on a much needed vacation. He will send you his message in May.

Friends in Christ,

As I write this, we are approaching the end of our Lenten Season. I think that this is one of the most special parts of our church year. During the Advent season, we joyfully anticipate the coming of our Lord's birthday anniversary; but the Lenten season gives us time to reflect on Christ's sacrifice for us and to examine our relationship with Him.

Is our relationship with Christ a close one? Or is it lacking, and just a bit "shaky"? Do you go to church as often as you should? Do you pray daily? Are you into His word? How's that Great Commandment doing in your life? (Love your neighbor as yourself). Each new day is an opportunity to do better.

I found this poem by Kent M. Keith some time ago. I'd like to share it with you. (Mother Theresa had it on the wall of her home for children in Calcutta, India.) May it inspire us all, in His service. Remember, Jesus Christ is our savior. He makes friends out of strangers, breaks down walls and builds all of us up to be His obedient children.

"The Paradoxical Commandments"

- 1. People are unreasonable, illogical and self-centered. Love them anyway.*
- 2. If you do good, people accuse you of selfish ulterior motives. Do good anyway.*
- 3. If you are successful, you will win false friends and true enemies. Succeed anyway.*
- 4. The good you do today will be forgotten tomorrow. Do good anyway.*
- 5. Honesty and frankness make you vulnerable. Be honest and frank anyway.*
- 6. The biggest men and women with the biggest ideas can be shot down by the smallest men and women with the smallest minds. Think big anyway.*
- 7. People favor underdogs but follow only top dogs. Fight for a few underdogs anyway.*
- 8. What you spend years building may be destroyed overnight. Build anyway.*
- 9. People really need help but may attack you if you do help them. Help people anyway.*
- 10. Give the world the best you have and you'll get kicked in the teeth. Give the world the best you have anyway.*

You see, in the final analysis, it is between you and God. It was never between you and them anyway. Have a peace-filled Easter, *Julie Fiery, Council President*



Fundraisers to Benefit Two Groups

A Coach Bingo fundraiser will be held on May 3, 2015 at the newly remodeled Williamsport Moose Lodge public hall to benefit the Quinn Alec Hoover Legacy Scholarship Fund. The doors will open at Noon with bingo starting at 2 PM. There will be a total of 25 games. The final game will be for up to \$1,000 cash and the other 24 games will be for valuable Coach purses. There will also be three special games available. The cost is \$25 in advance or \$30 at the door, if any tickets are available. There are only 150 tickets available for this event. Tickets are available from Tom and Sonja Hoover and Ralph and Penny Bartles.

The Youth Group will be selling food at this bingo event to raise funds for their ASP trip in June.

Come out and help make this event a huge success for everyone. *Ralph Bartles*

Coming Soon - St. Mark's ASP trip (June 14-20)

This will be our fourth trip with the St. Mark's Youth Group and we are hoping to head to Kentucky this year to offer our services. We anticipate sending 24 people to work which is a cost of \$7,535 plus the additional cost of supplies that we take, which include work gloves, safety goggles, respirators, other work related equipment as well as lunch supplies, healthy snacks and water for all our volunteers. We have held several fundraisers throughout this school year including a spaghetti dinner, a pancake breakfast as well as our current sandwich sale. Unfortunately, we are still short of reaching our financial goal and are hoping that the members of St. Mark's are willing to make financial donations to our trip. You may do this through your regular offering envelopes, please include your extra donation and mark on the front of the envelope the amount and write 'ASP' in the blank space provided.



A few quick facts about Appalachia Service Project

- ASP was founded in 1969 by Rev. Tex Evans to make homes warmer, safer and drier for impoverished families living in Central Appalachia.
- Since ASP's founding, 358,216 volunteers have repaired 16,693 homes.
- 17,188 volunteers from more than 30 states volunteered with ASP in 2014.
- In 2015, ASP will serve in 30 impoverished communities in Kentucky, North Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia and West Virginia.

ASP changes lives

Just a few days at ASP transforms the lives of those who come to serve. Home repair strengthens us physically while also deepening our relationship with God. After serving with ASP in the past, we've returned home with a passion for putting our faith into action, a renewed compassion for other people, and a fresh appreciation for our place and purpose in this world.

ASP strengthens churches

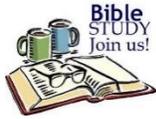
Once our group completed their first ASP project, it's become an integral part of our church's calendar each year.

ASP immerses volunteers in the lives of Appalachian families

ASP is more than a building program—it's a relationship-building ministry. And the bonds formed among volunteers and the Appalachian families are some of the most important aspects of the ASP experience. We spend a lot of time interacting with the families we are helping, learning about their lives, their struggles, and their faith. We go to give hope and help, to lift spirits and remind the families of God's love and provision. But we come away with so much more. Through their gratitude, we've gained a newfound appreciation for our own blessings. Through their down-to-earth faith, our own faith has grown stronger. Best of all, we've discovered that regardless of geography, education, or economics, all are equal members of the family of God.

We truly appreciate your prayers as well as your financial support. This trip means so much to our youth as well as the families we serve.

Thank you! Doug Fiery



Bible Study

Bible Study will start meeting again beginning on April 21st and 22nd. Tuesday evenings at 6:30 pm and Wednesday at 10:00 am we will reading and studying First and Second Corinthians. These are fascinating looks at the issues of faith and practice facing the early church and the way St. Paul dealt with them. We will be discussing Baptism, Holy Communion, how to treat fellow believers, sharing our gifts with God and other areas of faith that still apply today. Please join us for a lively and thoughtful discussion led by Pastor Stan.

Small Group for Youth

The Small Group fellowship and bible study for high school youth is well underway and going strong. We are adding a few more dates to the calendar so feel free to come join in the fun. Small group will meet following the late service and will end around 2 pm. Lunch will be served during this time. The following are the new dates, April 12th, 26th, May 17th and 31st. We will explore new topics like the story of Jonah and also explore your own personal relationship with God.



Movie Night

“Exodus” the movie will be shown on Wednesday, April 22nd at 6:30 pm in the Parish Hall. This is the new movie that was released earlier this year. Refreshments will be provided.

Altar Flowers

For 2015, the open dates are May 10, and May 31. If you would like one of these dates, please contact Judy Munday at 301-739-4669.



Learning Parties

St. Mark's will again be hosting the Learning Parties, a program to help prepare three- to five-year olds to be ready to enter kindergarten. The Learning Parties will be held on four consecutive Tuesdays in May (5, 12, 19, and 26) from 5:30 to 7:30 pm. All members of the families are invited to attend, and a meal is served prior to the learning activities. Volunteers are needed to help with preparing and serving the meals, cleanup, and providing nursery and activities for the siblings of the children in the program. Please contact either Elaine Rose or Kim Gandee if you are willing to help any, or all, of the Tuesday evenings. Thank you.



Attention! Attention!

With spring upon us, I am sure that many are doing some spring house cleaning. The Quilters of St. Marks are in need of material. If you have any old drapes, old dresses, or any material with a nice print they will welcome all donations. Thank you for your consideration and have a wonderful spring!

Stephen Ministry Introductory Workshop

The workshop will be held on Saturday, April 18th at Trinity United Methodist Church in Fredrick. This is a well-respected ministry begun by a Lutheran Pastor that trains lay folks on supporting and visiting fellow believers who are homebound, in hospitals, going through a difficult time, or other areas of need. This workshop will include an Introduction to Stephen Ministry, Ministering to those Experiencing Grief, and How to Care in a Distinctively Christian Way. Pastor Stan will be attending and would like to have those interested to attend and discuss the possibility of beginning this ministry at St. Mark's. Please speak to Pastor Stan for more information or if you are interested.





Thank You

Dear Friends at St. Mark's, Thank you for the thoughts, prayers, and expressions of concern extended to my family when my husband, Lester, was in the hospital in January. Thank you, also, to Pastor Stan for the encouragement and visits. I am sorry it took me so long to express my thanks. Lester is doing very well and recently returned to his part time job at Weis. Having such a wonderful support system made all the difference. Blessings, Rhonda Bowers and family

A sincere thank you to St. Mark's friends for prayers, calls, cards, and other well-wishes during my recent illness. Your thoughtful caring is very much appreciated. Millie Powell

March Attendance and Income/Expenses

	<u>Worship</u>
March 1:	55
March 8:	120
March 15:	128
March 22:	170
March 29:	139
Income for the month of March	\$27,011.84**
Expenses for the month of March	\$19,734.08

** This total includes \$6,000 from Endowment

Happy April Birthday to...

3 Doris Leasure	19 Frederick Barrett
Tammy Huntsberry	19 Virginia Altman
4 Jacob Bryan	20 Jordan Carpenter
Linda Stuzman	C. David Clugston
6 Sandra Norcross	22 David Hluchy
7 Lisa Barrett	24 Levi Hoover
10 Kaitlyn Moser	Paul Ruffner
Daniel Rishell	25 Steven Rishell
13 Rachel Loudin	Brock Twigg
14 Justin Baker	29 Julie Matheny
17 Michael Mogensen	30 Bruce Hartman

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

Red
Geranium



The Altar Guild will be taking orders for red geraniums until May 3rd. The money collected will benefit St. Mark's Building Fund. If you are interested in purchasing one or more of these pots of geraniums, please complete the form below. Pots are \$6.00 each.

Please return this form along with your payment to any member of the Altar Guild, place it in the offering plate, or to the Church Office.

After the 10:45 service on May 24th, these flowers will be yours to take home and enjoy. Thank you for your support!

DEADLINE FOR ORDERS: May 3, 2015

Name: _____

Number of Geraniums: _____