

*ST. MARK'S*



2026  
*NEWSLETTER*

## Thoughts from the Pastor:

Dear People of St. Mark's,

I consider St. Mark's to be a gift from God. It continues to be a wonderful experience for me to serve as pastor of this congregation. So many people give of themselves quietly and faithfully to nurture and maintain our life together.

Every church council member gives time not only to attend meetings, but also to carry out the work of the congregation during the week. Our cleaning and mowing teams work tirelessly to maintain our facility, and I think the church property continues to look beautiful. I am deeply grateful for everyone who helps St. Mark's remain a place of worship, welcome, and care.

A few weeks ago, our Synod Assembly delegates, Cheryl Gill, Dawn Seyfried, and I attended the annual assembly. St. Mark's does not always send voting delegates, but this year I felt it was especially important because Bishop DeForest was standing for re-election. Bishop DeForest called me back into service, appointed me as pastor of St. Mark's, and, along with his staff, has helped our congregation think carefully about our future in difficult circumstances. I found his leadership thoughtful, courageous, and forward-looking.

Bishop DeForest was not re-elected. I was personally saddened by that outcome. I believe he worked hard to help our synod face the realities of a changing church and to encourage congregations to think creatively about the future. Change is difficult, and faithful people do not always agree about the best way forward. Still, I remain grateful for his leadership and for the support he has given to me and St. Mark's.

Our congregation continues to have an important project before us called "Where Are We Going?" The purpose of this task force is to help us discern how we will continue our life as a congregation in the years ahead. That work is not easy, but it is necessary. We may have to seek partnerships, make difficult decisions, and think in new ways. But I believe we will find a faithful way forward together.

Please remember me in your prayers as I adjust to the loss of a bishop whose leadership I respected deeply and whose support meant a great deal to me and to St. Mark's. Finally, nothing strengthens our congregation more than your presence in worship. Please attend whenever you can. Remember that we do not have air conditioning, and Mark and I will adjust the length of the service when necessary, during hot and humid weather.

If you need anything, please call me at 610-216-2970. That is my cell, text or leave a message and I will get right back to you! Thank you for your faithfulness, your hard work, and your continued love for St. Mark's.

Fondly,

*Pastor Kleist*



## July 2026 Newsletter Treasurer's Report

There were no uncommon expenses incurred in May 2026.

The financial information shared below represents income and expenses through May 31, 2026.

**May Contributions/Income:** \$5,576.78 (Excluding Investment Acct Interest)

**May Expenses:** : \$6,534.91

The financial information shared below represents income and expenses through May 31, 2026.

**YTD Contributions/Income:** \$28,717.50 (Excluding Investment Account Interest)

**YTD Expenses:** \$34,578.20

Please feel free to ask me about any expenses.

Thank you.

Dana Deacon



**Stay connected through your giving:** Continue to be active in the ministry of Christ's church at St. Mark's by taking advantage of our various giving opportunities. Give via our website, mail, or through the Give+ mobile app. Each of these giving opportunities provide secure ways to ensure your contributions are safely handled.

[www.stmarksbethlehem.com/give](http://www.stmarksbethlehem.com/give)

3771 Easton Ave.  
Bethlehem, PA 18020

[Give+ mobile app Apple iOS](#)

[Give+ mobile app Google Play Store](#)

**Now introducing: text to give!**

Text any amount to 833-756-0334

[Click here for details and instructions for using text-to-give services.](#)



**Internet Resources**

**Website address:** [www.stmarksbethlehem.com](http://www.stmarksbethlehem.com)

**Pastor email:** [pastor@stmarksbethlehem.com](mailto:pastor@stmarksbethlehem.com)

**Office email:** [office@stmarksbethlehem.com](mailto:office@stmarksbethlehem.com)

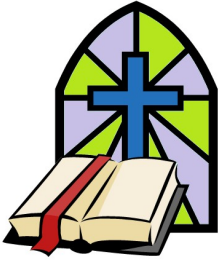
**Choir email:** [music@stmarksbethlehem.com](mailto:music@stmarksbethlehem.com)

**Facebook & Instagram & Twitter:** [@stmarksbeth](#)

**Change of Address?**

**Please alert the church office** of any changes to your address, telephone number, or email address. You may use the pew cards/envelopes, put a note on the office door, phone the office at 610-694-0212, or email the secretary at :

[office@stmarksbethlehem.com](mailto:office@stmarksbethlehem.com).

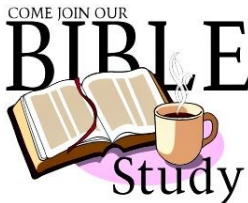


**WORSHIP SERVICES:** In– Person services are held and will continue indoors in the sanctuary. We will continue to live stream on Facebook every **Sunday at 9:30 AM.**



**FELLOWSHIP TIME WITH COFFEE/DONUTS:**

**1ST** Sunday of every month unless noted differently. Come join us in fellowship hall following worship for some yummy treats and fellowship time together!



**BIBLE STUDY:** Begins immediately following services (approx. 10:45am) every **2nd & 4th** Sunday Unless noted differently. Led by Pastor Kleist in the fellowship hall.



**MINISTRY COUNCIL MEETING:**

**3rd** Sunday of every month following worship service, unless otherwise noted. Meets in fellowship hall.



**Pastor John D. Kleist contact info:**

Email: [pastor@stmarksbethlehem.com](mailto:pastor@stmarksbethlehem.com)

Phone: 610-216-2970

**PRAYER FELLOWSHIP OPPORTUNITY**

You're invited to a prayer/fellowship and devotional discussion:

**Date:** Thursday, July 16th, 2026

**Time:** 6:30-8:00 PM

**Place:** 1573 Siegfried Street, Bethlehem

**Hosts:** Al & Carol Tullock, Jr.

610-691-2415





## St. Andrew's Food Bank

Thank You for your many donations of food, etc.  
– we are always in need of paper products [TP, Tissues, Towels & Napkins] – if you are able and willing – please place the donations in the tub that is in the Narthex.

THANK YOU ALL for your continuing contributions of ALL food & paper products. The next time St. Marks has duty at the Food Bank will be on **Wednesday, July 15th, 2026 from 5pm to 8pm.** Please contact Ron Richie if you are willing and able to help out.

*"Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your FATHER in heaven" - Matthew 5:16*

## Volunteers to help cut & trim the grass needed!



**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED:** We need volunteers to cut & trim the church grass - we are looking to make up 4 grass cutting teams to cut the grass - we have the riding mowers for you - we will show/teach you how they operate -please contact Tom Walters [610-868-5324] or Pete Kish [610-360-3416] We will start to cut grass approx. mid-April.



July Birthdays

07/12-Victor Berger III

07/14-Pamela Capuano

07/14-Kari Ebersole

07/24-Kenneth Cox

07/25- Karen Taverna  
- Miller

07/28-Joseph Trovato

07/28- Diane Schulte-  
August



July  
Anniversaries



07/22/1972  
Peter & Donna  
Kish



07/28/1984  
Clarence & Eileen  
Hein

**Servants of God for JULY 2026**

**Note to all**

**“Servants of God”:**

Please note the date you have been scheduled to serve; kindly find a replacement if you are unable to serve on your scheduled date and notify the church office. Contact the coordinator if you are unable to find someone to serve in your place. Sign up sheets are found in the narthex.

ASSIGNMENTS ARE FOR THE **9:30AM** SERVICE.

**WORSHIP LEADER**

REV. JOHN D. KLEIST

**WORSHIP ASSISTANT**

John McAtee

**MONTHLY USHERS**

John Szabo & Ron Ritchie

**Greeters** (All Month)

07/05-Pat & Ron Ritchie

07/12-Pat & Ron Ritchie

07/19-Donna & Peter Kish

07/26-Donna & Peter Kish

**PRAY-ERS**

07/05-Donna Carter & Stephanie Trovato

**COMMUNION**

**ASSISTANT**

Dawn Seyfried

**LECTORS**

07/05-Al Tullock, Jr.

07/12-Kari Ebersole

07/19- Lynne Berger

07/26-Alice Walters

**SIGN UP IN THE NARTHEX TO SPONSOR THE ITEMS THAT FOLLOW:**

**ALTAR FLOWERS**

07/05- Al & Carol Tullock, Jr.

07/12-Dawn Seyfried

07/19-Peter & Donna Kish

07/26- Al & Carol Tullock, Jr.

**BULLETINS**

07/05-Open

07/12-Open

07/19-Open

07/26-Bill & Donna Carter

**“WORD IN SEASON”**

**DEVOTIONAL**

**3RD QUARTER**

John Szabo

**SANCTUARY MEMORIAL**

**CANDLE FOR JULY**

Open

*Please use the Sponsor envelopes found next to the sign-up book to remit your payment for any sponsored items.*

# ***IN OUR PRAYERS***



## ***Partners in Ministry***

Rev. Christopher deForest, Bishop, Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod  
Rev. Yehiel Curry Presiding Bishop, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America  
Pastor John D. Kleist, our faithful Pastor at St. Mark's

## ***St. Mark's Disciples***

Tom Walters  
Ray Haring  
Joe Craig  
Dawn Seyfried  
Bill Carter  
Carl Willever  
Maria Szabo  
Fran Ramson  
Jennifer Porter

## ***Friends & Family***

Dave Carter  
Ray Swinger  
John Frable  
Norman Docteroff  
Jon Brannan  
Micheil Koblish  
Melanie  
Doug Keller  
Greg Keyock

St. Mark's Evangelical Lutheran Church  
3771 Easton Avenue  
Bethlehem, PA 18020

**NEWSLETTER**  
**JULY 2026**