

ST. MARK'S
MARCH 2026
NEWSLETTER



Thoughts from the Pastor:

Dear Members of St. Mark's,

We, God's people at St. Mark's, began Lent with a very meaningful and well-attended service on Ash Wednesday evening. Despite the threatening snow-storm, we also marked the First Sunday of Lent with a moving service of Holy Communion gathered around our wonderful altar.

On **March 1**, we continue the work of Lent in our Sunday worship as we hear about one of the most interesting people in the Bible: **Nicodemus**. He came looking for understanding. Later, he spoke up tentatively but courageously for Jesus when the leaders wanted to condemn him, saying, *"Does our law condemn a man without first hearing him to find out what he has been doing?"* Finally, he was moved to action when he brought spices to anoint Jesus' body and, with Joseph of Arimathea, laid him in the tomb.

I think Nicodemus gives us an excellent example to follow: **learn about Jesus, reflect on Jesus, and then act on our experience of him.**

During Lent, we are also trying to focus on a very specific kind of action. Our Church Council has led us to double down on our commitment to the St. Andrew's Food Bank by creating a mound of food and other needed items around Luther's bust in our narthex. Please look at the list in this newsletter and contribute as you are moved.

New this Lent are **two Wednesday noon events**. These gatherings will include worship, singing, food, and learning. We are trying this schedule to see if noon works better than evening, after the sun goes down.

The **March 4** gathering will include a presentation on **"Why Lutherans Sing."** For Lutherans, hymns are more than music. They help us **teach the faith, pray the faith, and express our joys and sorrows**. I will speak about the two historical streams of Lutheran music, highlighting the Muhlenberg era and the later German immigrant traditions. Mark will play many examples of hymns from our *ELW*, and you will be invited to sing along. I hope this will be both enlightening and entertaining.

I am still working on the presentation for **March 18**, but I promise I will do my best to bring you something valuable.

The season of Lent includes Gospel readings from John that lie at the core of my own faith formation. I have already mentioned Nicodemus, but we will also meet the woman at the well, the man born blind, and finally hear of the raising of Lazarus. I cannot wait to preach on these lessons and to be with all of you at worship as we continue our Lenten journey together.

Best regards,
Pastor Kleist



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

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

Pastor email: pastor@stmarksbethlehem.com

Office email: office@stmarksbethlehem.com

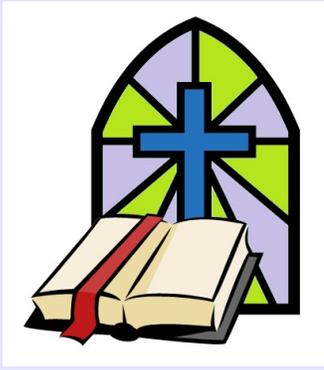
Choir email: music@stmarksbethlehem.com

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.



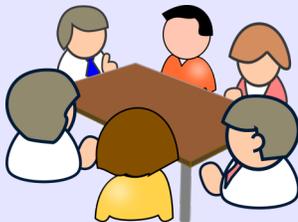
WORSHIP SERVICES: In– Person services are held and will continue indoors in the sanctuary. We will continue to live stream on Facebook every **Sunday at 9:30 AM.**



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



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!



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

PRAYER FELLOWSHIP OPPORTUNITY

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

Date: Thursday, March 19th, 2026

Time: 6:30-8:00 PM

Place: 1573 Siegfried Street
Bethlehem, PA 18017

Hosts: Al & Carol Tullock
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, March 18th, 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 jn heaven" - Matthew 5:16



March Birthdays

03/03 - Peter Docteroff
Rebecca Docteroff

03/04 - Nadine Lafey
Gavin Monohan

03/07 - Amy Cygan
Ryan Monohan
James Lafey

03/10 - Tyler Mantz

03/20 - Paul Docteroff

03/30 - Lea Hanchick



March Anniversaries



03/10/1973
Pamela & Robert
Capuano



03/20/1980
Joseph & Stephanie
Trovato



Servants of God for March 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 Szabo

MONTHLY USHERS

John Szabo & Ron Ritchie

Greeters

03/01-Peter & Donna Kish

03/08-Peter & Donna Kish

03/15-Ron & Pat Richie

03/22-Peter & Donna Kish

03/29-Donna & Bill Carter

PRAY-ERS

03/01-Donna Carter & Dawn Seyfried

COMMUNION

ASSISTANT

03/01- Kari Ebersole

LECTORS

03/01-Kari Ebersole

03/08-Alice Walters

03/15-Alice Walters

03/22-Donna Carter

03/29-Al Tullock, Jr.

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

ALTAR FLOWERS

03/01- Tom & Alice Walters

03/08-Open

03/15-Open

03/22-Open

03/29-Open

BULLETINS

03/01- Open

03/08- Open

03/15- Open

03/22- Open

03/29- Open

“WORD IN SEASON”

DEVOTIONAL

1ST QUARTER

JOHN & NANCY MCATEE

2ND QUARTER

OPEN

3RD QUARTER

JOHN SZABO

4TH QUARTER

DONNA & BILL CARTER

SANCTUARY MEMORIAL

CANDLE FOR MARCH

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

St. Mark's Disciples

Dawn Seyfried
Bill Carter
Carl Willever
Kristy Williams-Flannery
Tom Walters
Maria Szabo
Fran Ramson
Martha Bean

Friends & Family

Norman Docteroff
Mike Ebersole
Jon Brannan
Micheil Koblish
Melanie
Doug Keller
Jose Rodriguez



March 2026 Newsletter Treasurer's Report

The church did not incur any unusual expenses in the month of January, 2026.

Please note, due to winter weather two in-person services were cancelled in the month of January, these cancellations impacted both envelope collection and the bank deposit schedule.

The financial information shared below represents income and expenses through January 2026.

December Contributions/Income: \$2,226.13 (Excluding Investment Acct Interest)

December Expenses: \$3,098.77

The financial information shared below represents income and expenses through

YTD Contributions/Income: \$2,226.13 (Excluding Investment Account Interest)

YTD Expenses: \$3,098.77

Please feel free to ask me about any expenses.

Thank you,
Dana Deacon

EASTER FLOWER SPONSORS



HYACINTHS



LILIES



MUMS



DAFFODILS



TULIPS

**EASTER FLOWERS ARE AVAILABLE TO SPONSOR
NOW!**

**SEE INFORMATION ON THE BULLETIN BOARD IN THE
NARTHEX.**

**TAKE AN ENVELOPE AND FILL OUT IF YOU WOULD
LIKE TO SPONSOR FLOWERS INCLUDING PAYMENT.**

COST IS \$11.50 PER PLANT

LAST DAY TO HAND IN IS SUNDAY, MARCH 15TH.

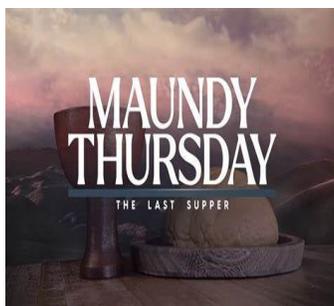
**YOU MAY TAKE YOUR FLOWERS HOME AFTER THE
EASTER SERVICE OR LEAVE THEM TO BE PLANTED
AROUND THE CHURCH.**

THANK YOU!

Holy Week Services



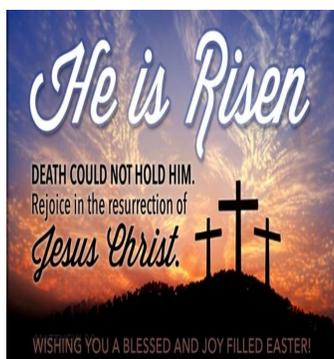
Palm Sunday Service
March 29th at 9:30 A.M.



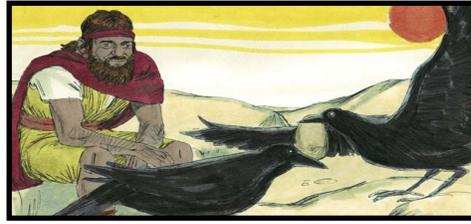
Maundy Thursday Service
April 2nd at 6:00 P.M.



Good Friday Service
April 3rd at 6:00 P.M.



Easter Sunday Service
April 5th at 9:30 A.M.



LUNCH AND LESSONS IN LENT

Wednesdays
March 4th & March 18th
12:00 pm

DATES: MARCH 4TH & MARCH 18TH AT ST. MARK'S. IN
FELLOWSHIP HALL

TIME: 12:00 NOON

LED BY: PASTOR KLEIST

MUSIC BY: MARK HUSTON

We will be having a light lunch, sing a hymn and
then receive a presentation by the Pastor.
Hope to see you there!

03/04- Pastor will provide the lunch
03/18-TBD

Lenten Food Bank Collection

Prayer • Fasting • Almsgiving

Lent trains our hearts through prayer, fasting, and almsgiving. Throughout Lent, we're collecting what our local food bank needs most: toiletries, paper goods, cleaning supplies, and ready-to-eat pantry meals.

How to Participate

- Bring one bag each Sunday.
- Place donations in the Lenten Food Offering area under Luther's bust.

Most Needed Items

- Dish detergent
- Laundry detergent
- Cleaning products
 - Paper towels
 - Ziplock bags
 - Napkins
 - Tissues
- Bar soap / body wash
- Deodorant / antiperspirant
- Feminine care products
 - Mouthwash
- Shampoo / conditioner
 - Toilet paper
- Toothbrushes / toothpaste
 - Face wash
- Baby supplies: lotion, diaper
- cream,diapers, wipes, bath
 - supplies

Non-Perishable Foods

- Pancake mix & syrup
 - Fruit juice
- Soups (chicken noodle,
 - chicken & rice, beef vegetable)
- Ready-to-eat canned meals
 - (chili, stew, ravioli,
- chicken w/ rice & vegetables,
 - spaghetti & meatballs)
- Instant mashed potatoes
 - Crackers
 - Granola bars
- Instant oatmeal packets
- Kitchen staples (flour, sugar,
 - salt, pepper)
 - Shelf-stable milk
 - Nutritional shakes
 - / protein drinks
- Tea, coffee, hot chocolate
 - Vegetable oil
 - Baby formula
 - Baby food

Weekly Focus (6 Sundays of Lent)

Week 1: Paper & basics (2/22/2026)

toilet paper, paper, towels, tissues, napkins

Week 2: Cleaning (3/1/2026)

dish detergent, laundry detergent, cleaning products, ziplock bags

Week 3: Personal care (3/8/2026)

soap/body wash, deodorant, shampoo, toothpaste/toothbrush, mouthwash, face wash

Week 4: Breakfast pantry (3/15/2026)

oatmeal packets, pancake mix & syrup, granola bars, shelfstable milk, fruit juice

Week 5: Pantry meals (3/22/2026)

soups, chili/stew/ravioli/spaghetti meals, crackers, instant mashed potatoes

Week 6: Baby & special needs (3/29/2026)

diapers, wipes, diaper cream/lotion, baby food/formula, nutritional shakes

**** Give as you wish—this is an invitation, not a test.****

-Thank you!

DON'T FORGET TO SPRING
AHEAD ONE HOUR
BEFORE BED ON
MARCH 7TH.



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

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