

ST. MARK'S SEPTEMBER 2026



The sun shall be no more thy light by day;
neither for brightness shall the moon give light unto thee:
but the LORD shall be unto thee an everlasting light,
and thy God thy glory.

Isaiah 60:19

Thoughts from the Pastor:

Dear People of St. Mark's,

The Sunday we had our Council meeting on August 16, Tom Walters wished me a good meeting. I replied that the only good meeting is a canceled meeting. But I was wrong again.

We had one of the best Council meetings I can remember because every one of our Council members loves St. Mark's and wants the very best for our congregation. Everyone brought their A game, and together we worked hard to face honestly the challenges before us and to keep St. Mark's moving forward.

One of the issues Council examined carefully was the continued decrease in our regular income. Next year we will probably need to write a budget that intentionally includes a deficit. That is not something we take lightly, but neither is it something we need to fear. Together we will face the challenges of the future and prepare a responsible budget for the congregation to consider and approve in December.

St. Mark's is very blessed by our musician, readers, ushers, Altar Guild, grass cutters, cleaners, and our Facebook Live streamer, whose steady service makes our worship and congregational life possible. So much happens at St. Mark's because people quietly and faithfully show up.

Our Adult Sunday School begins again on September 13. We will start a study of the **Quest for the Historical Jesus**, a fascinating conversation that has been going on for more than two centuries. I will try to make it as interesting and understandable as possible.

We know Jesus through faith, Scripture, worship, and the life of the Church. The historical question asks something slightly different: *What can we know historically about the man Jesus who lived a short life in the first century?* I think we will have some interesting Sundays together.

Please worship whenever you can. Nothing makes St. Mark's stronger than when you sit in a pew on Sunday morning. Our strength is not simply measured by money or programs. It is found in people gathering around Word and Sacrament, praying together, caring for one another, and sharing the life Christ has given us.

Please also consider signing up as a worship volunteer. Sign-up sheets are on the tables in the narthex. If you have questions about helping with worship or anything else please ask me. We can always use additional help with cleaning and mowing as well.

Friends, thank you for being a church that shows up in worship, in learning, in service, and in the quiet care of this place and one another. August gave us plenty of reasons to give thanks. Let us carry that gratitude into the fall, standing tall and strong in the mercy of Christ.

May the peace of the Lord be with you always,

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.**



Pastor John D. Kleist contact information:

Email: pastor@stmarksbethlehem.com

Phone: 610-216-2970

PRAYER FELLOWSHIP OPPORTUNITY

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

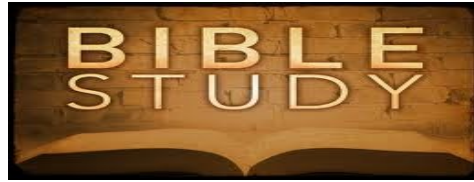
Date: Thursday, Sept. 17, 2026

Time: 6:30 PM– 8:00 PM

Place: 1573 Siegfried Street
Bethlehem, PA 18017 610-691-2415

Hosts: Al & Carol Tullock





Adult Sunday School Resumes September 13:
The Quest for the Historical Jesus

Beginning Sunday, September 13, our adult study will explore one of the most fascinating and important questions in Christian faith: *What can we know about Jesus as a person of history?*

Christians confess Jesus as Lord, Savior, Son of God, and risen Christ. But Jesus was also a real person who lived in a real time and place. He was a Jew from Galilee. He preached, taught, healed, gathered disciples, challenged powerful people, and was crucified under Pontius Pilate. The Gospels tell us the story of Jesus through the faith of the early church, but they also preserve memories of the man who walked the roads of Galilee and Judea.

This study will look at how scholars have tried to understand the historical Jesus. We will begin with the early "quests" for Jesus and move through some of the most important modern voices, including Albert Schweitzer, Rudolf Bultmann, E. P. Sanders, James D. G. Dunn, Dale Allison, and others. Along the way, we will ask good and honest questions: How were the Gospels written? What can history tell us? What are the limits of history? How did Jesus fit within the Judaism of his day? Why did his message create such hope and such opposition?

The goal is to help us increase our understand of the 4 gospels by learning more about the world of Jesus, the memories preserved in the Gospels, and the living Christ proclaimed by the church.

The study will begin on Sunday, September 13, and continue for several Sundays after worship. Besides learning we always have fun being together and we share coffee and cookies. Everyone is welcome. No background is needed only curiosity, an open mind, and a willingness to learn together.



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.

Our Next food distribution is on **Wednesday, September 16th from 5pm to 8pm .**

THANK YOU all for your continued support for all the paper products [TP, tissues, napkins & towels] along with the food you have provided.

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



SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

09/01-Thomas Walters

09/02-Stephanie
Trovato

09/03- Alexander
Miller

09/05 Sue Willever

09/16-Courtney
Monahan

09/17-Elsie Berger

09/20-John
Frankenfield, Jr.

09/23-Mark Houston

09/26-Clarence Hein

09/27-Ray Haring

09/29-Dana Deacon



SEPTEMBER ANNIVERSARIES



Donna & Bill Carter
09/09/2023



Cheryl & Brandon
Gill
09/10/1994



Jennifer & David
Porter
09/15/2001



Lisa & Richard
Mantz
09/28/1985



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

Jim & Kari Ebersole

Greeters

Donna & Peter Kish

PRAY-ERS

09/06-Donna Carter & Stephanie Trovato

COMMUNION

ASSISTANT

09/06-Kari Ebersole

LECTORS

09/06-Lynne Berger

09/13-Kari Ebersole

09/20-Alice Walters

09/27-Al Tullock, Jr.

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

ALTAR FLOWERS

09/06-Tom & Alice
Walters

09/13-Peter & Donna
Kish

09/20-Open

09/27-Open

BULLETINS

09/06-Donna & Bill
Carter

09/13-Open

09/20-Open

09/27-Open

“WORD IN SEASON”

DEVOTIONAL

John Szabo

SANCTUARY MEMORIAL CANDLE

Open

*Please use the Sponsor
Form found next to the
sign-up book to remit
your payment for any
sponsored items at least
a week before the date
for which you have
signed up.*



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

Sue Willever

Cheryl Coulter

Tom Walters

Joe Craig

Dawn Seyfried

Bill Carter

Carl Willever

Maria Szabo

Fran Ramson

Jennifer Porter

Friends & Family

The Wendling family

Dave Carter

John Frable

Norman Docteroff

Jon Brannan

Micheil Koblish

Melanie

Doug Keller

Greg Keyock



September 2026 Newsletter

Treasurer's Report

There was one significant building related expense paid in July 2026. \$1,370.75 for repairs to the electrical system on the west side of the building. There were no additional unusual expenses in July 2026.

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

July Contributions/Income:	\$4842.40	(Excluding Investment Acct Interest)
July Expenses:	\$6,036.30	

The financial information shared below represents income and expenses through July 30, 2026.

YTD Contributions/Income:	\$39,696.70	(Excluding Investment Account Interest)
YTD Expenses:	\$50,313.63	

Please feel free to ask me about any expenses. Thank you.

Dana Deacon



We are in need of volunteers to help clean the church as well as helping with the grass mowing. If you can help with either, see Jim Ebersole, Pastor Kleist , Tom Walters or Mark. Thank you!



*In an effort to be good community members and to reach out to the community we have hosted voting at our facility for many years. We would like to continue to be good neighbors and host this , however, **we need volunteers to step up.***

Please sign up on the bulletin board sheet in September. If you can help take a shift on Tuesday November 3rd(Election Day) All you have to do is to be here in the building-nothing else. The hours are 5am-8pm (9ish or so, by the time they close). We are also in need of coverage from 4:30PM-8:00 PM (or closing).

Thank you so much for prayerfully considering helping!

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



**SEPTEMBER 2026
NEWSLETTER**