

ST. MARK'S
APRIL 2026
NEWSLETTER



Thoughts from the Pastor:

Dear People of St. Mark's,

As we move through Lent and get closer to Holy Week and Easter, I am reminded again of how important this season is for the life of the church. Lent calls us to repentance, prayer, reflection, and renewed faith. It is a serious season, but it leads us toward the joy of Easter and the good news that death does not have the final word. This year we observed Lent with two special Wednesday noon gatherings that included lunch and presentations on the hymn tradition of the Lutheran Church in America. These have been very enjoyable times of fellowship and learning, and I am grateful for everyone who took part.

Holy Week begins on Palm Sunday, March 29. We will have special worship on Maundy Thursday and Good Friday at 6:00 PM. On Maundy Thursday, we will gather around the altar for a traditional service of Holy Communion. On Good Friday, worship will be built around the Stations of the Cross, an ancient devotion from the thirteenth century that Mark and I have modified for this year. Then on **Easter Sunday, April 5, at 9:30 AM**, we will gather to celebrate the resurrection of our Lord. I hope we can all be together on that great day.

Adult Sunday School meets on the second and fourth Sundays right after worship. Our upcoming classes will look at the different religious parties in first-century Judea: Pharisees, Sadducees, and others. Teaching this class is one of the great joys of my ministry here, and I am thankful for all who come. I encourage others to give it a try. We always have coffee, snacks, and good conversation.

It is well known that St. Mark's continues to live in a hand-to-mouth financial situation. Our immediate needs are being met, and we are thankful for that, but there are still concerns that remain in front of us. I ask you to prayerfully consider your giving and the ways we can all help support this congregation and its ministry.

Spring is nearly here, and that means mowing season is coming soon. If you would like to be part of a mowing team, please speak with Tom Walters.

I hope everyone in our congregation feels cared for. If you need pastoral care, please contact me directly by text or phone at **610-216-2970** or by email at pastor@stmarksbethlehem.com. It is a privilege for me to be with you in times of joy, worry, grief, and hope. Serving at St. Mark's is deeply meaningful to me. I am grateful for the chance to preach, teach, pray, and share in the life of this congregation. Thank you for your faithfulness, your kindness, and the many ways you care for one another. My prayer is that as we enter Holy Week and celebrate Easter, we may all be strengthened by the love of Christ and renewed by the hope of his resurrection.

With warmest 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.

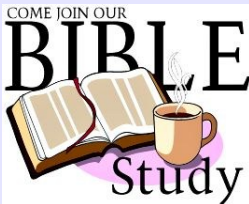


WORSHIP SERVICES: In– Person services are held and will continue indoors in the sanctuary. We will continue to live stream on Facebook every **Sunday at 9:30 AM.**



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!
(NO GATHERING THIS MONTH DUE TO EASTER)



BIBLE STUDY: Begins immediately following services (approx. 10:45am) every 2nd & 4th (5th) Sunday. 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 information:

Email: pastor@stmarksbethlehem.com

Phone: 610-216-2970

PRAYER FELLOWSHIP OPPORTUNITY

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

Date: Thursday, April 16, 2026

Time: 6:30-8:00 PM

Place: 3228 Reeve Drive Apt. 18

Bethlehem, PA 18020

Bethlehem, PA 18017 610-653-7527

Hosts: Donna & Bill Carter





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, May 20th, 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

Volunteers to help cut & trim the grass needed!



VOLUNTEERS NEED-

ED: 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.



April 2026 Newsletter Treasurer's Report

The church incurred an unusual expense in the month of February, 2026; the purchase of a new defibrillator for \$1790.98. This purchase was fully approved by the Church Council.

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

February Contributions/Income: \$5,705.71 (Excluding Investment Acct Interest)

February Expenses: \$11,027.00

The financial information shared below represents income and expenses through

YTD Contributions/Income: \$7,301.14 (Excluding Investment Account Interest)

YTD Expenses: \$16,351.90

Please feel free to ask me about any expenses.

Thank you,
Dana Deacon



April Birthdays

04/06-Kathryn
Miller

04/09-Emma
Porter

04/11-Kenneth
Monahan

04/24-Kenneth
Moerschel

-Nancy
McAtee
-Deserae
Jimenez

04/28-Jami
Ebersole



04/20/1963
John & Esther
Chulik



04/26/1981
Paul & Lea
Hanchick

Servants of God for APRIL 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

04/02-John McAtee
04/03-John McAtee
04/05-John McAtee
04/12-John McAtee
04/19-John McAtee
04/26-John McAtee

MONTHLY USHERS

04/02-Peter Kish & Ron Ritchie
04/03-Peter Kish & Ron Ritchie
04/05-Peter Kish & Ron Ritchie
04/12-Jim/Kari Ebersole
04/19-Jim/Kari Ebersole
04/26-Jim/Kari Ebersole

Greeters

04/02-Diana Docteroff & Lynne Berger
04/03-Donna & Peter Kish
04/05-Donna & Bill Carter
04/12-Donna & Peter Kish
04/19-Donna & Peter Kish
04/26-Donna & Bill Carter

COMMUNION

ASSISTANT

04/05- Lisa Mantz

LECTORS

04/02-Alice Walters
04/03-Donna Carter
04/05-Al Tullock ,Jr.
04/12-Alice Walters
04/19-Kari Ebersole
04/26-Lynne Berger

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

ALTAR FLOWERS

04/05-The Flexer Fund
04/12-Open
04/19-Open
04/26-Open

BULLETINS

Open

“WORD IN SEASON”

DEVOTIONAL

2ND QUARTER

John & Nancy McAtee

SANCTUARY MEMORIAL

CANDLE FOR APRIL

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

Friends & Family

The Family of Jose Rodriguez on his passing on 3/16/26
Norman Docteroff
Mike Ebersole
Jon Brannan
Micheil Koblish
Melanie
Doug Keller

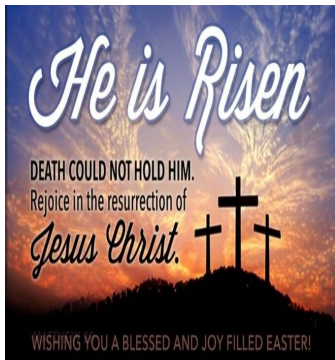
Holy Week Services



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.

EASTER FLOWER SPONSORS



HYACINTHS



LILIES



MUMS



DAFFODILS



TULIPS

A GREAT BIG THANK YOU GOES OUT TO ALL THOSE WHO SPONSORED EASTER FLOWERS AND MADE THE SANCTUARY LOOK BEAUTIFUL FOR THE EASTER SERVICE.

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

THANK YOU!

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

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