

ST. MARK'S



2026
NEWSLETTER

Thoughts from the Pastor:

Dear People of St. Mark's,

October promises to be a month of growth, reflection, and thanksgiving here at St. Mark's. Each Sunday we will gather around God's Word and the Lord's Table, and I invite you to come expecting to hear the Spirit's voice in fresh and surprising ways.

As we begin planning for 2027, St. Mark's Council is preparing a budget that reflects both our present financial reality and our commitment to the ministry we share. Regular giving has continued to decline, and next year's budget will likely include a planned deficit. At the same time, we have worked carefully to control expenses wherever possible without diminishing the life and ministry of the congregation. We are fortunate to have dedicated volunteers who help us keep costs down, and we remain grateful for the faithful generosity of everyone who supports St. Mark's. Our goal is not simply to balance numbers on a page, but to use the resources God has entrusted to us wisely as we continue worshiping, serving, and discerning the future together.

Over the past three years, I have invested close to 40 hours in meetings, training events, and conversations connected with the 6261 initiative on behalf of St. Mark's. When former Bishop DeForest called me out of retirement to serve as your pastor, I believed that 6261 might become an important part of how St. Mark's could move into the future, especially beyond the time when my term as pastor is completed at the end of November next year. The shape of 6261 continues to change, and there are still many questions about what it will ultimately become, but I continue to believe that it is important for St. Mark's to remain involved. The initiative now includes conversations not only among Lutheran congregations but also with nearby Moravian and Episcopal churches. I am continuing to participate, build relationships, and represent St. Mark's at the table so that, as new possibilities for shared ministry develop, our congregation will be part of the conversation rather than watching from the sidelines.

On October 29, from 10:00 a.m. to noon, we will host an event here at St. Mark's for members of our 6261 cluster. Please consider attending if you can. This whole process has been quite a journey for me. I do not know whether 6261 will ultimately provide a path toward future pastoral leadership for St. Mark's, but at present it is one of the most important possibilities available to us. For that reason, I believe it is worth our time and effort to remain involved and see where these relationships may lead.

Our Adult Bible Study is continuing its study of the Quest for the Historical Jesus. We will continue for several more weeks, and it has been a lot of fun to learn new things, ask questions, and enjoy one another's company.

As always, I am deeply grateful for the many hands and hearts who serve in quiet ways: mowing the grass, cleaning the building, preparing the altar, caring for our worship space, and reaching out with love to those in need. Your faithfulness makes our ministry possible, and I give thanks for each of you.

**Best Regards,
Pastor Kleist**



October 2026 Newsletter

Treasurer's Report

The church has incurred several unplanned building related expenses this year. Haller Electric addressed emergency electrical work in July 2026, payment of \$993 cleared the bank in August 2026. There were no additional unusual expenses in August 2026.

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

August Contributions/Income: \$4,838.21 (Excluding Investment Acct Interest)

August Expenses: \$5,540.95

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

YTD Contributions/Income: \$44,534.91 (Excluding Investment Account Interest)

YTD Expenses: \$55,854.58

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

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

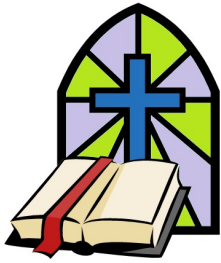
Choir email: music@stmarksbethlehem.com

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.**



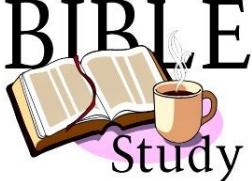
FELLOWSHIP TIME WITH COFFEE/DONUTS:

OCTOBER 4TH

1ST Sunday of every month unless noted differently.

Come join us in fellowship hall following worship for some yummy treats and fellowship time together!

COME JOIN OUR



Study

BIBLE STUDY:

OCTOBER 11TH & 25TH

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: OCTOBER 18TH

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

Phone: 610-216-2970

PRAYER FELLOWSHIP OPPORTUNITY

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

Date: Thursday , October 15th, 2026

Time: 6:30-8:00 PM

Place: 3228 Reeve Dr. West .Apt. 18, Bethlehem

Hosts: Donna & Bill Carter

610-653-7527



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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.

The food bank at St. Andrew's Episcopal Church was open on Wednesday, July 15, 2026 and served 37 families. Representatives from 5 different churches, including St. Mark's, helped with the distribution of food.

The **next food bank** that St. Mark's is scheduled to help at is on Wednesday, **November 18th, 2026**. Donations of personal care products, paper goods (paper towels and TP), and baby products are greatly appreciated. These can be placed in the bins in the Narthex.

Thank you for the continued support of this effort!

"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 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.



October Birthdays

10/02-Wendy Haring

10/10- Rosalie Adducie

10/13-Ron Ritchie

10/13-John Borso, Jr.

10/20-Joseph Craig

10/26-Jay Trovato

10/29-Cheryl Coulter



October Anniversaries

John & Sharon
Frankenfield, Jr.
10/01/1966

Wendy & Ray Haring
10/04/2008

Chris & Sharon
Seaman
10/06/1990

Kenneth & Courtney
Monahan
10/30/2004

Tom & Martina Cox
10/31/2009

Servants of God for October 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

Amy Cygan & Lynne Berger

Greeters (All Month)

Donna & Peter Kish

PRAY-ERS

10/04-Donna Carter & Stephanie Trovato

COMMUNION

ASSISTANT

Lisa Mantz

LECTORS

10/04– Alice Walters
10/11– Kari Ebersole
10/18– Donna Carter
10/25– Donna Carter

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

ALTAR FLOWERS

10/04– Mark Huston
10/11– Al & Carol
Tullock, Jr.
10/18–The Flexer Fund
10/25- Dawn Seyfried

BULLETINS

10/04– Peter & Donna
Kish
10/11– Ron & Pat
Ritchie
10/18– Open
10/25– Bill & Donna
Carter

“WORD IN SEASON”

DEVOTIONAL

4TH QUARTER

Donna & Bill Carter

SANCTUARY MEMORIAL

CANDLE FOR OCTOBER

Bill & Donna Carter

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



IN OUR PRAYERS



IN OUR PRAYERS

Partners in Ministry

The Reverend Yehiel Curry, Presiding Bishop Evangelica Lutheran Church In America

The Reverend Jennifer Dee, the Bishop of the Northeast Pennsylvania Synod

Pastor John D. Kleist, our faithful Pastor at St. Mark's

St. Mark's Disciples

The Berger family on the passing of Elsie

Sue & Carl Willever

Cheryl Coulter

Tom Walters

Joe Craig

Dawn Seyfried

Bill Carter

Maria Szabo

Fran Ramson

Friends & Family

Jack Gutshall

Dave Carter

John Frable

Norman Docteroff

Jon Brannan

Micheil Koblish

Melanie

Doug Keller

Greg Keyock

Jennifer Porter

Adult Sunday School Resumed September 13:
The Quest for the Historical Jesus
Meets on the 2nd and 4th Sunday of the month

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.

EVENTS AND NEWS:

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COMING UP:.....

6261 LUNCHEON HOSTED BY ST. MARK'S ON THURSDAY, OCTOBER 29TH
FROM 10:00 AM-12:00PM

ELECTION DAY:

*PLEASE SEE THE BULLETIN BOARD IN THE NARTHEX THERE ARE SEVERAL SLOTS STILL OPEN TO COVER FOR ELECTION DAY, **TUESDAY NOVEMBER 3RD**. (6:00 AM to 1:00 PM & 4:00 PM to 6:00 PM)*

You may sign up in one hour increments for as many as you can. Prayerfully consider volunteering. Thank you

6261 LUNCHEON HOSTED BY ST. MARK'S ON WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 4TH
FOR PASTORS AND LAY LEADERS ONLY FROM 10:00AM-12:00PM

RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE FRIDAY NOVEMBER 6TH FROM 11:00AM-5:00PM

6261 LUNCHEON SATURDAY NOVEMBER 7TH FROM 10:00AM-12:00 PM AT
FELLOWSHIP UNITED CHURCH.

COUNCIL MEETING SUNDAY NOVEMBER 15TH FOLLOWING
WORSHIP.

FOOD BANK AT ST. ANDREW'S WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 18TH FROM 5:00PM
-8:00PM. .

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

**OCTOBER 2020
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