

# ST. MARK'S FEBRUARY 2026 NEWSLETTER

His mercies  
are new  
*every* morning.

Great is Your  
faithfulness.

LAMENTATIONS 3:22-23

SUNNY STUDIO BY KIA G

## Thoughts from the Pastor:

Dear Members of St. Mark's,

Lent is one of the church's most important seasons not because it is busy, but because it is honest. Lent invites us to slow down, to think, to listen, and to return to the Lord with open hearts. It is a season for renewal.

In planning for Lent this year, we have been thinking carefully about when our people truly have the ability to gather. Attendance for weekly midweek Lenten services has been harder to sustain, but support for the central "big" services has remained strong especially **Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday, and Good Friday**. When those services arrive, people make a point of being there. They matter to us, and it shows.

So this year we are taking a focused approach: we will keep our strongest anchors exactly as we have done, and we will add a small, low-risk noon-time experiment that removes the night-driving barrier and helps us learn what works best for our congregation.

### **The "Big" Midweek Services**

- **Ash Wednesday February 18 at 6:00 PM, Maundy Thursday April 2 at 6:00 PM, Good Friday April 3 at 6:00 PM**
- Sunset April 2 and 3 is about 7:30 PM, so a 6:00 PM service keeps us in the evening while making travel easier.

These services are the heart of Lent and Holy Week. We are not reducing our commitment to them. We are leaning into them.

### **New: Two Special Wednesday Noon Gatherings**

(with lunch, a hymn, and a presentation) **Wednesday, March 4 Noon (12:00 PM)** **Wednesday, March 18 Noon (12:00 PM)**

Each of these will be a simple and welcoming mid-day gathering, including **lunch, a hymn, and a presentation by Pastor Kleist**. These noon services allow us to offer something meaningful in daylight hours without asking people to commit to six weeks of additional evening driving.

This is a low-risk, learn-as-we-go experiment. If these two noon lunches are well attended and encouraging, we can consider doing more next year. If not, we will have learned something about what works best for St. Mark's.

Lent is not about proving anything. It is about returning: returning to contemplation, returning to God's mercy, and returning to what matters most.

I hope you will join us for Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday, and Good Friday. And I hope you will consider trying one of the noon lunch services during Lent. Come for the food, sing a hymn, listen and reflect, and enjoy fellowship in the middle of the day.

Let's walk this season together with steadiness and hope.

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](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.**



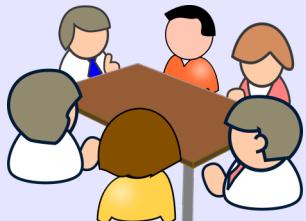
**BIBLE STUDY:** Begins immediately following services (approx. 10:45am) every **2nd & 4th** Sunday Unless noted differently. Led by Pastor Kleist in the fellowship hall.



**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!

**\*\* NO GATHERING IN FEBRUARY – DUE TO MAKEUP OF COUNCIL MEETING.\*\***



**MINISTRY COUNCIL MEETING:**

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

**\*\* COUNCIL MEETING THIS MONTH ON 2/1/26\*\***

**PRAYER FELLOWSHIP OPPORTUNITY**

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

**Date:** Thursday, February 19th, 2026

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

**Place:** 3228 Reeve Dr. West, Apt. 18  
Bethlehem, PA 18020

**Hosts:** Donna & Bill Carter  
610-653-7527





## St. Andrew's Food Bank

The volunteers helping at the St. Andrew's Food Bank on Wednesday, November 20th were from St. Mark's (Dawn Seyfried, Jen Porter, and myself), St. Andrew's, Notre Dame of Bethlehem, and 8 Girl Scouts representing 2 Troops. The team served 71 families. Thank you all for your help!- Mark Huston

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 in heaven" - Matthew 5:16*



## February Birthdays

02/03- Alfred Tullock, Jr.

02/12- Christen Borsos

02/18- Sharon Frankenfield

02/19- Shelby Kalamar

02/20- Sharon Seaman

02/23- Donna Kish

02/27- Amber Seaman

## February Anniversaries

None in February

# Servants of God for February 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

02/01- Amy Cygan  
02/08- Amy Cygan  
02/15- Amy Cygan  
02/18- Volunteer  
02/22- Amy Cygan

### MONTHLY USHERS

John Szabo & Ron Ritchie

### Greeters

02/01-Peter & Donna Kish  
02/08-Peter & Donna Kish  
02/15-Peter & Donna Kish  
02/22-Peter & Donna Kish

### PRAY-ERS

02/01-Donna Carter & Dawn Seyfried

### COMMUNION

#### ASSISTANT

02/01-Lynne Berger  
02/18- Volunteer

### LECTORS

02/01-Alice Walters  
02/08-Kari Ebersole  
02/15-Donna Carter  
02/22-Lynne Berger

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

### ALTAR FLOWERS

02/01- The Flexer Fund  
02/08- Mark Huston  
02/15-Al & Carol Tullock, Jr.  
02/22- Open

### BULLETINS

02/01- John & Nancy McAtee  
02/08- Open  
02/15- Open  
02/22- 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 FEBRUARY

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

Bill Carter

Carl Willever

Kristy Williams

Tom Walters

Maria Szabo

Fran Ramson

Martha Bean

### Friends & Family

Mike Ebersole

Jon Brannan

Micheil Koblish

Melanie



## **February 2026 Newsletter** **Treasurer's Report**

The church incurred the following uncommon expenses in December 2025:

- \* Purchase of a new (used) copier/multifunction machine and corresponding service contract for \$2174.00. The prior machine was obsolete and exceeded its lifespan.
- \* 2025 Synod Mission Support \$3000.00, this is a one-time annual contribution planned for in the budget.

The financial information shared below represents income and expenses through December 31, 2025.

December Contributions/Income: \$11,149.56 (Excluding Investment Acct Interest)

December Expenses: \$10,614.85

The financial information shared below represents income and expenses through

YTD Contributions/Income: \$78,351.13 (Excluding Investment Account Interest)

YTD Expenses: \$80,822.62

Please feel free to ask me about any expenses.

Thank you,  
— Dana Deacon

# Holy Week Services



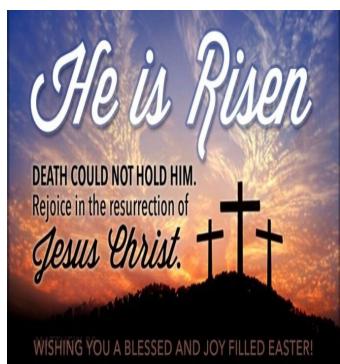
Palm Sunday Service  
March 29th at 9:30 A.M.



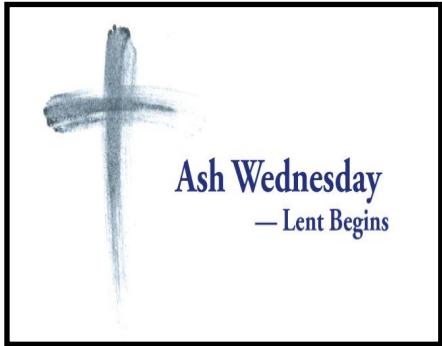
Maundy Thursday Service  
April 2nd at 6:00 P.M.



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



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



## **ASH WEDNESDAY- FEBRUARY 18TH**

Service is at 6:00 PM



## **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!

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

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