

# ST. MARK'S OCTOBER 2025 NEWSLETTER



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

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## 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.

### **Council Meeting**

At our recent council meeting, we spent time talking about both our congregation's daily life and the bigger picture of where The Spirit may be leading us. The Synod continues to ask congregations in our cluster to enter into the "6261" discernment process, even though a clear framework has not yet been built. This is not an easy matter, and we are considering carefully what it would mean for us.

We are also continuing our own "Where Are We Going?" study. While I did not convene the study group in September, I plan to do so in October. This process remains a priority as we seek to make plans for our future.

Council also discussed combining our **Safe Trick-or-Treat** and our **annual Reformation event** into one celebration, which will take place at our fellowship gathering after worship on **Sunday, November 2.**

### **Worship in October**

This month's preaching texts invite us to reflect on faith, healing, prayer, and the heart of the Gospel:

- **October 5** – *Luke 17:5–10*, The Parable of the Mustard Seed
- **October 12** – *Luke 17:11–19*, Jesus Heals the Ten Lepers
- **October 19** – *Luke 18:1–8*, The Parable of the Unjust Judge

**October 26 – Reformation Sunday** – *Romans 3:19–28*, Justified by Faith

These lessons remind us of God's faithfulness, the power of even a small seed of faith, and the promise of God's justice and mercy for all people.

### **Adult Bible Study**

Our Adult Bible Study will turn to **The Hasmonean Period** — the dramatic years just before Jesus' birth when the Maccabees rose to power and reshaped Jewish life. This fascinating era helps us understand the world Jesus entered, and it sheds light on the questions of identity, leadership, and faithfulness that were alive in his time and remain relevant in ours.

### **A Word of Thanks**

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.

Please keep our congregation and its leaders in your prayers this month. I believe we can make good things happen, and I am grateful to be walking into the future with you.

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)

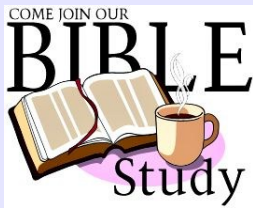
**Facebook & Instagram & Twitter::** [@stmarksbeth](#)

#### **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 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) on the second and fourth Sundays of the month. Led by Pastor Kleist in the fellowship hall.

### **The Rise of the Maccabees and the Hasmonean Dynasty**

*Join us this Sunday after worship as we explore one of the most dramatic chapters in Jewish history. We'll look at how the Maccabees rose in revolt against foreign rule, how their struggle shaped the faith and culture of Judea, and how the Hasmonean dynasty influenced the world into which Jesus was born. This class will combine history, scripture, and discussion, helping us see how these events continue to matter for our faith today.*

*Come for learning, cookies, coffee, discussion and insight into how Judean religion changed in a changing culture.  
All are welcome!*

### **Pastor John D. Kleist contact information:**



**Email: [pastor@stmarksbethlehem.com](mailto:pastor@stmarksbethlehem.com)**

**Phone: 610-216-2970**

### **PRAYER FELLOWSHIP OPPORTUNITY**

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

**Date:** Thursday, October 16th 2025

**Time:** 6:30 PM

**Place:** 3228 Reeve Dr. West Apt.18  
Bethlehem, PA 18020 610-653-7527

**Hosts:** Bill & Donna 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, Nov. 19th, 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***



## 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

**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**

10/05-Amy Cygan  
10/12-Amy Cygan  
10/19-John McAtee  
10/26-John Szabo

**MONTHLY USHERS**

Amy Cygan &  
Lynne Berger

**Greeters**

10/05-Donna & Peter  
Kish  
10/12-Donna & Peter  
Kish  
10/19-Donna & Peter  
Kish  
10/26-Donna & Bill  
Carter

**PRAY-ERS**

10/06-Donna Carter &  
Dawn Seyfried

**COMMUNION**

**ASSISTANT**

Kari Ebersole

**LECTORS**

10/05-Alice Walters  
10/12-Amy Cygan  
10/19-Alice Walters  
10/26-Donna Carter

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

**ALTAR FLOWERS**

10/05-Mark Huston  
10/12-Donna & Bill  
Carter  
10/19-The Tullock  
Family  
10/26- Dawn Seyfried

**BULLETINS**

10/06-Open  
10/12-Ron & Pat Ritchie  
10/19-Open  
10/26-Donna & Bill  
Carter

**“WORD IN SEASON”**

**DEVOTIONAL**

Donna & Bill Carter

**SANCTUARY MEMORIAL**

**CANDLE**

Ron & Pat Ritchie

**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. Elizabeth Eaton, Presiding Bishop, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

### **St. Mark's Disciples**

#### **St. Mark's Disciples**

John McAtee and family on the death of their sister, Sandra Hanks on 9/23

Kristy Williams Flannery and daughter, Lauren and their entire family on the sudden passing of Mike Flannery on September 13th

Carol Tullock

Lee Koehler

Tom Walters

Maria Szabo

Fran Ramson

Martha Bean

### **Friends & Families of St. Mark's**

Jon Brannan

Micheil Koblish

Melanie





*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!*



## October 2025 Newsletter

### Treasurer's Report

The church incurred one unusual expense in August, \$1,500 was paid to remove a tree and tree cuttings. The financial information shared below represents income and expenses through August 31, 2025.

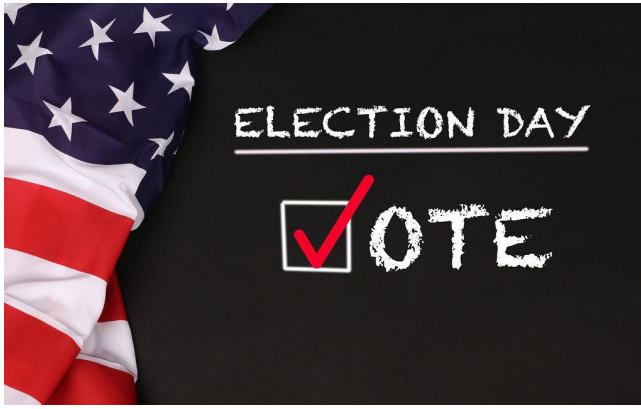
August Contributions/Income:	\$5,398.14	(Excluding Investment Account Interest)
August Expenses:	\$7,031.48	

Please note: I had made an error reporting YTD Income and Expenses for the July 2025 YTD Report, I had neglected to subtract out Investment Account Income. July 2025 Income YTD, excluding Investment Accounts was \$ 46,308.11. July 2025 YTD Expenses were \$50,020.51, an error was found in the report after submission of the Report for the September Newsletter.

YTD Contributions/Income:	\$51,706.25	(Excluding Investment Account Interest)
YTD Expenses:	\$57,051.99	

Please feel free to ask me about any expenses. **We are currently in the process of developing the Church Budget for 2026. Any committees anticipating an increase in expenses are asked to contact me by October 12, 2025.**

Thank you.  
Dana Deacon



## **ELECTION DAY HELP NEEDED**

*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.***

*If you can help take a shift on **Tuesday November 4th** (Election Day) it will enable us to continue this tradition.*

***Please sign up on the bulletin board sheet in October.***

*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).*

*Thank you so much for prayerfully considering helping!*

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



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