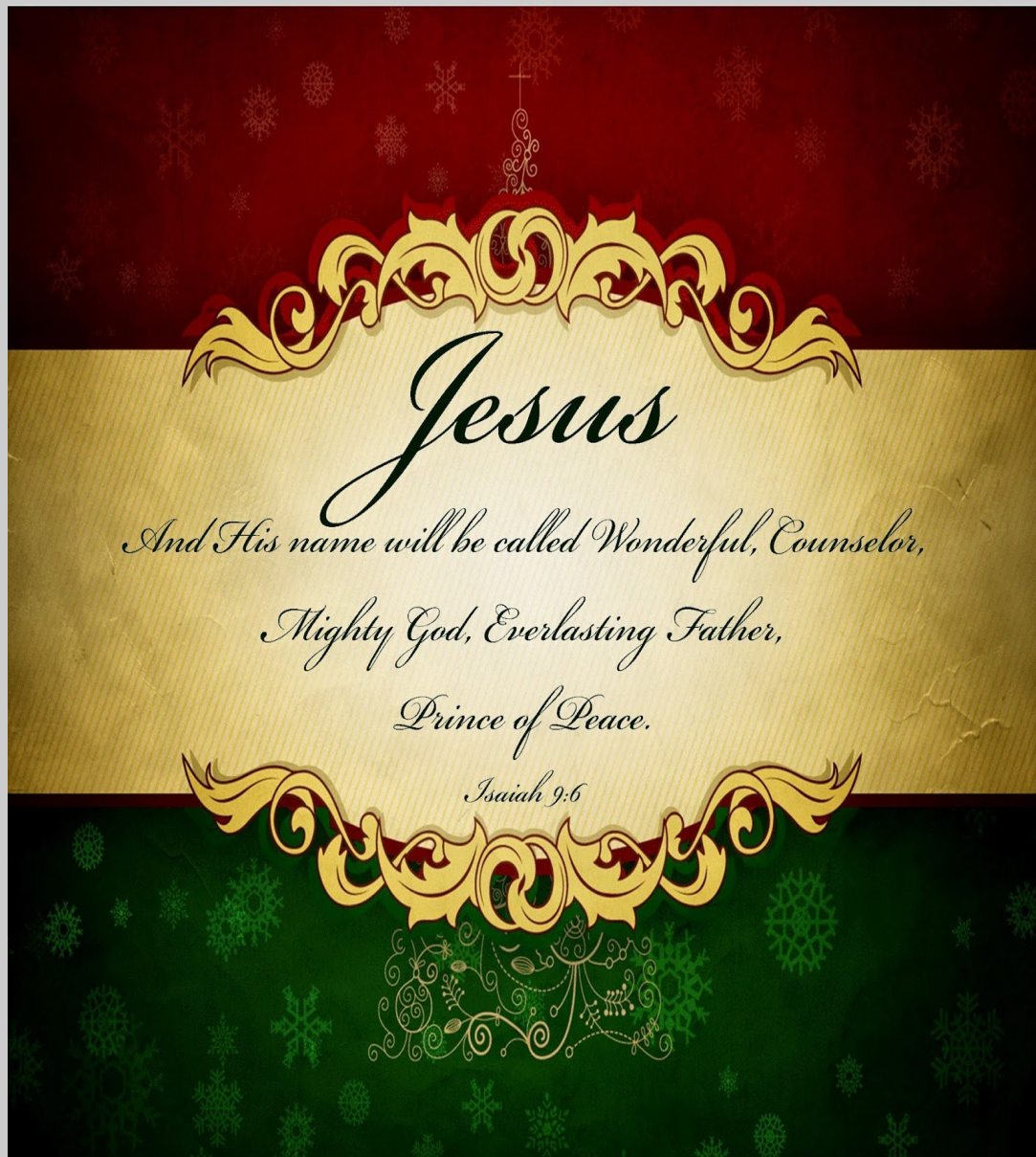


# ST. MARK'S DECEMBER 2025 NEWSLETTER



## Thoughts from the Pastor:

Dear Members and Friends,

December is upon us, and it is truly the busiest and most joyful month of the year at St. Mark's! As we prepare our hearts for the coming of Christ, there is much to celebrate, reflect on, and do together.

Our December joy is this year tempered by the death of our brother Lee Koehler. His memorial service will be December 13<sup>th</sup> in our sanctuary. We will be hosting a reception immediately following the worship service.

We will kick off the season by decorating the church for Christmas on The First Sunday of Advent: November 30. Come and join in the festive fun as we adorn our sanctuary with the beauty of the season. Your help is greatly appreciated in making our worship space ready to celebrate the birth of Christ.

Mark your calendars for our Annual Congregational Meeting after worship on Sunday, December 14. During this important gathering, we will review our 2025 expenses and approve the 2026 budget. Please plan to attend this essential event for the life of our congregation.

I express my sincere thanks to council members and all the workers of our congregation. It is such a pleasure to be the Pastor of St. Mark's because all of you are so faithful and cooperative.

Due to the many events of the month, Adult Sunday School will not meet in December. At our last class we considered the Christmas stories found in Luke and Matthew. We meet right after worship on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays of each month. We have fun together, enjoy coffee and cookies and we learn! Please come and check it out. We try our best to finish by 11:30!

Each week of Advent my sermons will focus on a different theme, using the following passages:

Advent 1: Matthew 24:36-44: Signs of the End Times and Watchfulness. Jesus reminds us to stay vigilant, hopeful, and prayerful as we prepare for His kingdom.

Advent 2: Matthew 3:1-12: The Ministry of John the Baptist. John's call to "prepare the way of the Lord" invites us to reflect on how we are making room for Christ in our lives.

Advent 3: Matthew 11:2-11: John the Baptist asks: "Are you the one who is to come." We see Jesus as the fulfillment of every expectation.

Advent 4: Matthew 1:18-25: We hear about the faithfulness of Jesus' earthly father Joseph, who supported Mary and protected Jesus.

I hope this series will inspire you to embrace the spirit of Advent and prepare your heart for the celebration of Christmas.

Advent is a season of anticipation, repentance, preparation, and joy as we remember the coming of Christ. Let's journey together in faith, hope, and love!

I HOPE TO SEE ALL OF YOU AT OUR 6:30 PM CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE!

- 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](#)

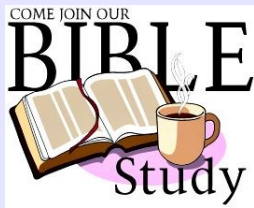
#### **Change of Address?**

**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. Led by Pastor Kleist in the fellowship hall. **Suspended for the holiday season– will resume in January!**



**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, December 18th 2024

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

**Place:** 1573 Siegfried Street,  
Bethlehem, PA 18017

**Hosts:** Al & Carol Tullock







### **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, January 21st, 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***

happy biRthday



## December Birthdays

12/01-Chris Seaman

12/05-Richard Grube

12/08-John Szabo

12/10-Jim Lafey

12/10-Caden Porter

12/19-Pastor John Kleist

-Paul Hanchick

12/25-Lisa Mantz

12/26-Diana Docteroff

12/28-Adam Cygan



## December Anniversaries

12/02/2005

John & Christen Borso



12/03/1966

Al & Carol Tullock



12/28/1956

Jerry & Janice Keyock



12/28/2019

Jim & Nadine Lafey



12/31/2001

David & Karen Miller



## Servants of God for December 2024

### 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

12/07 -Amy Cygan  
12/14– Amy Cygan  
12/21-John McAtee  
**12/24-Volunteer**  
12/28-John Szabo

#### MONTHLY USHERS

John Szabo & Ron Ritchie

**12/24– Volunteers (2)**

#### Greeters

12/07-Bill & Donna Carter  
12/14-Peter & Donna Kish  
12/21-Peter & Donna Kish  
**12/24-Volunteers**  
12/28-Peter & Donna Kish

#### PRAY-ERS

12/07-Donna Carter & Stephanie Trovato

#### COMMUNION

##### ASSISTANT

12/07-Lisa Mantz  
**12/24-Volunteer (1)**

#### LECTORS

12/07-Alice Walters  
12/14-Amy Cygan  
12/21-Lynne Berger  
**12/24– Volunteer**  
12/28-Alice Walters

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

#### ALTAR FLOWERS

12/07-Al & Carol Tullock  
12/14-Mark Huston  
12/21-Al & Carol Tullock  
12/28-Amy Cygan

#### BULLETINS

12/07-Christen & John Borso  
12/14-Congregation  
12/21-John & Nancy McAtee  
12/28-Open

#### “WORD IN SEASON”

DEVOTIONAL  
Donna & Bill Carter

#### SANCTUARY MEMORIAL CANDLE

John & Nancy McAtee

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



## **December 2025 Newsletter** **Treasurer's Report**

The church did not incur any unusual expenses in October. The financial information shared below represents income and expenses through October 31, 2025.

October Contributions/Income:     \$4,478.22             (Excluding Investment Acct Interest)

October Expenses:                     \$5,468.50

YTD Contributions/Income:           \$62,902.80             (Excluding Investment Account Interest)

YTD Expenses:                         \$66,875.94

Please feel free to ask me about any expenses.

Thank you.  
Dana Deacon





## ***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**

The family of Lee Koehler on his passing on 11/19  
Kristy Williams  
John McAtee  
Tom Walters  
Maria Szabo  
Fran Ramson  
Martha Bean

### **Friends & Family**

Ruth Ebersole  
Sean Seidel  
Jon Brannan  
Micheil Koblish  
Melanie



# **CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS**

*A great big thank you goes out to all who sponsored a poinsettia– our church will look even more beautiful for Christmas!*

*You may take home your poinsettia(s) following the 6:30PM Christmas Eve service.*

*Thank you!*



Please take a tag and  
sign sheet on bulletin board !

## ANNUAL TREE OF HOPE

We will again be taking "tags" from the tree in the narthex this year to give to those desperately in need.

Take a tag with a child/adult's name on it and a wish list of things that they need/want for Christmas.

You do not need to buy everything on their list just what you want to or can. Also, put your name on the sign-up sheet posted on the bulletin board next to the tag # you took (in case the tag is lost).

The tree is in the narthex with tags for you to take and to return to the church unwrapped by December 7th so that they may be delivered to the Children, Youth and Family Services of Northampton County. We are asked not to wrap gifts, but they can be returned in an open gift bag. Thank you for your generosity and  
God Bless!



[This Photo](#) by Unknown





## *ADVENT SEASON*

**1st Sunday of Advent@9:30AM.....November 30th**  
**2nd Sunday of Advent@9:30AM.....December 7th**  
**3rd Sunday of Advent@9:30AM.....December 14th**  
**4th Sunday of Advent@9:30 AM.....December 21st**

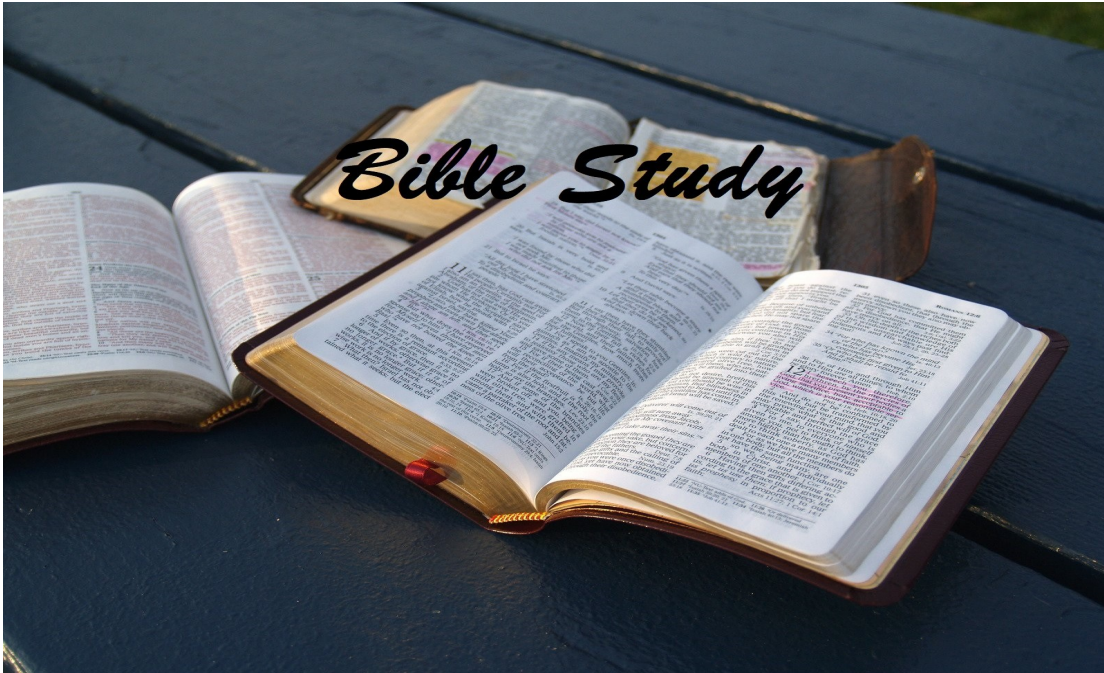


@

*Christmas Eve*  
*Candlelight Service*  
*Wednesday,*  
*December 24th*  
*6:30 PM*







*Bible Study following worship at 10:45 AM*

***Bible Study, 10:45 AM Right after Worship!***

***We will continue in January 2026!***

*Due to holiday decorating there will be no bible study on 11/30th and no bible study the month of December.*

***Happy Holidays!***



***Time to decorate the church for  
Christmas!***

***Sunday, November 30th***  
***following service.***

***(No Sunday School this day).***

***Please come and help to make our church look  
festive for the Christmas holiday!***

***Thank you!***



***ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING***  
***AND VOTING ON 2026 BUDGET***

***Sunday, December 14th 2025 following worship service***

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



**DECEMBER 2025  
NEWSLETTER**