

ST. MARK'S JANUARY 2025 NEWSLETTER



Is any among you afflicted? let him pray. Is any merry? let him sing psalms. Is any sick among you? let him call for the elders of the church; and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord: And the prayer of faith shall save the sick, and the Lord shall raise him up; and if he have committed sins, they shall be forgiven him. Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much. Elias was a man subject to like passions as we are, and he prayed earnestly that it might not rain: and it rained not on the earth by the space of three years and six months. And he prayed again, and the heaven gave rain, and the earth brought forth her fruit.

James 5:13-18 (KJV)

Thoughts from the Pastor:

Dear Members and Friends,

As we welcome the new year, we reflect on the blessings of the past and look forward with hope and anticipation. Traditionally, January marks a fresh start—for our congregation and for our daily lives. It is a good time to measure where we are going and to set our destinations rather than to just wonder. There will be many opportunities ahead for worship, fellowship, and growth in faith. This is a good time to set personal goals and to focus on leading healthy and productive lives. Let us embrace 2025 with joy and gratitude, trusting in God’s continued guidance.

I want to express my heartfelt thanks to everyone who helped make December such a meaningful and joyous month. From the Advent services and Christmas Eve worship to the beautiful decorations, your dedication and contributions were a blessing to all who attended. I would especially like to thank Mark and Diana, who always work so effectively, as well as those who led and participated in the worship services and those who coordinated logistics behind the scenes. Your efforts brought the Christmas message to life.

Adult Sunday School

After a brief holiday break, Adult Sunday School will resume on January 5. Join us after worship as we continue to explore God’s Word together. I am working on a presentation about the “great” heresies. I will illustrate them and then challenge the class to say why they are heretical rather than orthodox. It should be a lot of fun! Everyone is welcome, whether you’ve attended before or are joining for the first time.

Upcoming Events and Opportunities

- **Sunday, January 5:** The second Sunday of Christmas. The lesson will be the Lesson of Light from the beginning of John’s Gospel.
- **Epiphany Celebration:** On Sunday, January 12, we will begin our celebration of the season of Epiphany. This season will be at its maximum length because Easter is late this year; Ash Wednesday isn’t until March 5.
- **Volunteer Opportunities:** Sign-up sheets for worship assistants, ushers, and other roles are available at the back of the church. Please consider offering your time and talents to support our worship and ministries.

2025 Focus on Life Together: As we begin the new year, let’s prayerfully consider how we can support the ministry of our church through our time, talents, and treasures. You are a good helper when you attend worship and bring your offering.

Looking Ahead

The start of a new year is a wonderful time to set spiritual goals and commit ourselves to spiritual growth. I think we should try as hard as possible to maintain our physical health because, without that, we can’t do anything else. I urge each of you to love yourself by taking care of yourself.

May God bless you and your family in 2025. Together, let us continue to share Christ’s love in our community and beyond.

Best wishes for a happy new year,
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](#)

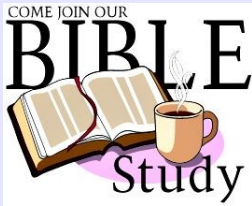
Change of Address?

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.**



BIBLE STUDY: Begins immediately following services (approx. 10:45am) every Sunday. Led by Pastor Kleist in the fellowship hall. (Except for 1/12th)



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, January 16th 2025

Time: 7:00-8:30 PM

Place: 1573 Siegfried Street, Bethlehem

Hosts: Al & Carol Tullock





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, January 15th, 2025 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



January Birthdays

- 01/03-Carol Tullock
01/08-Hlim Capauno-Wakin
01/09-Jim Ebersole
01/09-Lori Chulik
01/12-Angalyse Keyock
01/18-Diane Rodenbough
01/20-Ava Graessel
01/26-Andrew Hanchick
01/26-Kevin Hanchick
01/30-Deborah Stauffer



January Anniversaries

None in January

Servants of God for January 2025

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

01/05-Alison Bittner
01/12-Amy Cygan
01/19-John McAtee
01/26-John Szabo

MONTHLY USHERS

Jim & Kari Ebersole

Greeters

01/05-Donna & Bill Carter
01/12-Peter & Donna Kish
01/19-Peter & Donna Kish
01/26-Donna & Bill Carter

PRAY-ERS

01/05-Donna Carter & Dawn Seyfried

COMMUNION

ASSISTANT

01/05-Dawn Seyfried

LECTORS

01/05-Joe Craig
01/12-Kari Ebersole
01/19-Lynne Berger
01/26-Alice Walters

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

ALTAR FLOWERS

01/05-Dawn Seyfried
01/12-Open
01/19-Open
01/26-Open

BULLETINS

01/05-Open
01/12-Open
01/19-Open
01/26-John & Nancy McAtee

“WORD IN SEASON”

DEVOTIONAL

1ST QUARTER

DONNA & BILL CARTER

2ND QUARTER

JOHN & NANCY McATEE

3RD QUARTER

OPEN

4TH QUARTER

DONNA & BILL CARTER

SANCTUARY MEMORIAL

CANDLE FOR JANUARY

Dawn Seyfried

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

The family of Pat Koehler on her passing on 12/25

Ron Ritchie
Carl Willever
Lee Koehler
Cheryl Coulter
Tom Walters
Bea Craig
Maria Szabo
Fran Ramson
Martha Bean

Friends & Families of St. Mark's

Rick (Pat Ritchie's brother)



We are in need of volunteers to help clean the church. If you can help see Jim Ebersole, Pastor Kleist, Tom Walters or Mark. Thank you!

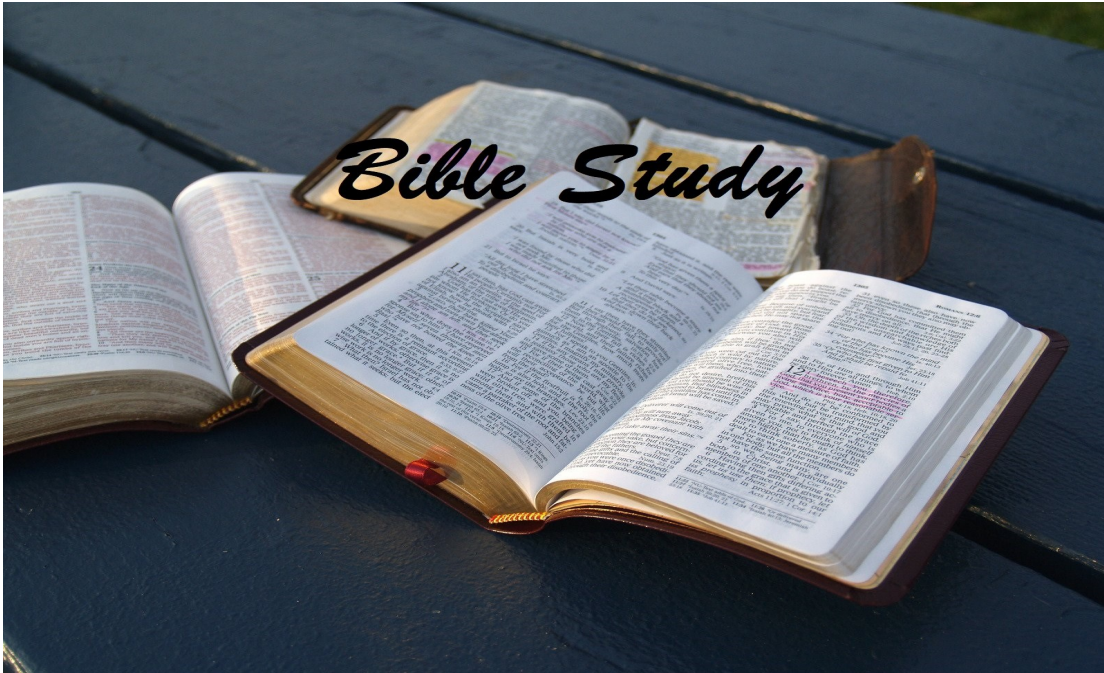


ANNUAL TREE OF HOPE

*A great big thank you goes out to all
who helped
provide a special Christmas to those
in need.*

*Thank you for your generosity
and
God Bless!*





Bible Study continues following worship at 10:45 AM

Bible Study, 10:45 AM Right after Worship! (1/5,1/19 & 1/26)

Except for Sunday, 1/12– that will be the Council Meeting following worship service.

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

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