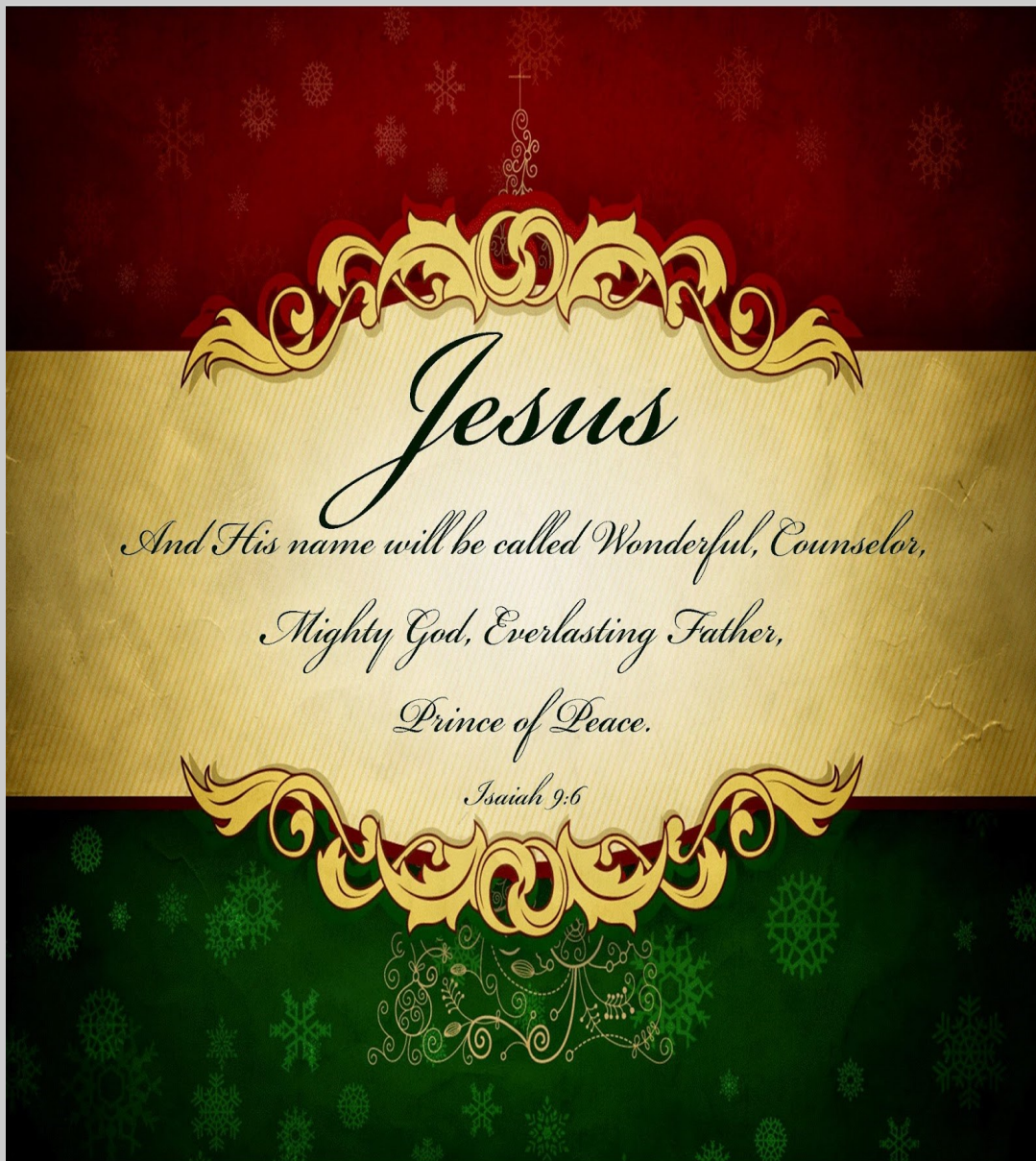


ST. MARK'S
DECEMBER 2024
NEWSLETTER



Jesus

And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor,

Mighty God, Everlasting Father,

Prince of Peace.

Isaiah 9:6

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.

We will kick off the season by decorating the church for Christmas on Sunday, December 1. 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 8. During this important gathering, we will review and approve the 2025 budget and elect six new council members. Please plan to attend this essential event for the life of our congregation.

Due to the many events of the month, Adult Sunday School will meet only once in December, on Sunday, December 15. We will delve into the Christmas stories found in Luke and Matthew, exploring their unique perspectives on the birth of Christ. This promises to be a rich and meaningful discussion, so don't miss it! I look forward to teaching this class. 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:

Week 1: Luke 21:25-36: Signs of the End Times and Watchfulness.

Jesus reminds us to stay vigilant, hopeful, and prayerful as we prepare for His kingdom.

Week 2: Luke 3:1-6: 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.

Week 3: Luke 3:7-18: Bearing Fruit in Repentance. True repentance is not just about words but actions that bear fruit in our daily lives.

Week 4: Luke 1:39-45, (46-55): The Joy of Christ's Presence. Mary and Elizabeth's joyous encounter reminds us that true joy comes from God's faithfulness and the presence of Christ.

I hope this series will inspire you to embrace the spirit of Advent and prepare your heart for the celebration of Christmas. A heartfelt thank-you to everyone who organized and attended our Reformation Dinner and the Safe Trick or Treat Halloween event. Both were filled with joy, fellowship, and fun.

May this Advent season be one of anticipation, repentance, preparation, and joy as we await 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!



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](#)

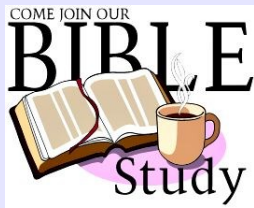
Change of Address?

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.



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, December 19th 2024

Time: 7:00-8:30 PM

Place: 3228 Reeve Dr. West, Apt.18
Bethlehem, PA 18017 610-653-7527

Hosts: Donna & Bill 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, 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

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-Paul Hanchick

12/22-Kirsten Rubery

12/26-Diana Docteroff

12/28-Adam Cygan

12/30-Sherry Higgins

Happy
Anniversary



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

12/01-Alison Bittner
12/08-Amy Cygan
12/15-John McAtee
12/22- John Szabo
12/24-Volunteer
12/29-John Szabo

MONTHLY USHERS

12/1,8,15,22 & 29)
Donna & Peter Kish
12/24- Volunteers (2)

Greeters

12/01-Donna & Peter
Kish
12/08-Donna & Bill
Carter

12/15-Open

12/22-Donna & Bill
Carter

**12/24-Diana Docteroff
& Lynne Berger**

12/29-Donna & Peter
Kish

PRAY-ERS

12/01-Donna Carter &
Stephanie Trovato

COMMUNION

ASSISTANT

12/01-Tom Walters
12/24-Volunteer (1)

LECTORS

12/01-Lynne Berger
12/08-Kari Ebersole
12/15-Donna Carter
12/22-Al Tullock, Jr.
12/24-Volunteer
12/29-Al Tullock, Jr.

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

ALTAR FLOWERS

12/01-John & Christen
Borso
12/08-Tom & Alice
Walters
12/15-Mark Huston
12/22-Al & Carol
Tullock
12/29-John & Nancy
McAtee

BULLETINS

12/01-John & Christen
Borso
12/08-Donna & Bill
Carter
12/15-Open
12/22-John & Nancy
McAtee
12/29-Open

“WORD IN SEASON”

DEVOTIONAL

Donna & Bill Carter

SANCTUARY MEMORIAL

CANDLE

Al & Carol Tullock, Jr.

*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

Ron Ritchie
Carl Willever
Lee Koehler
Pat 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!



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!



Coming Soon.....

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 4th 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.



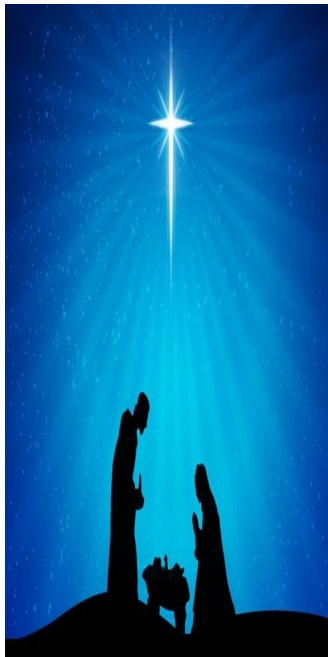
[This Photo](#) by Unknown

Thank you for your generosity and
God Bless!



ADVENT SEASON

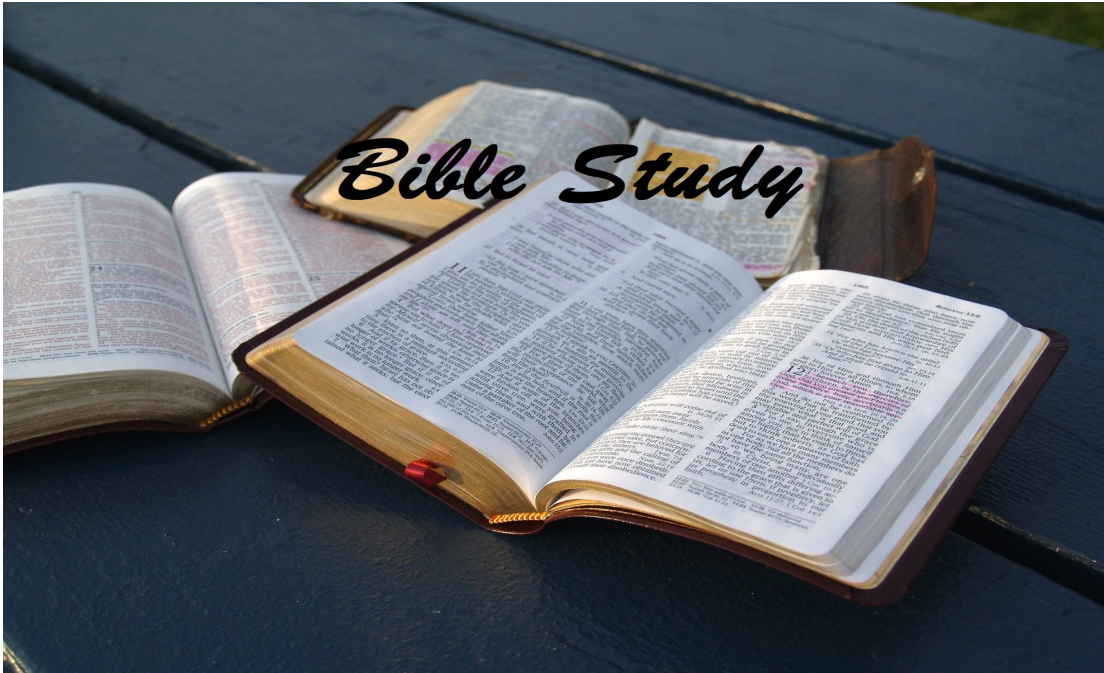
1st Sunday of Advent@9:30AM.....December 1st
2nd Sunday of Advent@9:30AM.....December 8th
3rd Sunday of Advent@9:30AM.....December 15th
4th Sunday of Advent@9:30 AM.....December 22nd



@

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





Bible Study continues following worship at 10:45 AM

Bible Study, 10:45 AM Right after Worship! Each week we look together at various topics that are significant to our understanding of Jesus and what the New Testament says about him. Last week we considered the “conversion” of St. Paul. This week we consider the Marken Apocalypse which was the subject of Pastor Kleist’s sermon today. Hope to see you there!

(Due to holiday decorating there will be no bible study on 12/1 and no bible study Christmas week on 12/22.)

Hope to see you there!

Give blood.

Every 2 seconds someone
in the U.S. needs blood



Community Blood Drive

St. Mark's Lutheran Church

Multipurpose

3771 Easton Avenue

Bethlehem, PA 18020

Thursday, December 5, 2024

12:30 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Please call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767) or visit RedCrossBlood.org
and enter: St Marks to schedule an appointment.

Streamline your donation experience and save up to 15 minutes by visiting
RedCrossBlood.org/RapidPass to complete your pre-donation reading and health history
questions on the day of your appointment.



Give Nov 18 to Dec 8 for two pairs of custom FRIENDS
+ Red Cross socks, ltd qty. Keep one, gift one!



Scan to schedule



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

***Sunday, December 1st
following service.***

(No Sunday School this day).

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

***Thank
you!***

A huge thank you to all those who helped in any and all ways to hold St. Marks Safe Trick or Treat on Saturday October 26. Although the turn out was low, due in part to various town activities the same day, all who attended appeared to have a great time. Hosting a free and fun event for families these days is greatly appreciated and only possible with such wonderful volunteers within the family of St. Mark's working and serving together in creative ways to serve our community. Hopefully if willina and able those dedicated volunteers will return next year. Prayerfully consider providing input, assisting in planning or participating in any future events.

*In Christian Service,
Donna Carter
Coordinator*

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



**DECEMBER 2024
NEWSLETTER**