



St. Mark Bell

December 2023



St. Mark Lutheran

129 Charles Street
Hanover PA 17331

717-637-8904 stmarkhanover.org

Worship

Saturday 5:30pm

Sunday 9:00am

Sunday School Following Worship

Church Office Hours

Mon-Fri 9:00am-12noon

Bible Study

Fridays 11:00am-12noon

Bells Rehearsal

Most Sundays Following Worship

Quilting Group

Thursdays 9:00am-12noon

Preschool

M/W/F (4's) 9:00-11:45am &
12:30-3:15pm

M/W & T/Th (3's) 9:00-11:15am

Meetings & Activities

Dec 1 – 8am-5pm Greens Sale

Dec 2 – 8am-1pm Greens Sale

Dec 3 – Fellowship Time after Worship

Dec 4 – Hunger Star / Wreath
Dedication Deadline

Dec 5 – 1pm St. Mark Eats @ Railside

Dec 7 – UPMC Blood Drive

– 3pm Evangelism Mtg

Dec 10 – Confirmation Class

– Decorating of Windows

– Cong. Council Election/Budget
Mtg

Dec 12 – 9:30am Property Mtg

– 7pm Future Task Force Group
Mtg

Dec 16 – 8:30am Tree Decorating &
Brunch

Dec 17 – Decorating of Pews

– Election/Budget Mtg Makeup

Dec 21 – 1st Day of Winter

Dec 24 – 9:00am Traditional Worship &
Advent Pageant

– No Sunday School /
Confirmation

– 3pm Christmas Eve Worship

– 7pm Christmas Eve Worship
(6:30 Prelude)

– PAL Team 2

Dec 25 – Christmas Day

– OFFICE CLOSED –

Dec 26 – Boxing Day

Dec 31 – New Year's Eve

– Cookie Sharing
Fellowship Time

*"When they had seen him,
They spread the word concerning
what had been told them about this child."
Luke 2:17*

Dear Good-News-Spreading Christians:

As the night settled on the hills outside Bethlehem, a few shepherds were bedded down for the night, reclining by the fire for warmth, while one or two took their turns watching over the herds. It was just another night for them, nothing special, nothing extraordinary. They definitely didn't anticipate that night that they would see the Glory of God fill the skies and the messengers of heaven proclaiming the birth of the Messiah.

Yet this is exactly what St. Luke tells us happened outside of Bethlehem in the darkness of that evening. After they saw this extraordinary sight, they went and witnessed firsthand the baby Jesus, just as it had been proclaimed to them. From that moment on, they went forth "spreading the word concerning what had been told them about this child." These ordinary, uneducated, hardworking shepherds of the fields became the very first human messengers of the Good News of Jesus Christ.

That is the Christmas Gift, the news that God has been born into creation and lived to take upon his shoulders our sins and free us from death itself. That message still needs to be shared with a world that is filled with anxiety and unease, pain and sadness. Too many people still live without hope, not knowing the true gift that comes at Christmas and is fulfilled at Easter. This message needs to be proclaimed, concerning all that has been told to us about the child, Jesus, our Messiah and Lord.

On the first page of this newsletter is an invitation. You can separate it from the rest of this newsletter and use it to give to someone else. It is there to empower you to become one of those messengers of the good news of Jesus Christ, just as the shepherds were so long ago. You can give it to a friend, a neighbor, a relative – anyone that the Spirit moves you to share it with, especially at this time of year. There is not a better time to become a messenger of the Lord, sharing our church and the good news of Jesus with the World. This Christmas, become like the shepherds, a joyful messenger of the Lord.

In the peace and grace of God,
Pastor Kirk Griffin

***Give the Attached Invite to Another.
Be One of the Messengers of the Lord.***

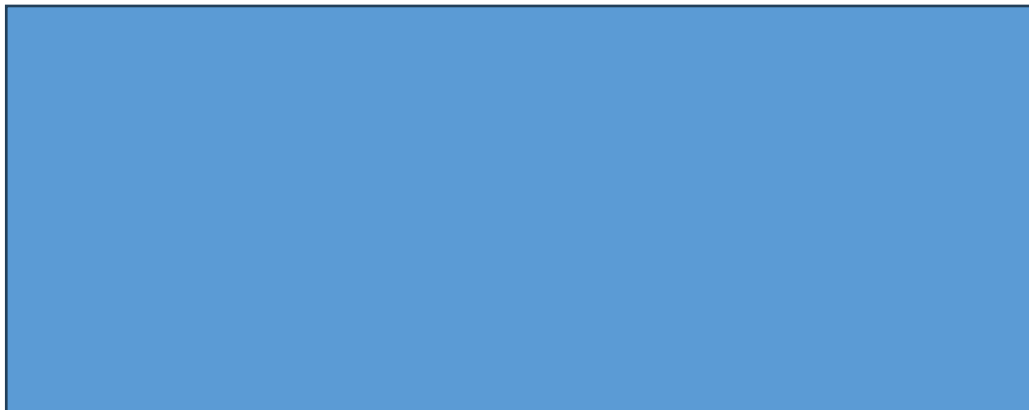
Happenings and News in our Congregation

Council Happenings: November 28, 2023

- Council opened with prayer and gave thanks for the blessings of recent ministry events (the Bazaar, the Election Day Preschool Bake Sale, the Advanced Directive Workshop) and the upcoming events (Garden Club Sale, Blood Drive, Advent, and Christmas Celebrations). It was also noted how wonderful the quilts and the donations of toys and food filled the sanctuary recently. And finally, the news of our most recent new baby into the church family was celebrated.
- Attendance and membership roll changes were reviewed.
- President Mike Merlo restated all the blessings and good news as we move forward.
- Pastor gave his statistical report. It was also suggested and approved by Council that the CPIC scheduled each week would also become one of the communion assistants for that same service. Pastor also reviewed the nominations needed for the congregational meeting. Pastor informed the council of the heating issue with Boiler 2 and the fix that will be needed in the coming days. Finally, Council discussed a memorial gift and made suggestions for its use in the church ministry.
- Under Committee reports, the only one that was noted especially was the Worship and Music Committee review and plans for the upcoming Christmas season. The step-by-step decorating plan through Advent was reviewed and is being worked on.
- Auxiliary groups noted the ongoing work at HACC, preschool, the sewing ladies, and that the actions of the Future Task Force Group are steadily moving forward.
- Council reviewed the October Treasurer's report and noted the ongoing deficit as we head into our final months of the year.
- Old Business was reviewed concerning the Bishop's Finance Integrity letter. Our Audit team has met and will be finalizing the review of last year's books before the end of the year. Also, we noted the positive reception and good work of our newest hired housekeeper Danielle Miskimon
- In new business it was noted that the Annual meetings are scheduled: Election/Budget Meeting will be December 10th, and the Year-in-Review meeting will be February 11th, 2024.
- Council discussed having their next meeting as a Christmas Dinner event to be planned for the first week of January.
- Having no other business, the council adjourned until January.

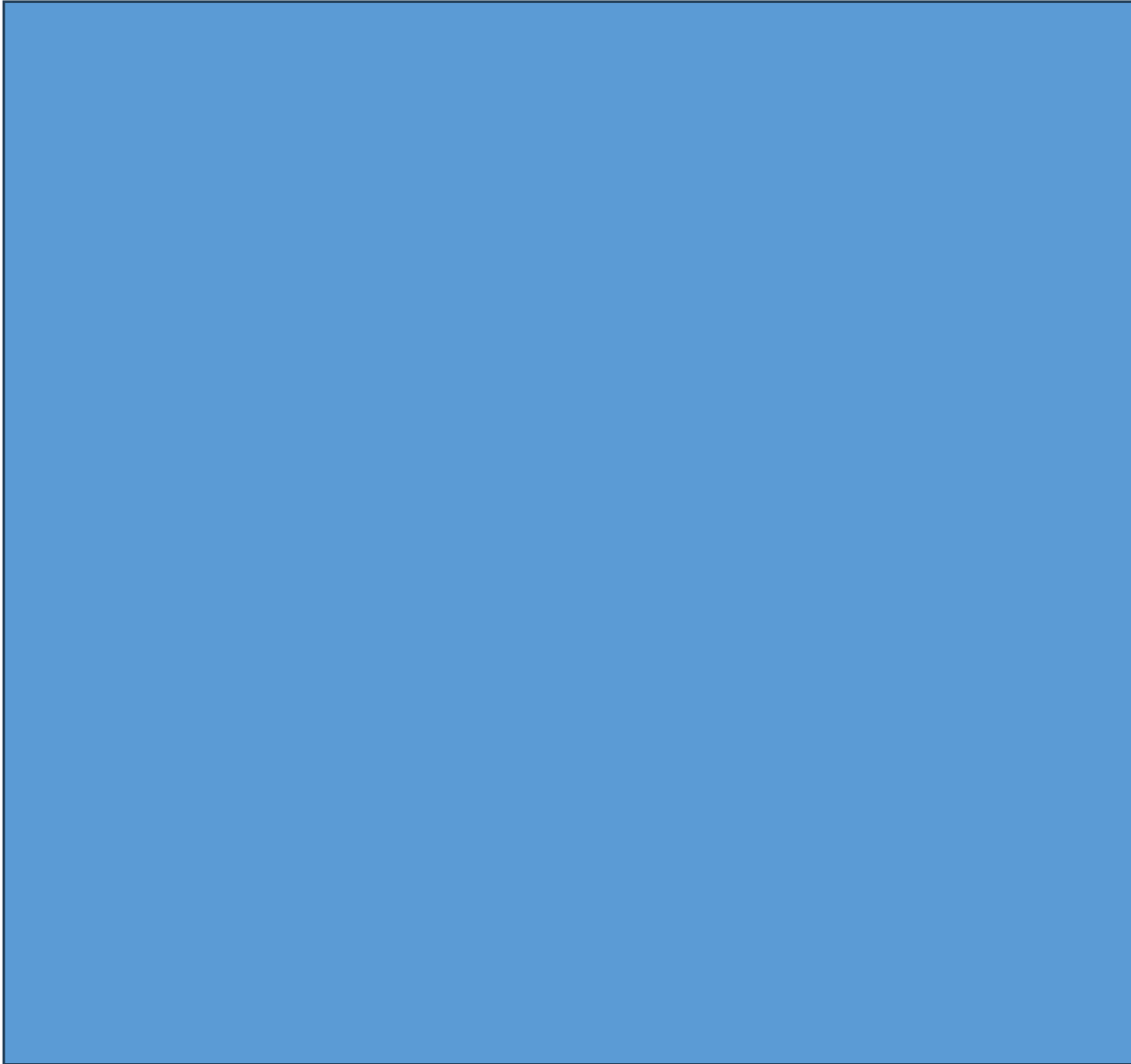
Nominations Sought: We are still seeking: 1 more member to serve three-year term on Council; 2 Nominating Committee Members for a one-year term; and 1 Male Delegate to the 2024 Synod Assembly. Please talk with a Council member if interested.

Election and Budget Congregational Meeting: Our annual meeting will be held after Sunday services on **December 10th** with inclement weather makeup day of **December 17th**.



Congregational Budget and Election Meeting
December 10th Following Morning Worship – Makeup Date December 17th

Proposed Budget for 2024: The following is a synopsis of the proposed budget for 2024 with listings of 2022 & 2023 for comparison. Mission Support is not a part of the overall budget, but rather a goal set for donations received by the congregation to be sent to the Synod.



Nominations of Elections: As of this writing the nominations given are:

4 Members to join the Congregation Council (3-year term):

Nominees are: Kathy Gates; Gail Merlo; Mike Merlo; (need 1 more nominee)

1 Auditor to join the Audit Committee (3-year term)

Nominee is: Bill Reese

2 Nominating Committee Members at large for 2023 (1-year term)

Nominees are: (need 2 nominees)

2 Delegates to 2024 Synod Assembly day of business in June, 2023 – 1 male, 1 female

Nominees are: Shellene Griffin; (need 1 male delegate)



St. Mark's Monthly Offering for Designated Needs gives us an opportunity as a congregation to support specific domestic and international needs. During December, we are given the opportunity to contribute to the **Alzheimer's Association of PA**. This chapter serves 59 counties in western, central, and northeast PA. Their vision is to see a world without Alzheimer's and all dementia by accelerating

global research, driving risk reduction/early detection, and maximizing quality care and support.

To contribute to our designated giving, please mail your donations to our office or place them in our weekend collection plates. Specify on the convenience or designated need envelopes in our pew racks or on the *Other* line of any of our weekly offering envelopes, "Alzheimer's Association." Whenever a donation is made on the *Other* line that does not have a written designation, it will automatically be given to the ministry fund designated for that month. Thank you for your support!



Prayer List: We ask that you keep all our shut-ins and those needing special help in your daily prayers. We will keep the shut-ins on the list indefinitely, and those needing extra prayers will be removed after one month unless hearing otherwise. To add a name to the prayer list, please write it on the list on the narthex brass stand or call the office. This month keep in your prayers: *Family & Friends of Carol Albin,*

Fred Baber, Donald Becker, Larry Bolin, Jessica (Feeser) Boone, Katherine Borsella, Allen Bowersox, Family & Friends of Pat Brooks, Frances Claybaugh, Wilma Crawford, Jada Crow, Deb Day, Pam DeWitt, Lisa Dickensheets, Gail Dorsey, Diane Duffy, Robin Eline, Tarek Elnaggar, Jean Eshbach, Nancy Fridinger, Scott Gonzales, Vickie Gouker, Dane Graham, Tom Greenholt, Carol Ann Haines, Carrie Hernden, Shirley Hippensteel, Jean Huskin, Don Jamison, Donna Jones, Craig King, Norma Kreidler, Mary Lou Krummeck, Nancy Kuhn, Allen Kuhns, David Kunkel, Amos Laughman, Susie Laughman, Naura Lugman, Dave & Denise Martin, Carol McDermitt-Humes, Mary Ellen Melhorn, Carol Miller, Kathy Miller, Sandy Miller, MMI Amazon River Medical Trip, Merita Moore, Leah Moul, Merle Mummert, Pam Mummert, Tammy Mummert, Carolyn Neumyer, Marian Noble, Susan O'Brien, Kelly Perdue, Mindy Repass, Mary Riley, Charles Rupp, Lucas Schneider, Bob and Cecelia Sell, Tara Shaw, Bob Shue, Luanne Slusser, Pr. Jerry Smith, JoAnn Smith, Beverly Snyder, Sally Soule, Phyllis Tasto, Jennie Tome, George Tracy, Allison Trump, Lois VandenHeuvel, Jody Walter, Naomi Warren, Barb Watson, Diana Weaver, Ron Wentz, Scott Wisner, Rebecca Wisotzkey.



White Rose: It is with deep regret we have to announce the passing of one of our members, Pat Brooks, who entered the everlasting promise found in the living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead on November 11th. Please keep her family and friends in your prayers. In her memory, a white rose was placed in our chancel for the weekend of November 18th and 19th.

Christmas Eve & Christmas Day Services: Because Christmas Eve falls on the fourth Sunday of Advent, we will have three services that day – our traditional 9:00am service which includes our annual Advent Pageant, as well as our two Christmas Eve services at 3:00pm and 7:00pm (6:30 Prelude). Please join us and bring family and friends to one or more services on **December 24th**!



WELCOME

Welcome Janet and Doug Rockafellow: Welcome to our new members who affirmed their faith and joined with us in membership in early November. Janet has been attending our Sunday morning worship services and is already an active member of our Sewing Group. Please be sure to make them feel welcome.



A New Addition! We also welcome our tiniest congregant, Josie Jordan Wildasin, who arrived on October 26th to bless her parents, McHenze and Joe Wildasin. Congratulations to McHenze and Joe, as well as to Josie's big sisters, Elsie and Emerie, her big brother, Jace, and her grandparents, Tom and Hollis Long. We welcome this sweet new addition to our congregation. May God bless her and her family as they grow in faith and devotion together.



When the Weather Outside is Frightful: As of this writing, we've already had snow flurries this week. It's cold outside and just going to keep getting colder. If snow, ice, or other weather causes services to be canceled, we will do our best to get the word out via WGAL and WGAL.com.

We'll also get a message on the church website (stmarkhanover.org) and the phone's voicemail (637-8904), as well as send emails if at all possible. If you're not sure whether we'll be worshipping on our normal schedule, please check before braving the weather. And if you're worried at all about ice or other unsafe conditions, please stay home and stay safe!

INCLEMENT
WEATHER
INFORMATION



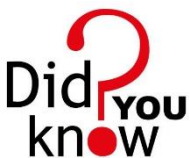
Christmas Cookie Fellowship Date Change: Traditionally, our congregation brings in cookies left from Christmas to enjoy together in fellowship on the first Sunday of the new year, which is also usually the first Sunday of Christmas. However, since the first Sunday of January isn't until almost two weeks after Christmas this year, we'll be sharing fellowship and Christmas cookies on **December 31st** instead. This year, **our January fellowship time has been changed to December 31st, New Year's Eve.**

Please plan to join us after Sunday service that morning and bring any cookies you'd like to share (and remove from your home before the New Year's Diet Resolutions begin)!

And speaking of fellowship time – we're always looking for more hosts to keep our First-Sunday-(Occasionally-Last-Sunday)-Fellowship-Time going. Hosting involves setting out our breakfast treats and coffee and straightening up after. Please sign up in the office hallway to host one of these monthly events in 2024.



-St. Mark Sewing Group: *My family would like to tell you how beautiful the end of life quilt is. The love so many people give to others at a time such as this is amazing and a blessing to others. God Bless your group and the love and care you put into the quilt. Thank you. – Robin Hertz and Sons*



St. Mark's 2nd Annual Fall Bazaar: We had another successful year! The Evangelism Committee raised over **\$1,500** for Lutheran Disaster Relief and St. Mark's Quilt Mission and helped to spread joy and a message of love at St. Mark to visitors from all around the area. It was also a day of fellowship with many volunteers working together. Thank you to all who worked so hard to put this event together – from the Evangelism Committee members to the bakers, cooks, and workers, as well as those who donated baked goods and rummage sale items, and our vendors who rented tables and shared their beautiful crafts.



Happy Birthday To Our **DECEMBER Birthdays!**

Dec. 3 Susan Miller
Dec. 4 Bill Berry
Dec. 5 Brenda Funke
Dec. 8 Bonnie Marrero
Dec. 9 Alex Spalding
Dec. 11 Bob Hoster
 Danielle Miskimon
Dec. 12 Linda Bolin
 Grace Laird
Dec. 13 Kaydence Borrer
Dec. 14 Jack Warehime



Dec. 18 Josephine Kuhns
Dec. 20 Jennifer Luckabaugh
Dec. 21 Judy Bolin
Dec. 23 Betty Bolin
Dec. 25 *Jesus, God Incarnate*
Dec. 28 Bonnie Naill
Dec. 29 Carver Alvarez
 Judy Laughman
Dec. 31 Donald Keagy, Jr.

**If we've missed anyone, please let us know at 717-637-8904.*



Dedications to Loved Ones: If you dedicated poinsettias, greenery, or a star to a loved one or their memory this Christmas season, your dedications will be listed in a Christmas Eve bulletin insert. **Poinsettias can be taken home after the 7:00pm Christmas Eve service or any time the following week.** If you missed ordering a poinsettia, **it's not too late to dedicate a wreath or a World Hunger star.** Dedications for wreaths and stars are due by Monday, **December 4th**.

Consider Giving the Gift of Time: Synod Nominations Representative, Pastor Terry McCarthy, asks that we consider giving the gift of ourselves and our time to the Lutheran community by volunteering (via election) as a synod council member.

Positions for every age, ethnicity, and gender are available. For those not able to give the time required to serve on the council, he asks that we agree to be nominated to attend the 2025 ELCA churchwide assembly in Phoenix as a voting delegate. To learn more, please contact Pastor McCarthy at 717-357-8644.



Advent – Our Timeline of Preparations for the Coming Incarnation of Our Lord at Christmas

Advent One December 2nd / 3rd

Time for preparation has come – time to prepare for the coming of Christ. The advent wreath and outside door wreaths go up to remind us of the growth of God's love that is without beginning or end – everlasting



Advent Two December 9th / 10th

Awaiting the coming of Christ. Wreaths and greenery are hung throughout the inside of the church and in windowsills to continue to remind us of the ever-growing love of God and Spirit that fills us with the light of God.

Advent Three December 16th / 17th

Anticipation is building for the coming of Christ. An evergreen tree stands in the sanctuary as a symbol that even in the dark and cold of winter, life continues.



Tree Decorating

Saturday, December 16th at 8:30am

Join the group decorating the tree and enjoying a tasty brunch together. Look for the signup in the church hallway.



Advent Four December 23rd / 24th

We are on the edge of the fulfillment of Christ's coming. At our 9:00am Worship, we'll present the Impromptu Christmas Pageant.

Christmas: Nativity of Our Lord

4th Sunday of Advent Worship & Pageant, December 24th at 9:00am

Christmas Eve Worship, Sunday, December 24th:

3:00pm and 7:00pm with Prelude Starting at 6:30pm



St. Mark's Holiday Giving

Bringing Warmth to Others: The Advent Knit Tree is up in the narthex for the first weekend of Advent. Let's decorate it with donations of warm socks, hats, gloves, mittens, scarves, etc. We'll be collecting these items through Advent and then taking them to HACC. Work gloves and socks are welcome, as well.



Stars to Benefit World Hunger: Our World Hunger Star tree is also up. Diana Weaver has handmade beautiful star ornaments that you can dedicate in honor or memory of a loved one. Donations will support the ELCA's fight against hunger. Order forms were in the November *Bell* (which can still be found on our website) and on the narthex shelf. Or you can fill out a pew envelope or contact the office at 717-637-8904 or offcoor129@gmail.com. Stars are \$5.00 each, and will be listed in the Christmas Eve handout. Deadline for dedications is Monday, **December 4th**.

Gift Tag Tree & Harvest Weekend: Thank you to all who lovingly offered food to feed local people in need. Thanks to your generosity, we collected 87 boxes, cans, and bags of food. Also thank you to those who donated toys, pajamas, books, games, etc. to allow parents to shop for their children at JJ's Toy Shop. We've delivered everything to HACC so that they can bless those in need.



Directory Request: As we are currently updating the St. Mark Church Directory to be published in January, we ask that you **please take a moment and check the current directory** to be sure your information is correct. Thank you for helping us to make available the most accurate information possible!

Hanover Garden Club Greens Sale: Be sure to stop by the Garden Club Greens Sale in the Fellowship Hall on Friday, **December 1st**, from 8:00am to 5:00pm, and Saturday, **December 2nd**, from 8:00am to 1:00pm to check out all the fresh Christmas greenery for sale!



Christmas Tree Decorating Brunch: A signup sheet is up in the office hallway for our Tree Decorating & Potluck Brunch on Saturday, **December 16th**, at 8:30am. Please join us for fellowship and a good time getting into the Christmas spirit!

Inspiration Packets: December is almost here, which means new inspiration packets are now available. Be sure to pick up a packet of cards, not just for yourself, but also one or more to share! The Evangelism Committee appreciates supplies to keep this project going. Please contact Vivian Cullison for more information.



St. Mark Eats: Please join us for some fun fellowship lunches this fall and winter. The next St. Mark Eats dates, times, and locations are:

December 5th – Lunch at the Railside Diner at **1:00pm**

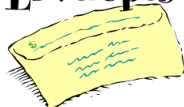
January 2nd 4th– Lunch at Hess's Rosie's in **New Oxford** at **1:00pm**
(Please note date and location change from November newsletter due to an overwhelming majority who wished to revisit Rosie's in place of Hoss's).

February 6th – Lunch at Divino's at 1:00pm

March 5th – Lunch at Lu Hibachi at 1:00pm



Offering Envelopes



Offering Booklets: The newly renumbered 2024 offering booklets are available for pickup. Remember – if you handwrite your number on an offering after January 1st, please be sure you have the correct number. Thank you!

DECEMBER Altar Vases



DECEMBER 3RD

Altar Vases: Given by Nancy Beimler in Honor of Family

DECEMBER 10TH

Altar Vase: Given by Thomas and Hollis Long in Honor of Sayre T. Long's Birthday

Altar Vase: Given by Carol McDermitt-Humes in Loving Memory of My Sisters and Niece: Joan (McDermitt) Miller, Suzanne (McDermitt) Kurtz, and Lacey Miller

DECEMBER 17TH

Altar Vases: Given by Pat Ormond and Julie Ruth and Families in Memory of Helen Ruth

DECEMBER 24TH

Altar Vase: To The Glory of God in Praise and Thanksgiving for the Coming of Emmanuel – His Gift of Saving Grace

Altar Vase: Given by the Robert Bish Family in Memory of Evelyn Bish

DECEMBER 31ST

Altar Vase: Given by Pat Hagarman in Honor of What Would Have Been Our 69th Wedding Anniversary

Altar Vase: To the Glory of God in Thanks and Praise for His Unending Blessings, His Comforting Presence, His Unfailing Love



DECEMBER Worship Helpers

December Altar Care: Need Volunteer(s)



December 3rd

Assisting Minister: Hollis Long
CPIC: Hollis Long
Lector: Karen Feeser
Comm. Assts: Hollis Long | *Need Volunteer*
Acolyte: Noah Shermeyer
Advent Wreath: Wildasin Family
Greeters: Bill Leppo | *Need Volunteer*

December 10th

Assisting Minister: Pennie Highlands
CPIC: Kathy Gates
Lector: Kathy Gates
Comm. Assts: Kathy Gates | Karen Feeser
Acolyte: Morgana Lobaugh
Advent Wreath: Keefer Family
Greeters: Bill Leppo | *Need Volunteer*

December 17th

Assisting Minister: Mike Noble
CPIC: Hollis Long
Lector: Pat Keefer
Comm. Assts: Mike Noble | Hollis Long
Acolyte: Abby Shermeyer
Advent Wreath: Klunk/Laird Family
Greeters: Bill Leppo | *Need Volunteer*

December 24th 9:00am

Assisting Minister: Karen Feeser
CPIC: TBD
Lector: Karen Feeser
Comm. Assts: Karen Feeser | *Need Volunteer*
Acolyte: Marcus Lobaugh
Advent Wreath: Stuckey/Reese Family
Greeters: Bill Leppo | *Need Volunteer*

December 24th 3:00pm

CPIC: TBD
Readers: Pastor Kirk | *Need 5 Volunteers*
Comm. Assts: *Need 2 Volunteers*
Acolyte: Stonesifer Family
Advent Wreath: Stonesifer Family
Greeters: Bill Leppo | *Need Volunteer*

December 24th 7:00pm

CPIC: Hollis Long
Readers: Karen Feeser | Hollis Long | Penelope Highlands | Pat Keefer | Alex Spalding | Pastor Kirk
Comm. Assts: Karen Feeser | Pennie Highlands
Acolyte: Long Family
Advent Wreath: Long Family
Greeters: Bill Leppo | *Need Volunteer*

December 31st

CPIC: Martha Lippy
Lector: *Need Volunteer*
Comm. Assts: Martha Lippy | *Need Volunteer*
Greeters: Bill Leppo | *Need Volunteer*

Christmas Eve Worship Leaders Needed

3:00pm and 7:00pm

Readers, Greeters, Ushers

If you can read a lesson or help at Christmas Eve worship at either service, please contact us or look for the sign-up in the narthex of the church.

News and Happenings in Our Community

Provide-A-Lunch Team #2 will be serving at HACC on December 24th:

Our primary team members include: Joann Berwager, Dale Dull, Shellene Griffin, Lynn Gross, and Liz Robinson.



PAL is an important program hosted by HACC to make sure local people in need get at least one hot meal per day, 365 days a year. To maintain our three teams, we can use more PAL volunteers. Each team only serves **once every three months**, so it's not a huge time commitment. Any help is appreciated. Call or just come to one of our serving events at HACC on Carlisle Street.



HACC NEWS & SPECIAL NEEDS THIS MONTH:

PAL (Provide-a-Lunch) Program: Cans of mixed vegetables, corn, green beans, potatoes, butter, sugar, milk, snacks, scalloped potatoes, fruit cups, and peanut butter.

Ruth's Harvest: Single-serve entrees, single-serve fruit cups, single-serve cereals.

Clothing Bank: In need of lots of fall warm clothing, especially socks, men's jeans waist sizes 30-34, and coats for all ages.

Shelter: Bathroom cleaner, disinfectant spray, men's boxer underwear, travel size shampoo, conditioner, body wash.

Meals on Wheels: Adult coloring books, colored pencils, word search books, compression socks.

Please place donations in the bins by the office on the corner table at end of hall.



Visit the Model Railroad: Cross Keys Village is hosting a free open house to visit their Model Railroad room. Enter the main building, and they will direct you to the location of the room. Open house hours are 1:00pm to 4:00pm on **December 2nd & 3rd, 9th & 10th, 16th & 17th, and the 26th through the 30th.** Contact Cross Keys Village for more information.



Holiday Program at South Western: South Western School District invites you to a free Hanover Community Partnership Holiday Program to be held at Emory H. Markle Middle School on **December 8th** from 1:00pm to 2:00pm. Please call 717-632-2500 with any questions.

Community Concert Series: Emmanuel UCC at 124 Broadway in Hanover is holding their 113th Annual Carol Sing on Sunday, **December 17th**, at 7:00pm, accompanied by a 30-piece community orchestra. For more information contact Emmanuel UCC at 717-632-8281.



Blood Drive Coming Up Soon! We have another blood drive scheduled at St. Mark on **December 7th** from 7:00am to 7:00pm so mark your calendars. Register by going online to Central Penn Blood Bank (cpbb.org) or call 1-800-771-0059. Donors will receive comedy club tickets and pizza coupons.

Ruth's Harvest: HACC's Ruth's Harvest program feeds kids who otherwise may not eat on weekends. To keep this program going and make sure kids don't go hungry when schools are closed, they need single-serve packages of nutritious food to hand out to kids on Fridays. Please place donations in the HACC shelter bin near the Church Office.



Christmas Tree Tours at the Mansion: Christmas Tree tours at the Warehime/Myers Mansion began on **November 25th** – Wednesdays from 10:00am to 2:00pm and Saturdays from noon to 2:00pm. Contact the Hanover Historical Society or see Mike Noble for more information.

Disaster and Humanitarian Relief Fund: The world has experienced many disasters lately: wildfires, flooding, earthquakes, hurricanes, and areas disrupted by wars and violence. To contribute to relief for the people affected, mark your special offerings to go towards Lutheran Disaster Response of the ELCA. If there's a specific tragedy you'd like to have your donation support, please mark that on the envelope. Additionally, in response to the escalating violence in and around Gaza, Presiding Bishop Eaton has issued a call to action for food, supplies, medical help, and emotional/spiritual support. To help Lutheran Disaster Response provide aid to those suffering in this difficult time, please mark your *Other* line donations to go to "Middle East Crisis."



Blue Christmas: St. Matthew on Chestnut is holding a "worship service for those who are stressed, hurting, grieving, or lonely in this Holiday Season." The service will be held Monday, **December 4th** at 6:30pm in St. Matthew's sanctuary.



Preschool Christmas Happenings:

It's that time of year when the preschool is busy learning about and enjoying the holiday season.

The 3-year-old classes will have their Christmas Programs / Parties on Wednesday, **December 20th**, and Thursday, **December 21st**, at 10:45am.

The 4-year-old classes will have their Christmas Program / Parties on Friday, **December 22nd**, at 10:30am and 2:00pm. **All are welcome to attend.**



Preschool Holiday Fundraiser:

The preschool is currently holding a Santa Letter Fundraiser. If you would like your child or someone you know to receive a personalized letter from Santa, **you may pick up St Mark Preschool Santa Fundraiser Forms from the table outside the Church Office. Fill out and return with \$5 donation for each form to the Church Office by Wednesday, December 6th.**

If you ordered a letter in the past, no worries – you may order again this year because we do a new letter each year. You are welcome to share with others who may like to participate. If making out a check for donation, please make it **payable to St. Mark Preschool** (not St. Mark Church).

2024-2025 Registration:

Registration for the 2024-2025 school year will begin in **January** for current students and their families, as well as members of St. Mark Church. We will open registration to the public beginning **February 1st**. If you know any families that might be interested, please tell them to check us out.

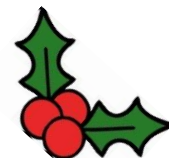
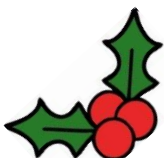


Bake Sale:

A special thank you to everyone for helping make our Preschool Bake Sale Fundraiser a big success. We appreciate everyone who helped the day of the sale, supplied baked items, and purchased baked items. The final total for the bake sale is **\$790.56**.

Everyone involved in the preschool wants to wish you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

– Idonia Klunk and Allison Wentz, Preschool Co-Directors



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<h1>DECEMBER</h1>					<div>1</div> 9:00am-12noon Office Open 11:00am Bible Study 8am-5pm Greens Sale 	<div>2</div> 5:30pm Spoken Liturgy of Word 8am-1pm Greens Sale
<div>3</div> 1st Sunday of Advent 9:00am Worship 10:15am Sunday School Fellowship Time after Worship  <i>Bells Rehearsal</i>	<div>4</div> 9:00am-12noon Office Open Hunger Star & Wreath Dedication Deadline 	<div>5</div> 9:00am-12noon Office Open 1pm St. Mark Eats @ Railside	<div>6</div> 9:00am-12noon Office Open 	<div>7</div> 9:00am-12noon Office Open 9:00am-12noon Quilting Group UPMC Blood Drive 3:00pm Evangelism Mtg	<div>8</div> 9:00am-12noon Office Open 11:00am Bible Study	<div>9</div> 5:30pm Spoken Liturgy of Word
<div>10</div> 2nd Sunday of Advent 9:00am Worship 10:15am Sunday School Confirmation Class Decorating of Windows Congregational Council Mtg Election/Budget Meeting <i>Bells Rehearsal</i>	<div>11</div> 9:00am-12noon Office Open	<div>12</div> 9:00am-12noon Office Open 9:30am Property Mtg 7pm Future Task Force Group Mtg	<div>13</div> 9:00am-12noon Office Open	<div>14</div> 9:00am-12noon Office Open 9:00am-12noon Quilting Group  <small>INTERNATIONAL MONKEY DAY</small>	<div>15</div> 9:00am-12noon Office Open 11:00am Bible Study	<div>16</div> 5:30pm Spoken Liturgy of Word  8:30am Tree Decorating & Brunch
<div>17</div> 3rd Sunday of Advent 9:00am Worship 10:15am Sunday School Decorating of Pews Election/Budget Mtg. Makeup <i>Bells Rehearsal</i>	<div>18</div> 9:00am-12noon Office Open	<div>19</div> 9:00am-12noon Office Open	<div>20</div> 9:00am-12noon Office Open 	<div>21</div> 9:00am-12noon Office Open 9:00am-12noon Quilting Group <small>1ST DAY OF WINTER</small>	<div>22</div> 9:00am-12noon Office Open 11:00am Bible Study	<div>23</div> 5:30pm Spoken Liturgy of Word
<div>24</div> 4th Sunday of Advent 9:00am Worship & Advent Pageant No Sunday School/Confirmation 3pm Christmas Eve Worship 7pm Christmas Eve Worship (6:30pm Prelude) PAL Team 2 <i>Bells Rehearsal</i>	<div>25</div> 9:00am-12noon -OFFICE CLOSED- 	<div>26</div> 9:00am-12noon Office Open	<div>27</div> 9:00am-12noon Office Open  <small>NATIONAL FRUITCAKE DAY</small>	<div>28</div> 9:00am-12noon Office Open 9:00am-12noon Quilting Group	<div>29</div> 9:00am-12noon Office Open 11:00am Bible Study	<div>30</div> 5:30pm Spoken Liturgy of Word
<div>31</div> 1st Sunday of Christmas  9:00am Worship Cookie Fellowship Time 10:15am Sunday School <small>NEW YEAR'S EVE</small>		<small>BOXING DAY</small>				

**NOTE: St. Mark Preschool classes are in regular session MONDAY through FRIDAY each week between the hours of 8:30am and 4:00pm.
Please see the preschool calendar for more information.*

St. Mark Lutheran Church

129 Charles Street
Hanover, PA 17331

Christmas Worship
Please join us on December 24th for our Traditional
Sunday Morning Service & Advent Pageant at
9:00am and one (or both) of our Special Christmas
Eve Services at 3:00pm and 7:00pm (Prelude at
6:30pm)

Visit us online at stmarkhanover.org

By the grace of God in and through Jesus Christ, the mission of the people of St. Mark Evangelical Lutheran Church, Hanover, Pennsylvania, is to hear and share the Good News of Jesus Christ through Word and Sacrament ministry. Since our founding in 1864 it has been the mission of the people of St. Mark to testify in word and deed that no one is outside God's mercy in Jesus Christ.

December 2023

ST. MARK BELL NEWSLETTER

St. Mark Evangelical Lutheran Church
129 Charles Street, Hanover, PA 17331
Office – 717-637-8904

Website: stmarkhanover.org

Office Email: offcoor129@gmail.com

Office Hours: Monday – Friday 9:00am-12:00pm

Church Staff:

Pastor: Rev. Kirk Griffin 717-808-1986; prkirk129@gmail.com

Office Coordinator: Joni Gonzales 717-637-8904

Director of Music: Melinda Elnaggar

Organist: Martha Lobaugh

Sexton: Wally Rodenhaber

Housekeeper: Danielle Miskimon

Preschool Co-Directors: Allison Wentz / Idonia Klunk

2023 Congregation Council: Michael Merlo, Karen Feeser, Linda Bolin, Penelope Highlands, Kathy Gates, Martha Lippy, Hunter Shaw, Alex Spalding, and Hollis Long