



St. Mark Bell

January 2024

*"I am the light of the world.
whoever follows me will never
walk in darkness
but will have the light of life."
John 8:12b*



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

Jan 1 – Happy New Year!

– **OFFICE CLOSED**

Jan 4 – 1pm St. Mark Eats @
Rosie's

– 3pm Evangelism Mtg

– 6pm Council Dinner

Jan 9 – 9:30am Property Mtg

Jan 14 – Confirmation Class

Jan 15 – Martin Luther King, Jr.
Day

Jan 16 – 1pm Garden Club Mtg

Jan 17 – 7pm Future Task Force
Mtg

Jan 18 – 6pm Fellowship Mtg @
Railside

Jan 23 – 5pm Council Mtg

Jan 28 – Confirmation Class

– PAL Team 3

Dear Light-Seeking Christians:

The light of the world has come. Jesus, our Lord and Savior has been born. In the bleakness of winter it is amazing how the darkness weighs on us. Days are short and the nights long. We can so easily get depressed and disheartened in those times of gloominess. In those times of the darkness, our deepest fears and worries seem to come to our minds and trouble us. Past mistakes haunt us and the worry about tomorrow's unknowns fill us with uncertainty. But we know the light of the world has come, and each day gets brighter.

That hopeful light, that certainty, that everlasting assurance comes in Jesus Christ. He is the hope of the world that has come and will come again. Christ is able to shine through the darkness of all this earthly worry and give us an assurance of his kingdom. He gives us the hope that can overcome everything to shine the glory of the light of God's grace and mercy into our hearts and into our souls. He is the light that can never be extinguished.

Jesus taught on the temple mount in Jerusalem, assuring the crowds that were looking for truth and hope that he was the light of the world. He told them that whoever follows him will never walk in darkness. That promise alone should give us strength and peace, knowing that we have a Lord that shines light into the very depths of our beings. He shines the way for us, so that we may follow and receive peace that is everlasting and glorious.

There is a reason that Christmas takes place the week of the winter solstice for us here in the Northern Hemisphere. The early Christians by the 4th century were celebrating the coming of the Messiah on the exact time of the year when their days started getting longer. They were celebrating the coming of the light. They saw in the wonders of creation itself, the glory of the one who gives light so that we may have life. As we enter the season of Epiphany in this month of January, may we seek that hope that is coming. May we look to the great morning star, the everlasting light, and realize that darkness can never win, that Jesus comes to renew us and give us a peace that can never be overcome. He is the light of the world. Walk in his ways and you will never walk in darkness. Each day gets brighter.

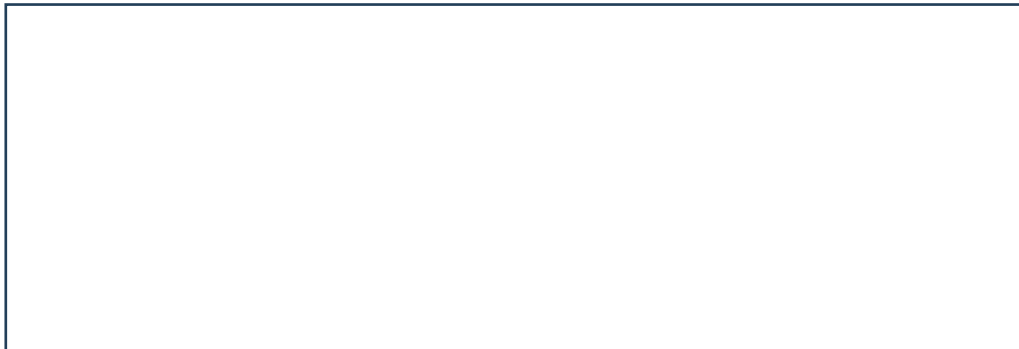
In the peace and grace of God, Pastor Kirk Griffin

Happenings and News in our Congregation

Congregational Meeting Happenings: December 10, 2023

- The Congregation met for the annual election and budget meeting.
- Kathy Gates, Tom Long, Gail Merlo, and Mike Merlo were elected to fill the four council positions for the 2024-2027 term.
- Bill Reese was elected to fill the Auditor position on the Audit Committee
- Linda Bolin and Mike Noble were elected to fill the two at-large Nominations Committee members.
- Shellene Griffin was elected to serve as the St. Mark delegate to the Lower Susquehanna Synod Assembly in June of 2024. A male delegate is still being sought and can be appointed by Council if one comes forth.
- The 2024 proposed budget was presented. An amendment was motioned and approved to separate a Worship and Music line into a line for “Organ Tuning” at \$1,500 and “Musical Instrument Maintenance” at \$599. The amended Constitution was then approved by the congregation.

November Treasurer’s Report



Annual Congregational Meeting: Our annual Year-in-Review Congregational Meeting will be held on **February 11th** (with a makeup date of **February 18th**). Please submit annual committee/auxiliary group reports to the church office by **January 21st** so they can be included in the meeting.

**YEAR IN
REVIEW**



**Lutheran
Disaster
Response**

St. Mark’s Monthly Offering for Designated

Needs gives us an opportunity as a congregation to support specific domestic and international needs which are pre-determined by our council each year. January’s offering benefits **Lutheran Disaster Response** (LDR) to “bring God’s hope, healing and renewal to people whose lives have been disrupted by disasters in the United States and around the world.”

To contribute to this month’s designated need, please mail your donations to our office or place them in our weekend collection plates by specifying “Lutheran Disaster Response” or January Designated Giving on your check or the *Other* line of any of our weekly offering envelopes.

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. Thanks for your support.



White Rose: It is with deep regret we have to announce the passing of one of our members, Amos Laughman, who entered the everlasting promise found in the living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead on December 6th. Please keep his family and friends in your prayers. In his memory, a white rose was placed in our chancel for the weekend of December 9th and 10th.



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 (Feaser) Boone, Katherine Borsella, Allen Bowersox, Frances Claybaugh, Wilma Crawford, Jada Crow, Deb Day, Pam DeWitt, Lisa Dickensheets, Gail Dorsey, Diane Duffy, Robin Eline, Tarek Elnaggar, Jean Eshbach, Betty Fury, Nancy Fridinger, 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, Family & Friends of Amos Laughman, Susie Laughman, Jean Lawrence, Naura Lugman, Dave & Denise Martin, Clara McBrayer, Carol McDermitt-Humes, Mary Ellen Melhorn, Carol Miller, Kathy Miller, Sandy Miller, Susan Miller, MMI Amazon River Medical Trip, Merita Moore, Leah Moul, Merle Mummert, Pam Mummert, Tammy Mummert, Carolyn Neumyer, Marian Noble, 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, Phyllis Tasto, Jennie Tome, George Tracy, Allison Trump, Lois VandenHeuvel, Jody Walter, Naomi Warren, Barb Watson, Diana Weaver, Family & Friends of Wayne Weisensale, Ron Wentz, Scott Wisner, Rebecca Wisotzkey, Steve Zinn.*

**INCLEMENT
WEATHER
INFORMATION**



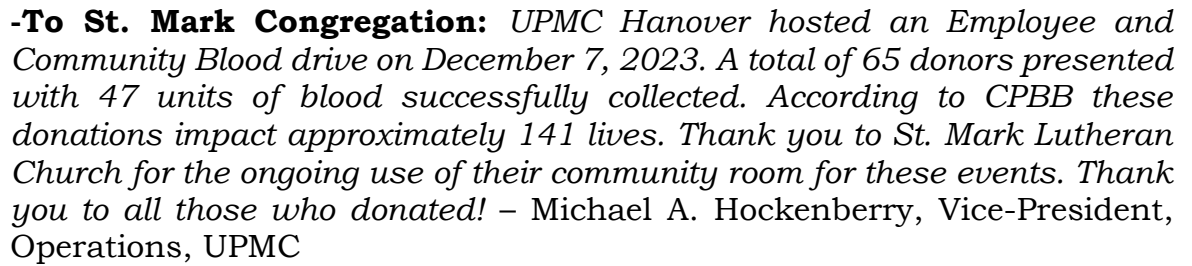
Winter Is Here!! Remember, if weather causes services to be canceled, we will do our best to get the word out via WGAL radio and WGAL.com. We'll also get a message on the church website (stmarkhanover.org) and the phone's voicemail (637-8904), as well as send emails if at all

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!

Epiphany Day Cleanup Party and Brunch: We had such a great time setting up the tree that we decided to have a breakfast/brunch work group at the end of the 12 days of Christmas. On Epiphany, Saturday, **January 6th**, we'll take down and clean up our Christmas decorations. Everyone is welcome to attend and help out. Please see the signup on the Bulletin Board across from the Church office. We'll begin at 8:30am and, with lots of help, hope to enjoy brunch soon after.

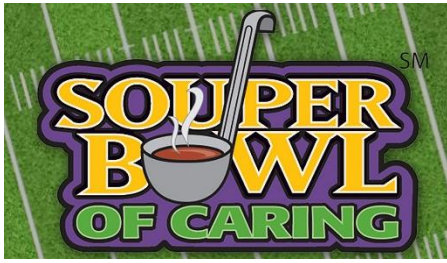


Updated Directory: An updated directory will be available soon. Printed copies will be in the bell tower room. If you'd like a copy emailed to you, please contact the church office at offcoor129@gmail.com.



-To Those Who Sponsored Christmas Stars: Thank you to all who dedicated *stars* to the memory and honor of family, friends, and loved ones this Christmas season. A total of **\$175** was raised to fight world hunger. And, as always, thank you to Diana Weaver for lovingly crafting the beautiful stars that support this cause.

A collage of 15 photographs capturing various scenes from a church's Christmas celebration. The images include: a row of wooden nativity figures; three women standing together; a decorated Christmas tree; a red carpeted aisle in a church; a group of people sitting at tables; a close-up of a Christmas tree; a group of people standing together; a close-up of a Christmas tree; a group of people standing together; a close-up of a Christmas tree; a group of people standing together; a close-up of a Christmas tree; a group of people standing together; a close-up of a Christmas tree.

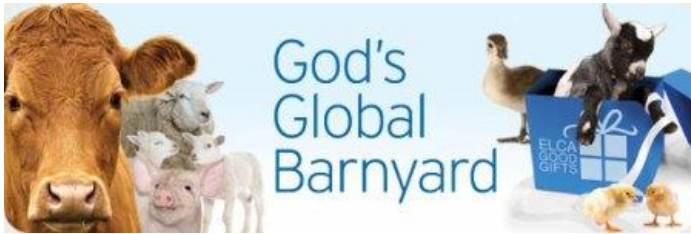


Souper Bowl of Caring:

Once again, St. Mark is joining with over 300,000 churches to turn Super Bowl Sunday into the Souper Bowl of Caring. Please plan to bring non-perishable food donations and/or monetary donations to help us fight hunger in our community by stocking the HACC food bank with our contributions. We'll be



collecting the weekend of February 11th, to help our local food bank meet the needs of our hungry neighbors.



Piggie Bank Project: Piggie banks will be available soon to pick up and fill with loose change over the next few months **up until Easter**. Please help us collect money to provide animals and other items to help families and individuals sustain and grow their lives and

communities. Our gifts can help a family escape the cycle of hunger and poverty for good. We hope that everyone at St. Mark (children, youth, and adults) will help with this project. Look for the banks in the narthex soon. Take one and start saving your coins to make a difference. THANK YOU!

Host a Fellowship Time: We're always looking for more hosts to keep our 1st 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. And don't forget – our annual Cookie-Sharing Fellowship is on the last day of 2023 this year, so our first official 2024 Sunday Fellowship Time will be on **February 4th**.



Upcoming Church Worship Festivals to take note of as we begin the New Year:



Monday, Jan. 1st is the Name of Jesus:

The 8th day after Christmas and, according to Jewish laws, it would have been the day that Jesus was dedicated and named.

Saturday, Jan. 6th is Epiphany:

The day that marks the end of the 12 days of Christmas. Epiphany closes out Christmas as the day the magi visit the holy family, declaring Jesus King and Lord.

Sunday, Jan. 7th is the Baptism of our Lord Sunday:

With the end of Christmas, we begin Jesus' ministry towards Jerusalem. And it all starts at His baptism when the heavens are opened and God declares Him His Son. In this day we recall our own baptisms and God's adoption of us as His children.

Season of Epiphany: This year we will have six weeks of Epiphany, a time to discover and declare the glory of Jesus. This season ends on Ash Wednesday, **February 14th** as we go into Lent.

Medical Ministry International Update and Thanks:



Thanks to all who supported the mission trip financially, with medical supplies, and most significantly with your prayers. It was a wonderful opportunity to share our faith and meet the needs of the people of the Amazon River area. The medical boat was able to move along the Amazon, stopping where people could walk across wooden planks to access the boat. At other stops, like the one in the picture, people waded through mud and low-standing water just to reach the boat that could not come any closer to shore. While on the boat, the MMI team

provided checkups of physical and dental needs, eye exams and glasses, nutrition consultations for the children, and medicine. We also shared an Integrated Health talk that includes hygiene, nutrition, and a faith message which included giving Bibles to those who could read and sharing the Word of God with others. The little boy in this picture had just received his first Bible. Thanks to all for your continued support. – Gary Laabs



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Did You Know: That Bible Study meets every Friday morning for one hour of study and discussion? Did you know that you do not need to have any previous experience or special education, since we are all students together sharing in the Word of God? We even have Bibles for those who do not have one. Just come out and join us on Friday, any Friday, from 11:00am to noon.

We do have fun and learn a little bit also. Come join us.

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Inspiration Packets: January 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: If you need some social time this winter, don't forget about St. Mark Eats. We'd love to have you join us for lunch! The next St. Mark Eats dates, times, and locations are:

THURSDAY January 4th— Lunch at Rosie's in New Oxford at 1:00pm

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

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

Happy Birthday To Our **JANUARY Birthdays!**

Jan. 3 Scott Miller
Jan. 4 Ken Wagner
Jan. 5 McHenze Naill
Jan. 6 Carol Greening
Leonard Stambaugh
Claire Laird
Jan. 7 Cayden Jones
Jan. 9 Hollis Long
Jan. 10 Melanie Brady
Brooklyn Hull
Jan. 11 Kelly Dube
Jan. 12 Carly Miller-Carbaugh
Jan. 14 Kaitlyn Naill
Jan. 15 Allison Hardin
Jan. 16 Penelope Highlands
Daniel Weber



Jan. 17 Rick Pado
Jan. 18 Jody Boyers
Bill Reese
Jan. 19 Cara Lynn Clabaugh
Jan. 20 Glenn Mummert
Abby Shermeyer
Pat Wagner
Jan. 22 Sandra Haymaker
Jan. 24 Emerie Wildasin
LeeAnn McDermitt
Jan. 28 Anna Cromer
Jan. 29 David Gates
Ashley Teal
Jan. 31 Evelyn Barnhart

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



JANUARY Altar Vases



JANUARY 7TH

Altar Vases: To The Glory of God Who Is Always Faithful,
Whose Loving Promises Are Absolute,
Whose Forgiveness Is Certain.

JANUARY 14TH

Altar Vases: Given by Pat Ormond and Julie Ruth and Families
In Memory of Austin Ruth

JANUARY 21ST

Altar Vases: Given by Bill and Linda Sterner
In Honor of Our 57th Wedding Anniversary

JANUARY 28TH

Altar Vases: Both vases are open for dedication for \$17.00 each.
Please contact the church office at 637-8904 or
offcoor129@gmail.com.



JANUARY Worship Helpers

January Altar Care: *Need Volunteer(s)*



January 7th

Assisting Minister: TBD

CPIC: Kathy Gates

Lector: *Need Volunteer*

Comm. Assts: Kathy Gates | *Need Volunteer*

Greeters: Bill Leppo | *Need Volunteer*

January 14th

CPIC: Pennie Highlands

Lector: Hollis Long

Comm. Assts: Pennie Highlands | Hollis Long

Greeters: Bill Leppo | *Need Volunteer*

January 21st

CPIC: TBD

Lector: Alex Spalding

Comm. Assts: TBD | *Need Volunteer*

Greeters: Bill Leppo | *Need Volunteer*

January 28th

CPIC: Martha Lippy

Lector: *Need Volunteer*

Comm. Assts: Martha Lippy | *Need Volunteer*

Greeters: Bill Leppo | *Need Volunteer*

News and Happenings in Our Community

Provide-A-Lunch Team #3 will be serving at HACC on January 28th:

Our primary team members include: Nancy Beimler, Linda Bolin, Dale Dull, and Shirley Hippensteel.

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, single-serve granola bars.

Clothing Bank: Winter clothing, socks, men's jeans waist sizes 30-34, coats for all ages.

Shelter: Hygiene products (shampoo, conditioner, soap, body wash), Clorox wipes, kitchen trash bags, Ziploc bags, cleaning products.

Meals on Wheels: Throw blankets, adult coloring books, colored pencils, word search books, compression socks, 3-compartment plastic to-go containers.

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

Ruth's Harvest: HACC's Ruth's Harvest program was established to make sure kids on the free-lunch program at school are also fed on weekends and holidays. 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 will continue through the first two weeks of January. Contact the Hanover Historical Society or see Mike Noble for more information.



Free Winter Concerts:

Celtic Band: First Evangelical Lutheran Church of Carlisle presents Cormorant's Fancy Celtic Band on Sunday, **February 25th** at 4:00pm. Admission is free. Please contact First Evangelical at 717-249-3310 or check out firstlutherancarlisle.org.

EUCC Community Concert Series: The next show on EUCC's concert schedule is the Susquehanna Slide Express. This trombone quintet is scheduled for Sunday, **March 10th** at 3:00pm. They have an extensive repertoire of marches, jazz, patriotic, show tunes, sacred, and Renaissance/Baroque/Classical music. Contact EUCC at 124 Broadway in Hanover for more information (717-632-8281).





Preschool Updates:

The 3's and 4's classes were spreading lots of joy for the season at their **Christmas Programs**. They all did such a great job singing and dancing for their families. We are super proud of them! Our **Santa Fundraiser** did great and the children that received letters from Santa were super excited. Thank you to all that donated to this magical fundraiser. Our total raised after expenses was **\$348.06**.

Registration Information for 2024-2025

(Please share with anyone that may be interested in signing their child up for preschool this upcoming school year).

If you have a child that has already attended St. Mark Preschool or family members that attend St. Mark Lutheran Church, you may register in **January**.

Beginning **February 1st**, families new to St. Mark Preschool may begin registering also.

For a registration form and/or more information about our preschool program, you may visit:

stmarkpreschoolhanover.weebly.com (St. Mark Preschool's website)

stmarkhanover.org (St. Mark Church's website)

The registration form and \$35 fee may be mailed in or dropped off to the church office between 9:00am and 12:00pm Monday through Friday.

Registrations will be processed in the order they arrive. You will be notified that we received your form and if your child will be in the class you requested.

If you are interested in signing your child up for the upcoming preschool year, please register ASAP, as spots fill up quickly!

Any questions about 2024-2025 Registration or if you would like to set up a tour of our preschool, please contact Idonia Klunk at 717-451-4803.

We hope everyone had a Merry Christmas and we're looking forward to the New Year ahead.

— Idonia Klunk and Allison Wentz, Preschool Co-Directors



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	<p>1</p> <p>-OFFICE CLOSED-</p> 	<p>2</p> <p>9:00am-12noon Office Open</p>	<p>3</p> <p>9:00am-12noon Office Open</p>	<p>4</p> <p>9:00am-12noon Office Open</p> <p>9:00am-12noon Quilting Group</p> <p>1pm St. Mark Eats @ Rosie's</p> <p>3pm Evangelism Mtg</p> <p>6pm Council Dinner</p>	<p>5</p> <p>9:00am-12noon Office Open</p> <p>11:00am Bible Study</p>	<p>6</p> <p>5:30pm Spoken Liturgy of Word</p> 
<p>Baptism of Our Lord 7</p> <p>9:00am Worship 10:15am Sunday School</p>  <p>Bells Rehearsal</p>	<p>8</p> <p>9:00am-12noon Office Open</p>	<p>9</p> <p>9:00am-12noon Office Open</p> <p>9:30am Property Mtg</p>	<p>10</p> <p>9:00am-12noon Office Open</p>  <p>PECULIAR PEOPLE DAY</p>	<p>11</p> <p>9:00am-12noon Office Open</p> <p>9:00am-12noon Quilting Group</p>	<p>12</p> <p>9:00am-12noon Office Open</p> <p>11:00am Bible Study</p>  <p>NATIONAL HOT TEA DAY</p>	<p>13</p> <p>5:30pm Spoken Liturgy of Word</p>
<p>2nd Sunday after Epiphany 14</p> <p>9:00am Worship 10:15am Sunday School</p> <p>Confirmation Class</p> <p>Bells Rehearsal</p>	<p>15</p> <p>9:00am-12noon Office Open</p> <p>Martin Luther King Jr. Day</p>  	<p>16</p> <p>9:00am-12noon Office Open</p> <p>1pm Garden Club Mtg</p>	<p>17</p> <p>9:00am-12noon Office Open</p> <p>7pm Future Task Force</p> 	<p>18</p> <p>9:00am-12noon Office Open</p> <p>9:00am-12noon Quilting Group</p> <p>6pm Fellowship Mtg @ Railside</p>	<p>19</p> <p>9:00am-12noon Office Open</p> <p>11:00am Bible Study</p>	<p>20</p> <p>5:30pm Spoken Liturgy of Word</p>  <p>PENGUIN AWARENESS DAY</p>
<p>3rd Sunday after Epiphany 21</p> <p>9:00am Worship 10:15am Sunday School</p> <p>Bells Rehearsal</p>	<p>22</p> <p>9:00am-12noon Office Open</p>  <p>NATIONAL GRANDPA DAY</p>	<p>23</p> <p>9:00am-12noon Office Open</p> <p>5pm Council Mtg</p>	<p>24</p> <p>9:00am-12noon Office Open</p>	<p>25</p> <p>9:00am-12noon Office Open</p> <p>9:00am-12noon Quilting Group</p>	<p>26</p> <p>9:00am-12noon Office Open</p> <p>11:00am Bible Study</p>	<p>27</p> <p>5:30pm Spoken Liturgy of Word</p>
<p>4th Sunday after Epiphany 28</p> <p>9:00am Worship 10:15am Sunday School</p> <p>Confirmation Class</p> <p>PAL Team 3</p> <p>Bells Rehearsal</p>	<p>29</p> <p>9:00am-12noon Office Open</p>	<p>30</p> <p>9:00am-12noon Office Open</p>  <p>YODEL FOR YOUR NEIGHBORS DAY</p>	<p>31</p> <p>9:00am-12noon Office Open</p> 			

*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

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.

January 2024

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

2024 Congregation Council: Gail Merlo, Michael Merlo, Karen Feeser, Penelope Highlands, Kathy Gates, Martha Lippy, Hunter Shaw, Alex Spalding, Hollis Long, and Tom Long.