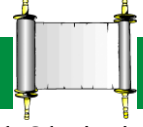




St. Mark Bell

Pastor's Ponderings



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** - Congregational Meeting
- Fellowship Time
- JJ's Toy Shoppe Deadline
- Decorating of Windows
- Dec 3** - 1pm St. Mark Eats @ Perkins
- Dec 4** - 6pm Choir Practice
- Dec 5** - 3pm Evangelism Mtg
- Dec 6** - 8am-5pm Greens Sale
- Dec 7** - 8am-1pm Greens Sale
- Dec 8** - Confirmation Class
- Congregational Meeting Makeup
- Dec 9** - **HUNGER STAR DEADLINE**
- Dec 12** - UPMC Blood Drive
- 1pm Preschool Board Mtg
- Dec 18** - 10:45am PS Program
- Dec 19** - 10:45am PS Program
- 6pm Choir Practice
- Dec 20** - 10:30am/2pm PS Program
- Dec 21** - *1st Day of Winter*
- 8am Tree Decorating/Brunch
- Dec 22** - Pageant Sunday
- **NO SUNDAY SCHOOL**
- **NO CONFIRMATION**
- PAL Team 1
- Dec 24** - **OFFICE CLOSED**
- 3pm/7pm Christmas Eve Services
(6:30pm Prelude)
- Dec 25** - *Merry Christmas!*
- **OFFICE CLOSED**
- Dec 26** - **NO SEWING GROUP**
- Dec 29** - Cookie-Sharing Fellowship
- **NO BELLS**
- Dec 31** - *New Year's Eve*
- Jan 1** - *Happy New Year!*
- **OFFICE CLOSED**
- Jan 2** - **NO SEWING GROUP**
- **NO EVANGELISM**

"And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn." – Luke 2:7

Dear Open-Hearted Christians:

St. Luke tells us that Mary gave birth, wrapped Jesus up, and put him down to sleep in the stable's feedbox. That is all familiar and we see it each year in the pageant stories. But did you ever wonder why there was no room for Jesus?

Yes, of course, there were lots of Israelites traveling to their hometowns to be counted in Ceasar Augustus' call for an empire-wide census. And yes, it was to fulfill the prophecy that Micah had written long before, that in that tiny town of Bethlehem, "the smallest of the clans of Judah," a town that probably did not have a lot of extra room, was to be the place the coming King of kings was to be born. And yes, a very pregnant lady about to give birth would not have felt comfortable or welcomed in the one-room inns of those times where people would lay to rest through the night.

But besides all these obvious answers, I believe Luke perhaps was emphasizing this fact that there was no room at the inn because it highlighted the deeper need to receive Jesus Christ into our lives. St. Luke was not there when Christ was born, he wasn't even one of the twelve disciples later in Jesus' life. In fact, Luke doesn't appear in the biblical account until halfway through the historical book of the Acts of the Apostles, when he began traveling with Paul into Greece through Macedonia. And at the very first place they visit, they turn on the preachers of the Gospel – they get arrested, beaten and driven out. There were many people that chose to close their ears, hearts, and minds to the true Word of God. They made no room for him in their lives. Luke knew that the only way we could come to have faith is to make sure we were open to Jesus.

So how about you? Two thousand years later, are we making room for Jesus in our lives? Christmas is coming and it is one of the highlights of the church year, because it marks the birth of our Lord, our Savior. But do we still have trouble making room for him in the busyness of the season? Do we set aside time to be in prayer, to read his Word, to attend worship and give thanks to God?

This Advent, prepare yourselves for his coming into your life by taking a moment each day and quietly opening yourself up to his presence, to his truth and love. Decide this month to make room for Jesus and to be fully with him in faith. Don't let him come again and find that there is still no room for him in the inn of our hearts and minds.

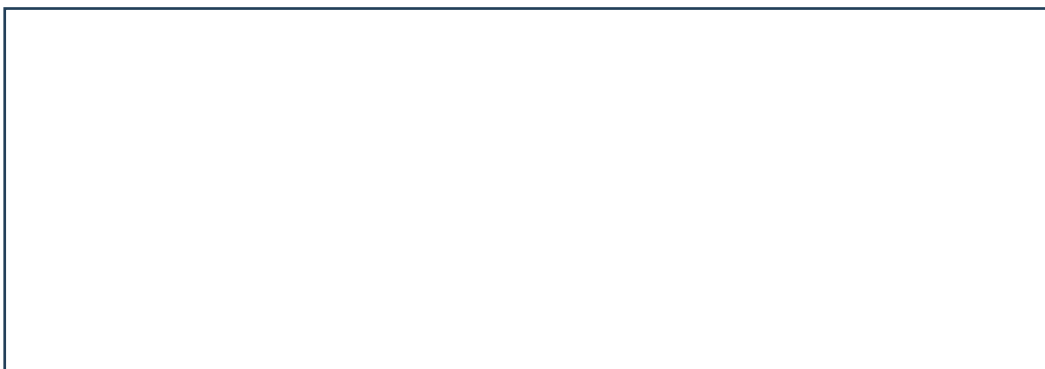


In the peace and grace of God, Pastor Kirk Griffin

HAPPENINGS AND NEWS IN OUR CONGREGATION

- Council met on Tuesday, November 19th, at 4:00pm, beginning with prayer.
- Council gave blessings.
- Received a thank you letter from HACC Ruth's Harvest ministry and a note from the Sewing group.
- Council reviewed and approved the October Council meeting minutes and reviewed the attendance averages.
- Council President Mike Merlo gave his report and gave thanks for everyone's dedication throughout this past year.
- Pastor gave his statistical report. He also noted that the Nomination Committee will need to have a slate of nominees for the December congregation meeting. He also questioned Council about who will be responsible for snow removal this year at entrances before worship. Lastly, Pastor presented to Council and the Finance Committee the synod guidelines for a Treasurer's and Bookkeeper's guide.
- Evangelism Committee reported on their last meeting, noting prayer cards, inspiration envelopes, and God's Blessings postings that have been given out. They also discussed the wonderful job the Bazaar volunteers did and funds that were raised to go to hurricane relief in the South through Lutheran Disaster Relief. Of course, some suggestions were made and discussed for next year, especially how to get more church members involved. There were plans made for the "What I Am Thankful For" tree on Harvest Home Sunday. It was also discussed and endorsed to place the inspiration envelopes out in public offices such as medical or psychiatrist offices.
- Fellowship Committee reported on continuing list of St. Mark *Eats* events coming up through summer of 2025. It was decided to have the Christmas Potluck Brunch Decorating Day on **December 21st**. Additionally, it was planned to have a Love Sunday Fellowship by asking people to bring some favorite cupcakes to share on **February 16th** in 2025.
- Worship and Music Committee reviewed upcoming Advent and Christmas season.
- HACC Board minutes and the latest from the A/C Task Force were reviewed by Council.
- Finance report was reviewed and the 2025 proposed budget was forwarded to the congregation for adoption at the December Annual Election/Budget meeting.
- Council decided to cancel their December meeting and instead have a Christmas dinner together the first week of January.

October's Treasurer's Report



CONGREGATIONAL BUDGET AND ELECTION MEETING

December 1st Following Morning Worship – Makeup Date December 8th

Proposed Budget for 2025

The following is a synopsis of the proposed budget for 2025 with listings of 2023 & 2024 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.

Expense Grouping	2023 Budget	2024 Budget	2025 Budget
Christian Education	\$ 900.00	\$ 800.00	\$ 700.00
Archives	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Evangelism	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00
Stewardship	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Fellowship	\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00	\$ 450.00
Property & Ground	\$ 4,200.00	\$ 4,200.00	\$ 4,000.00
Building	\$ 35,100.00	\$ 35,200.00	\$ 35,050.00
Social Ministry	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 1,900.00
Staff Salary/Benefits	\$ 80,949.54	\$ 80,552.24	\$ 82,002.25
Pastoral/Mutual Ministry	\$ 110,564.99	\$ 116,005.27	\$ 114,560.92
Worship and Music	\$ 5,450.00	\$ 5,950.00	\$ 6,100.00
Youth Ministry	\$ 400.00	\$ 400.00	\$ 400.00
Administrative	\$ 16,350.00	\$ 14,850.00	\$ 16,570.00
Office Expenses	\$ 9,850.00	\$ 10,850.00	\$ 11,450.00
Total	\$ 267,264.53	\$ 272,307.51	\$ 274,183.17
Investments	-	\$ 37,850.00	\$ 43,500.00
Mission Support	-	\$ 12,000.00	\$ 12,000.00
	2023 Budget	2024 Budget	2025 Budget
Contributions	\$ 240,489.55	\$ 234,457.51	\$ 230,683.17
Investments	\$ 26,774.98	\$ 37,850.00	\$ 43,500.00
Memorials	\$ 720.00	N/A	N/A
Mission Support	\$ 11,733.90	N/A	N/A
Total	\$ 267,264.53	\$ 272,307.51	\$ 274,183.17

Nominations of Elections

As of this writing the nominations given are:

Congregation Council

Four (4) members, 3-year-terms
 Nominees: **Martha Lippy; Hunter Shaw;**
(Still need 2 more)

Audit Committee

One (1) auditor, 3-year-term
 Nominee: **Hollis Long**

2025 Nominating Committee

Two (2) members from congregation, 1-year-term
 Nominees: **Still need both**

June 2025 Synod Assembly

Two (2) delegates, one (1) male, one (1) female to represent congregation
 Nominees: **Still need both**



Prayer List for December

- | | | | | |
|-----------------------------------|------------------------|------------------------------------|------------------------|--|
| • Dora | • Dennis Fahey | • Craig King | • Merle Mummert | • Beverly Snyder |
| • Grayson | • Betty Fury | • Shawn Klunk | • Pam Mummert | • Jody Spellman |
| • Daniel Ard | • Nancy Fridinger | • Kelly Koontz | • Carolyn Neumyer | • Phyllis Tasto |
| • Jessica (Feeser) Boone | • Nancy Gill | • Norma Kreidler | • Marian Noble | • Jennie Tome |
| • Katherine Borsella | • Vickie Gouker | • Mary Lou Krummeck | • Susan O'Brien | • George Tracy |
| • Patrick Brady | • Dane Graham | • Allen Kuhns | • Kelly Perdue | • Allison Trump |
| • Frances Claybaugh | • Tom Greenholt | • Jo Kuhns | • Rose Poist | • Ed Wagaman |
| • Tom Cowan | • Bob Groft | • David Kunkel | • Mary Riley | • Gloria Wagaman |
| • Family & Friends of John Cromer | • John Hagerman | • Jean Lawrence | • Carl Sandruck | • Jody Walter |
| • Lisa Dickensheets | • Carol Ann Haines | • Tom Lawrence | • David Sandruck | • Naomi Warren |
| • Diane Duffy | • Chase Henry & Family | • Ronnie Lippy | • Lucus Schneider | • Barb Watson |
| • Robin Eline | • Carrie Hernden | • Naura Luqman | • Jim Schuman | • Ron Wentz |
| • Tarek Elnaggar | • Peg Hippensteel | • Dave & Denise Martin | • Bob and Cecelia Sell | • Kathy Wildasin |
| • Jean Eshbach | • Mary Hnatkowisz | • Carol McDermitt-Humes | • Bob Shue | • Edward Wiltrout |
| • Carol Fadenrecht & Family | • Martha Howells | • Carol Miller | • Dawn Slate | • Scott Wisner |
| | • Donna Jones | • Family & Friends of Sandy Miller | • Luanne Slusser | • Rebecca Wisotzkey |
| | • Debbie Kellenbenz | • Merita Moore | • Denise Smith | • Those dealing with the aftermath of Hurricanes Helene and Milton |
| | | • Emily Moul | • Pr. Jerry Smith | |
| | | • Leah Moul | • JoAnn Smith | |
| | | | • Samuel Smith | |
| | | | • Sarah Smith | |

We ask that you keep all our shut-ins and those needing special help in your daily prayers. If you know of someone in need of prayer, please contact the church office or add them to the prayer list located on the brass stand in the narthex

St. Mark's Designated Fund

*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 and early detection, and maximizing quality care and support.

To contribute to this month's designated need, please mail in your donations or place them in our collection plates, specifying "Alzheimer's Association" or "December Designated Giving" on your check or the *Other* line of your offering envelope. Donations made on the *Other* line that have no written designation will automatically be given to that month's ministry fund. Thanks for your support.

*****BRRR*****



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 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!

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO OUR DECEMBER BABIES!

- Dec. 3** Susan Miller
- 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 you ever notice a missing birthday – please contact the office at 717-637-8904*

TUESDAY, December 3rd
Lunch at Perkins at 1:00pm

TUESDAY, January 7th
Lunch at Primanti Brothers at 1:00pm

St. Mark Eats



Glory Card Update

In October, we received **290** cards. We still have time to get closer to our goal of 2,024 Acts of Glory for the year! Look for the index cards in the pews and share the epiphany glimmers in your everyday life!



Directory Request



As we update 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!

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!

inspiration

Did You Know...

? ? ? ? ? ? ? ? ? ? ? ? ? ? ? ?

...that it takes lots of people to get us through the Advent and Epiphany seasons. Each year we decorate for Advent and Christmas, and this takes volunteers. From bulletins to wreath hanging; from tree dressing to manger arranging; from window displays to aisle candles; from pageant players to music/reader leaders – there are dozens of people involved.

A humongous thank you to all for their participation and willingness to volunteer.

? ? ? ? ? ? ? ? ? ? ? ? ? ? ? ?



IMPORTANT REMINDERS



Upcoming dates to note – check out our November newsletter (found at stmarkhanover.org) or contact the office for more information.

November 25th – Food Drive Ends

Be sure to clean out your pantry and bring in your donations to help feed our community.

November 30th – Offering Envelopes

Please pick up yours before/after worship services or any business day between 9:00am and 12noon.

December 1st – Toy Drive Ends

If you didn't get a chance to grab a tag, no worries – bring in anything you wish!

December 6th-7th – Greens Sale

Stop by our fellowship hall to purchase Christmas greenery from the Hanover Garden Club the first full weekend in December.

December 9th – Hunger Stars Due

Dedicate beautiful handmade Christmas stars to help fight world hunger. Stars are \$5.00 – forms are on the narthex shelf or call the office at 717-637-8904.

December 21st - Tree Decorating/Brunch

Sign up to join in on tree decorating at 8:00am, followed by a delicious potluck brunch. This is a wonderful fellowship opportunity!

December 31st – Tax Deadline

Just a reminder that if you wish for your contributions to the A/C fund and any other funds to be attributed to the 2024 tax year, be sure to get them into the office (not just postmarked) by **December 31st**.


ANNOUNCEMENTS

Dedications to Loved Ones

Poinsettia, star, and greenery dedications will be listed in a Christmas Eve bulletin insert. Poinsettias and star ornaments can be taken home after the 7:00pm Christmas Eve service or any time the following week.



Bringing Warmth to Others



Beginning **November 30th**, the Advent Knit Tree will welcome donations of warm clothing: mittens, hats, socks, gloves, scarves, etc. All donations are greatly appreciated and will be put to good use. Work gloves and socks are welcome, as well.

Christmas Cookie-Sharing Fellowship Date

Traditionally, we bring in cookies to share together in fellowship on the first Sunday of Christmas. So please join us on Sunday, **December 29th**, for our Cookie Sharing Fellowship time. Bring in any leftover (or freshly-baked!) cookies you'd like to share!



January Newsletter

January's newsletter will be sent out on Friday, **January 3rd**. We included a tentative calendar for the first few days of January to make sure we've covered that time. Since November's newsletter is going out so early due to the upcoming Congregational Meeting, please be sure to **check the weekly announcements for date changes in December and January.**

Thank you for your understanding!





Election Day Greeters:

Thank you to Nancy Sandruck, Pat Keefer, Kathy & Dave Gates, Jane Bish, and Laurie & Bill Leppo for taking shifts to welcome voters to St. Mark.

Fall Bazaar Helpers:

A big THANK YOU to all that contributed or helped make our Fall Bazaar a success. Our proceeds amounted to \$1530 and will be contributed to Lutheran Disaster Response. The money will be used to help the hurricane Helene and Milton survivors in the southern United States. – *Martha Lippy, Chair*

The Evangelism Committee:

While I was voting, I picked up a devotion envelope. It was exactly what I needed. It was my first election since my parents passed, and it made my day. Thank you. – *Judy (Phone Call)*

Bakers & Eaters:

Thank you to all who contributed baked goods to the Preschool's Bake Sale. And thank you to everyone who stopped by to support the sale by purchasing treats. They raised well over \$900 for the school!

DECEMBER ALTAR VASES

December 1st

Both Vases Given in Honor of Family

By Nancy Beimler

December 8th

Given in Honor of Sayre T. Long's 32nd Birthday on December 9th

By Thomas and Hollis Long

December 15th

Given in Honor of Our Family Members

By Thomas and Hollis Long

December 22nd

Given in Honor of Grace Laird's Birthday

By Kate Klunk and Jared and Claire Laird

December 29th

Given in Memory of Evelyn Bish

By the Robert L. Bish Family

Both Vases Given in Memory of Helen Ruth

By Pat Ormond and Julie Ruth and Families

Best Wishes to Everyone in the World to Have a Happy New Year!

By Robert and Grace Groft

Given in Honor of All My Family Members

By Robert and Grace Groft

**Please contact the Church Office to sponsor a vase at \$17.00 each*



DECEMBER

Sunday Worship Helpers

December 1st

CPIC: Hollis Long
Wreath Lighting: Klunk-Laird Family
Acolyte: *Need Volunteer*
Lector: Grace Groft
Comm. Assts: Hollis Long | Karen Feeser
Greeter: Bill Leppo

December 8th

CPIC: Martha Lippy
Wreath Lighting: Shermeyer Family
Acolyte: *Need Volunteer*
Lector: Kathy Gates
Comm. Assts: Martha Lippy | Kathy Gates
Greeter: Bill Leppo

December 15th

CPIC: Tom Long
Wreath Lighting: Stuckey-Reese Family
Acolyte: *Need Volunteer*
Lector: Hollis Long
Comm. Assts: Tom Long | Karen Feeser
Greeter: Bill Leppo

December 22nd

CPIC: Gail Merlo
Wreath Lighting: Keefer Family
Acolyte: *Need Volunteer*
Lector: Mike Merlo
Comm. Assts: Gail Merlo | *Need Volunteer*
Greeter: Bill Leppo

December 24th 3:00pm

CPIC: Gail Merlo
Wreath Lighting: Klunk-Laird Family
Acolyte: *Need Volunteer*
Readers: *Need Volunteers*
Comm. Assts: Gail Merlo | *Need Volunteer*
Greeter: *Need Volunteer*

December 24th 7:00pm

CPIC: Hollis Long
Wreath Lighting: Wildasin Family
Acolyte: *Need Volunteer*
Readers: Pennie Highlands | Pat Keefer |
 Karen Feeser | *Need Volunteers*
Comm. Assts: Hollis Long | *Need Volunteer*
Greeter: Bill Leppo

December 29th

CPIC: Penelope Highlands
Lector: Alex Spalding
Comm. Assts: Penelope Highlands | *Need Volunteer*
Greeter: Bill Leppo



Worship Team

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES

Christmas Eve services this year will be held on Tuesday, **December 24th**, at **3:00pm** and **7:00pm**. We'll have a special musical prelude at 6:30pm). Plan ahead, bring the family and friends, and celebrate Christ's birth with us.



MERRY CHRISTMAS

Worship Helpers Needed

As you can see, **we still need readers for both services**. If you'd like to be part of this special, once-a-year worship service, please sign up in the narthex as soon as possible.

ADVENT – OUR TIMELINE OF PREPARATIONS FOR THE COMING INCARNATION OF OUR LORD AT CHRISTMAS

Advent One

November 30th/December 1st

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 Three

December 14th/15th

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.



Advent Four

December 21st/22nd

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



Advent Two

December 7th and 8th

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.



**Tree Decorating
Saturday, December 21st at
8:00am**

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

Christmas: Nativity of Our Lord

**Christmas Eve Worship, Tuesday, December 24th
3:00pm and 7:00pm with Prelude Starting at 6:30pm**

NEWS AND HAPPENINGS IN OUR COMMUNITY

Provide-A-Lunch at Hanover Area Council of Churches

Provide-A-Lunch Team #1 will be serving at HACC on December 22nd. Our primary team members include: **Melanie Brady, Shellene Griffin, and Nancy Sandruck.**

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 teams, we can use more PAL volunteers. Teams alternate monthly. Any help is appreciated. Call or just come to one of our serving events at HACC on Carlisle Street.



HACC News and Special Needs

PAL (Provide-a-Lunch) Program: Canned Vegetables, Sugar, Ziploc Bags (Sandwich- and Gallon-Sizes), Grocery Bags, Shopping Bags

Ruth's Harvest: Single-Serve Fruit Cups, Single-Serve Cereals, Macaroni & Cheese Cups, Canned Vegetables

Meals On Wheels: Thermal Socks, NO-Slip Slippers, Sugar-Free Candy/Snacks, Journal Books, Colored Pencils

Clothing Bank: Men's Jeans Waist Sizes 30-34, Shoes/Sneakers (All Sizes), Grocery Bags, Shopping Bags, Reuseable Bags, Dryer Sheets, Baggies (Snack-Size), Winter Wear Items

Shelter: Shampoo, Conditioner, Body Wash, Toothbrushes, Soap, Razors (Men's and Women's), Twin-Size Fitted Sheets, Comforters, and Heavy Blankets

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

Community Holiday Program

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 13th** at 1:00pm. Please call 717-632-2500 with any questions.



Community Concert Series

Emmanuel UCC at 124 Broadway in Hanover is holding their 114th Annual Carol Sing on Sunday, **December 22nd**, at 7:00pm, accompanied by a 30-piece community orchestra. For more information contact Emmanuel UCC at 717-632-8281.

Save Lives!

We have another blood drive scheduled at St. Mark on **December 12th** 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. Sign up to help UPMC, the CPBB, and St. Mark save lives in our community!

**SAVE
a Life**



NEWS FROM ST. MARK PRESCHOOL



Preschool Christmas Events

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

The 3-year-old classes will have their Christmas Programs / Parties on Wednesday, **December 18th**, and Thursday, **December 19th**, at 10:45am.

The 4-year-old classes will have their Christmas Programs/Parties on Friday, **December 20th**, at 10:30am and 2:00pm.



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 Friday, December 6th.**

If you ordered a letter in the past, no worries – you may order again. 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).



2025-2026 Registration

Registration for the 2025-2026 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 have them contact the preschool at stmarkpreschoolhanoverpa@aol.com or 717-451-4803.



Bake Sale

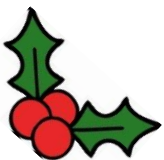
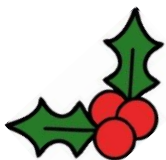


A special thank you to everyone for helping make our Preschool Bake Sale Fundraiser a big success. We appreciate everyone who helped the day of the sale, supplied baked items, and purchased baked items. The final total for the bake sale is **\$945.56**.



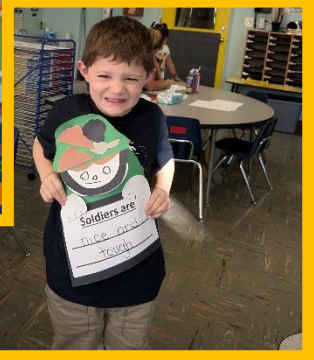
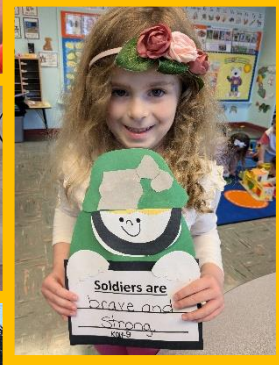
The Preschool Committee and Staff would like to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

– Idonia Klunk and Allison Wentz, Preschool Co-Directors



FALL FUN

for kids . . .



. . . and not-kids



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1st Sunday of Advent 1 9:00am Worship 10:15am Sunday School  Fellowship Time After Worship JJ's Toy Shoppe Deadline Decorating of Windows Congregational Meeting <i>Bells Rehearsal</i>	2 9:00am-12noon <i>Office Open</i>	3 9:00am-12noon <i>Office Open</i> 1pm St Mark Eats @ Perkins	4 9:00am-12noon <i>Office Open</i> 6pm-7pm Choir Practice	5 9:00am-12noon <i>Office Open</i> 9:00am-12noon <i>Quilting Group</i> 3pm Evangelism Mtg	6 9:00am-12noon <i>Office Open</i> 11:00am Bible Study 8am-5pm Greens Sale  ST NICHOLAS DAY	7 5:30pm Spoken Liturgy of Word 8am-1pm Greens Sale
2nd Sunday of Advent 8 9:00am Worship 10:15am Sunday School Confirmation Class Congregational Meeting Makeup <i>Bells Rehearsal</i>	9 9:00am-12noon <i>Office Open</i> <u>HUNGER STAR DEADLINE</u> 	10 9:00am-12noon <i>Office Open</i>	11 9:00am-12noon <i>Office Open</i>  KALEIDOSCOPE DAY	12 9:00am-12noon <i>Office Open</i> 9:00am-12noon <i>Quilting Group</i> UPMC Blood Drive 1pm Preschool Board Meeting	13 9:00am-12noon <i>Office Open</i> 11:00am Bible Study	14 5:30pm Spoken Liturgy of Word
3rd Sunday of Advent 15 9:00am Worship 10:15am Sunday School <i>Bells Rehearsal</i>	16 9:00am-12noon <i>Office Open</i>	17 9:00am-12noon <i>Office Open</i>  WRIGHT BROTHERS DAY	18 9:00am-12noon <i>Office Open</i> 10:45am Preschool Christmas Program	19 9:00am-12noon <i>Office Open</i> 9:00am-12noon <i>Quilting Group</i> 10:45am Preschool Christmas Program 6pm-7pm Choir Practice	20 9:00am-12noon <i>Office Open</i> 11:00am Bible Study 10:30am/2pm Preschool Christmas Program	21 5:30pm Spoken Liturgy of Word  8:00am Tree Decorating/Brunch 1ST DAY OF WINTER
4th Sunday of Advent 22 9:00am Worship & Pageant Pageant Sunday No Sunday School No Confirmation  PAL Team 1 <i>Bells Rehearsal</i>	23 9:00am-12noon <i>Office Open</i>	24 -OFFICE CLOSED-  Christmas Eve SERVICES 3PM & 7PM (6:30PM PRELUDE)	25 -OFFICE CLOSED- 	26 9:00am-12noon <i>Office Open</i> 9:00am-12noon Quilting Group NO SEWING GROUP	27 9:00am-12noon <i>Office Open</i> 11:00am Bible Study	28 5:30pm Spoken Liturgy of Word
1st Sunday of Christmas 29 9:00am Worship 10:15am Sunday School  Cookie Sharing Fellowship <i>No Bells Rehearsal</i>	30 9:00am-12noon <i>Office Open</i>	31 9:00am-12noon <i>Office Open</i>  New Year's Eve	1 -OFFICE CLOSED- HAPPY NEW YEAR 2025	2 9-12 Office Open NO SEWING GROUP NO EVANGELISM	3 9-12 Office Open 11am Bible Study	4 5:30pm Spoken Liturgy of Word

JANUARY

December

**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 on winter break and other closings.*

St. Mark Lutheran Church

129 Charles Street
Hanover, PA 17331

*Christmas Worship
Please join us on December 24th for 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

*St. Mark Evangelical Lutheran Church's
Purpose is to be
Growing in Grace, Impacting the World*

December 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 Rodenhauer

Housekeeper: Danielle Miskimon

Preschool Co-Directors: Allison Wentz /Idonia Klunk

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