

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

Mar 2 - Transfiguration

- Fellowship Time Following Worship

Mar 4 - Fastnacht Day

- Mardi Gras

- March Forth!!

- 1pm St. Mark Eats @ Divino's

Mar 5 - Ash Wednesday

- 7pm Ash Wednesday Worship Service

Mar 6 - 3pm Evangelism Mtg

Mar 7 - World Day of Prayer

Mar 9 - Spring Forward! & Check Your Smoke Alarms!

- Confirmation Class

Mar 10 - Preschool Sub Sale Orders Due

Mar 11 - 9:30am Property Mtg

Mar 12 - 6pm Lenten Soup Dinner

Mar 14 - Happy Pi Day!

Mar 16 - Easter Flower Orders Due

- Confirmation Class

Mar 17 - St. Patrick's Day

Mar 18 - 1pm Garden Club Mtg

Mar 19 - 11am-1pm Sub Sale Pickup

- 6pm Lenten Soup Dinner

Mar 20 - 1st Day of Spring

- 1pm Preschool Board Mtg

Mar 23 - Council Mtg Following
Worship

- PAL Team A

Mar 25 - Annunciation of Our Lord

Mar 26 - 6pm Lenten Soup Dinner

Mar 30 - Deadline to Dedicate Doves

- Confirmation Class

"Now I rejoice, not because you were sorry, but because your sorrow led to

repentance." 1 Cor. 7:9a

Dear Repentant St. Markians:

Alice felt guilty. She knew what she said had cut to the heart. She could see it in the eyes and shoulders of her

longtime friend. But the words had just slipped out, and now Alice felt awful and disgusted with herself. They had been friends for over fifty years, ever since sitting next to each other in grade school. They had grown up together, shared their dreams, stood next to each other when they got married, celebrated when they had their children, comforted each other when they lost their husbands. They knew each other better than anyone else in their lives, and now that relationship was broken. Alice felt horrible, but what could she do?

Each one of us knows what Alice is feeling. We each have had friends and loved ones that we have hurt by a slip of the tongue, a quick lash of words, by actions that are done without thinking, or even an evil thought that we just can't seem to let go. Every time we lie, deceive, ignore, attack, or abuse, we are doing ourselves and others harm. These moments when our sinful nature comes roaring out can be detrimental to any relationship we have with others, with God, and even with ourselves. This is the disease of sin we all carry within us.

The only way to battle this disease is to be honest and recognize we need to turn and repent for that sinful nature. Our confession empowers us to admit that "if we say we have no sin we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us." In this Lenten season we have that opportunity to seek forgiveness and practice repentance.

Since we know we are sinners, we are able to follow the three steps of repentance. Our first step is confessing that we have done wrong. We have to honestly admit to ourselves and reflect on the mistakes we have made and the guilt that fills our lives. Part of this process is admitting it is not always someone else's fault but simply our own heart and mind that causes the strife in our lives. The second step is to humbly seek forgiveness. That could mean admitting before someone else that we were wrong and we are sorry. It might mean that we also have to admit it to ourselves and to God. Lastly, the third step in repentance is to turn – physically, spiritually, emotionally – from the wrongdoing and attempt to do better in future situations. This Lenten season, let us enter into repentance and seek forgiveness for our guilt.

In the peace and grace of God, *Pastor Kirk Griffin*

HAPPENINGS AND NEWS IN OUR CONGREGATION

Congregational Council Happenings – February 16th

- Council met on Sunday, February 16th, following morning worship and fellowship of cupcakes and coffee.
- Council discussed the January Treasurer report as presented. January always starts off in the positive due to fourth quarter investment proceeds being deposited in the first month of the New Year. We also started off the year, as usual, over budget in building and administrative expenses due to heating season and paying insurance and end-ofyear payroll fees. So, overall, expenses are a bit up from last year, but investments are up also, giving us a good start to the year.
- Council shared recent blessings and concerns:
 - Council can meet following morning worship so that everyone can be involved.
 - We give thanks to Jeff Kindschuh for his years of service and for bringing us this month's finance report.
 - It was noted that, despite weather, we have remained able to have in-person worship available.
 - Continued prayers for member and elementary Sunday School teacher, Amanda Stuckey, and her family.
- Council approved minutes and reviewed congregational meeting minutes.
- Council reviewed a thank you note from Lutheran Disaster Response and circulated the CPIC signup sheet, while reviewing the attendance and roll updates.

- Council President Mike Merlo gave a positive review of the working and meshing of the council and entire congregation as we continue to move ahead in our ministry.
- Pastor gave his statistical report.
- Evangelism Committee gave report noting the prayer cards that were sent out and the welcome bags that are available to visitors by the guest book. The Glory Project is still going, and an announcement will be shared.
- Worship and Music Committee gave report as they planned ahead for Lent and the Easter Seasons.
- During the Preschool report, it was noted that most of the classes have already been filled for next year. It seems that we have a great reputation in the community for our preschool program, and it was suggested that we work towards involving the congregation more into the outreach of our preschool programs.
- Pastor reported on the last HACC Board meeting and told Council that we need to have a new delegate from St. Mark to the Board.
- Council reviewed the listing of Dale Dull's regular contributions as a member of Property. Various items will need to be picked up by the sexton, and other items will depend on church members to complete as needs arise.

January's Treasurer's Report



- Dora
- Grayson
- Al Allison
- Daniel Ard
- Katherine Borsella
- Patrick Brady
- Susan Bucher-Laughman
- Frances Claybaugh Tom Greenholt
- Tom Cowan
- Oscar Crow
- Pastor David DeLong
- Lisa Dickensheets
- Diane Duffy
- Robin Eline
- Tarek Elnaggar

- Jean Eshbach
- Carol Fadenrecht & Family & Friends Family
- Dennis Fahey
- Nancy Fridinger
- Nancy Gill
- Vickie Gouker
- Dane Graham
- Bob Groft
- John Hagerman
- Chase Henry & Family
- Carrie Hernden
- Peg Hippensteel
- Michael Humes
- Martha Howells

- Donna Jones
- Debbie Kellenbenz
- Craig King
- Shawn Klunk
- Kelly Koontz
- Norma Kreidler
- of Mary Lou
 - Krummeck
- Allen Kuhns
- Jo Kuhns
- David Kunkel
- Jean Lawrence
- Tom Lawrence
- Bill Leppo
- Ronnie Lippy
- Naura Luqman
- Carol McDermitt-Humes
- Carol Miller
- Merita Moore
- Ed Moran
- Emily Moul

- Leah Moul
- Merle Mummert
- Pam Mummert
- Wayne Noel
- Carolyn Neumyer
- Marian Noble
- Susan O'Brien
- Kelly Perdue
- Mary Riley
- Wally Rodenhaber
- Carl Sandruck
- David Sandruck
- Lucus Schneider
- Jim Schuman
- Bob and Cecelia Sel1
- Julie Sell-Smith
- Bob Shue
- Family & Friends of Dawn Slate
- Luanne Slusser
- Denise Smith

- Pr. Jerry Smith
- JoAnn Smith
- Sarah Smith

Prayer List for March

- Jody Spellman
- Amanda Stuckey
- Phyllis Tasto
- Jennie Tome
- George Tracy
- Allison Trump
- Erin Viozzi
- Ed Wagaman
- Gloria Wagaman
- Jody Walter
- Naomi Warren
- Barb Watson
- Ron Wentz
- Kathy Wildasin
- Rebecca Wisotzkey

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.

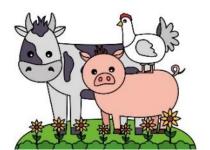
March's offering benefits Olivia's House of Hanover. Olivia's House is an organization of caregiving professionals and volunteers committed to supporting grieving children. Its purpose is to facilitate healing through grief and loss education.



To contribute to this month's designated need, please mail in your donations or place them in our collection plates, specifying "Changing Lives" or "February 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.

God's Global Barnyard

Don't forget to keep collecting loose change from now until Easter Sunday to fill your piggy banks for God's Global Barnyard. The Sunday School will put your coins to good use, helping international communities purchase animals and other necessities to build new lives and escape the cycle of poverty and hunger. Watch for the glass collection box soon. THANK YOU!



Happy Birthday To Our MARCH Birthdays!

March 1	Natalie Ormond Julie Sell-Smith		March 19 March 20
March 3	William Naill III Michele Smeach Phyllis Tasto		March 21
	Deborah Wilson	College	March 22
March 4	Melissa Wise		
March 6	Matthew Smith		March 24
March 7	Bill VandenHeuvel		
March 10	Alison Peterson		March 28
March 13	Madlyn Farley		
	Bill Sterner		
March 14	Jackie Brown		March 31
March 15	Barb Watson		If we've mis
			II DE DE MIS

ch 19 Ruth Noble ch 20 Norma Lesher Julie Ruth ch 21 Emma Hagarman Susan Zamudio ch 22 Christopher Hoke Marcus Lobaugh ch 24 Jeffrey Little Faith Warehime Toni Garman ch 28 Breita Stahl Shane Stambaugh

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

Ashley Yelton

TUESDAY, March 4th

March 17

Lunch at Divino's at 1:00pm

Marian Stabley

TUESDAY, April 1st

Lunch at Chili's at 1:00pm

TUESDAY, May 6th

Lunch at Railside at 1:30pm



St. Mark Eats

Inspiration Packets

March 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! And don't forget, forms are now available to order back issues. They're in the inspirations box in the narthex – just fill out a form and turn it in to the church office.

inspiration

Fellowship Hosts Needed

If you enjoy our donuts and coffee tradition on the first Sunday of each month, please consider signing up to set up/clean up the refreshments. The signup sheet is on the narthex bulletin board.

Did you know...

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...that St. Mark has two PAL (Provide-A-Lunch) teams currently serving at Hanover Area Council the Churches? Teams alternate monthly on the fourth Sunday of each month. These volunteers take turns coming together to prepare, bake, serve, and clean up a wonderful lunch for 100 people or so at the HACC building. You can help with this great ministry of Love and Service by talking to our PAL Coordinator, Shellene Griffin, who is responsible for planning getting meals. supplies, scheduling volunteers.

EASTER FLOWER ORDER FORM FLOWER DEADLINE: March 16th DOVE DEADLINE: March 30th



If you are ordering more than one flower type, please specify which type is dedicated to whom.

	Lily(ies) @ \$13.00 each	=	
	Hyacinth(s) @ \$13.00 each	=	
	Tulip(s) @ \$13.00 each	=	
	World Hunger Dove(s) @ \$5.00 each	=	
	TOTA	L: =	
In Memory Of:			
In Honor Of:			
Presented By:			

Contact: Joni @ offcoor129@gmail.com | 717-637-8904 Mail: St. Mark, 129 Charles Street, Hanover, PA 17331

DON'T BE LATE! SPRING FORWARD

This winter's been pretty miserable, but one day spring will come! However, spring also means giving up an hour of sleep. Don't forget to "spring" your clocks forward/set them ahead so you're not late for church on **March 9th!**

And while you're at it, change those smoke detector batteries! Because how else will the 9V battery manufacturers stay in business???



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Thank you to Karen Feeser for this graphic!



Souper Bowl Update

Office Use Only:

Thanks to the generosity of St. Markians, we were able to take **107 food items and \$50** in cash to HACC's food pantry. Thank you to all who donated to this very good cause! With over 1145 other groups, we were able to collect \$18 million in money and food over Super Bowl weekend to help those in need!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Slagle Scholarship

The deadline to turn in applications for the Slagle Scholarship is coming sooner than you think! If you know of a graduating senior of Hanover HS or SWHS who plans to enter the nursing profession, the ministry or other religious work, or attend a vocational school,

tell them to contact Martha Lippy at 717-637-8891. Completed applications must be received by the church office on or before noon on April 4th.



Stolte Scholarship

This is a scholarship that awards \$1,000 for a Hanoverian pursuing a career in ministry, missions, or humanitarian service. The deadline is **April 25**th. Please contact HACC at 717-633-6353 for more information.

Heroes Celebration 2025

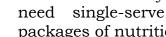
We invite you to our **3rd Annual Heroes Celebration** event where we're honoring everyone who contributes to our community's safety and well-being: active military and veterans, law enforcement/fire/medical personnel, and all other community heroes. On Sunday, **May 18**th, enjoy family activities and displays starting at 5:00pm with a patriotic concert/sing-a-long at 7:00pm, followed by free root beer floats. All activities are free, and there will be food trucks offering paid refreshments.

For more info or to apply to be a vendor, go to stmarkhanover.org, or contact Gary Laabs at laabs5479@gmail.com or 717-632-5479.

Diaper Drive

Ruth's Harvest

HACC's Ruth's Harvest program makes sure kids don't go hungry when schools are closed. They



packages of nutritious food to hand out to kids on Fridays. Please place donations in the HACC shelter bin near the Church Office.



Starting **March 5th** and continuing through Lent, St. Mark is collecting diapers and wipes on behalf of Tender Care Pregnancy Center. You can

drop off your donations of new diapers any time during church office hours, Monday through Friday between 9:00am and 12noon, or just bring them to church when you attend worship.

EGG HUNT COMING SOON!

This year's Easter Egg Hunt is **April 19**th at 10:30am. All children, nursery age to 10 years old, are welcome, even those who don't attend St. Mark. If you know of anyone whose children, grandchildren, etc., would enjoy looking for sweet treasures, please let them know about the hunt. They can sign up in the narthex or call the church office at 717-637-8904.

🗽 🍭 Easter Bunny Be Broke...

...and needs a little help filling his eggs! Can you help him out?? We're requesting candy donations for the annual Easter Egg Hunt. All items should be individually wrapped and small enough to fit into a plastic egg. Watch for a candy donation box in the narthex coming soon!

THE SEASON OF LENT

Lent Begins March 5th

Ash Wednesday begins the season of Lent with a 7:00pm service on **March 5**th. Please join us.

Break Bread, Eat Soup, and Study with Us

If we have enough participants, we will then kick off our weekly Wednesday Lenten Soup Dinners on **March 12th** at **6:00pm** and continue through **April 9th**. Our theme this year is the Stones of Lent.



If you're able to bring soup and/or bread or would just like to join us, **please sign up** in the church office hallway as soon as possible, so that we will know how many to expect.

UPCOMING WORSHIP & DISCUSSIONS

March 5th - Ash Wednesday (7:00pm Worship)

Service of Imposition of Ashes with Holy Communion

March 12th - 2nd Wednesday of Lent (6:00pm 1st Lenten Soup Dinner)

Altar Stones

March 19th – 3rd Wednesday of Lent (6:00pm 2nd Lenten Soup Dinner) *Marker Stones*

March 26th – 4th Wednesday of Lent (3rd Lenten Soup Dinner) *Two Tablets of Stone*

April 2nd – 5th Wednesday of Lent (6:00pm 4th Lenten Soup Dinner)

Chief Cornerstone

April 9th – 6th Wednesday of Lent (6:00pm Final Lenten Soup Dinner)

Sealed Stone

April 13th - Palm Sunday (9:00am Worship)

Welcoming the King of Glory into Our Lives

April 17th - Maundy Thursday (7:00pm Worship)

Gathering at the Last Supper and Out to the Garden

April 18th – Good Friday (7:00pm Worship)

Witnessing Christ's Sacrifice and Death

April 20th – Easter Sunday/Resurrection of our Lord (9:00am Worship)

Celebration of the Risen Lord, the Grave Is Empty!



MARCH ALTAR VASES

Both Vases Given in Honor of Our Daughter, Michelle Burr, and Our Son-in-Law, Ken Burley, for Their Birthdays on March 2nd



Grounds Maintenance:

Thank you to everyone who has pitched in so far with keeping the grounds neat and the sign updated while Wally is out. Not only does it demonstrate our pride in our church to the community, but it's one less thing for Wally to worry about while he recovers.

Cupcakes with Love Sunday:

Thank you to all who brought cupcakes on February 16th and all who stayed to share treats and fellowship.

Thank You from LDR:

Thank you for your gift of \$1,481.50 to Lutheran Disaster Response...Your Spirit-filled generosity helps families and communities reeling from disasters. No matter the variety of disaster, no matter the variety of need, your gifts to LDR enable people to rebuild their lives and livelihoods now and far into the future.

Thank you for your gracious gifts. The glory of God shines through you.

– The Rev. Daniel Rift, Director, Giving, Service, and Justice, ELCA World Hunger and LDR

MARCH Worship Helpers

March 2nd

CPIC: Gail Merlo **Lector:** Karen Feeser

Comm. Assts: Gail Merlo | Kathy Gates

Greeter: Need Volunteer

March 5th (Ash Wednesday)

CPIC: Tom Long **Lector:** Karen Feeser

Comm. Assts: Tom Long | Need Volunteer

Greeter: Need Volunteer

March 9th

CPIC: Martha Lippy **Lector:** Grace Groft

Comm. Assts: Martha Lippy | Need Volunteer

Greeter: Bill Leppo

March 16th

CPIC: Hollis Long **Lector:** Kathy Gates

Comm. Assts: Hollis Long | Jeff Kindschuh

Greeter: Bill Leppo

March 23rd

CPIC: Mike Merlo
Lector: Need Volunteer

Comm. Assts: Mike Merlo | Jeff Kindschuh

Greeter: Bill Leppo

March 30th

CPIC: Kate Klunk **Lector:** Kate Klunk

Comm. Assts: Kate Klunk | Need Volunteer

Greeter: Bill Leppo



News and Happenings in Our Community

Provide-A-Lunch at Hanover Area Council of Churches

Provide-A-Lunch Team A will be serving at HACC on March 23rd. Our primary team members include: Nancy Beimler, Linda Bolin, Melanie Brady, Shellene Griffin, Braelyn Jones, 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 (Sandwichand Gallon-Sizes), Grocery Bags, Shopping Bags

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

Meals On Wheels: Thermal Socks, No-Slip Slippers, Sugar-Free Candy / Snacks, Throw Blankets, Pet Food (Cats & Dogs)

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

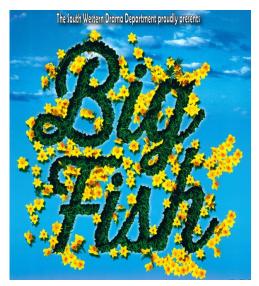
Shelter: Shampoo, Conditioner, Bar Soap or Body Wash, Hair Brushes, Scent-Free / Bleach-Free Laundry Pods, Hot Hands / Hand Warmers

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



MM Big Fish MM

March 13th-15th at 7:00pm in the SWHS Auditorium. Tickets are \$12 in advance, \$15 at the door. Call 717-633-4807 for more information.



Property Tax/Rent Rebate Help

On **March 20th and 27th**, Rep. Kate Klunk's office is offering help filing applications for the Property Tax/Rent Rebate program, which offers rebates for taxes and rent paid in 2024.



Call 717-630-8942 to make an appointment and discuss necessary documentation.

NEWS FROM ST. MARK PRESCHOOL

Registration Updates

St. Mark Preschool is still accepting applications for the **3-year-old Tuesday/Thursday class** to register for the 2025/2026 school year.

For more information about our preschool program and to download a registration form please visit:

<u>stmarkpreschoolhanover.weebly.com</u> (Preschool website) stmarkhanover.org (St. Mark Church's website)





At this time, we have openings in the following class:

3-YEAR-OLD CLASS (TUE/THU) from 9:00am to 11:15am (6 spots open)

THE 3-YEAR-OLD MON/WED,
THE 4-YEAR-OLD AM,
AND THE 4-YEAR-OLD PM CLASSES ARE FULL

To register, please submit an application form along with a **\$45 registration fee**. Forms can be **mailed to St. Mark Preschool** (129 Charles Street) **or dropped off** at the church office (Willow Street entrance closest to Allegheny) any weekday between 9:00am and 12:00pm.

Registrations will be processed in the order they arrive. You will be notified that we received the form and whether your child will be in the class you requested. If you are interested in signing up your child or know of someone who may be interested in the upcoming preschool

year, **please register ASAP** as we tend to fill up quickly.

For questions about 2025/2026 registration, or if you would like to set up a tour of our preschool, please contact Idonia Klunk at 717-451-4803.

Idonia Klunk and Allison Wentz,
 Preschool Co-Directors

DELICIOUS FUNDRAISER ALERT!!

Sub Sale

We're now taking orders for our spring **R & K Sub Sale Fundraiser**. Order forms are available on the church office hallway table. Orders and payment are due **March 10**th, with pickup on Wednesday, **March 19**th, between 11:00am and 1:00pm in the fellowship hall.

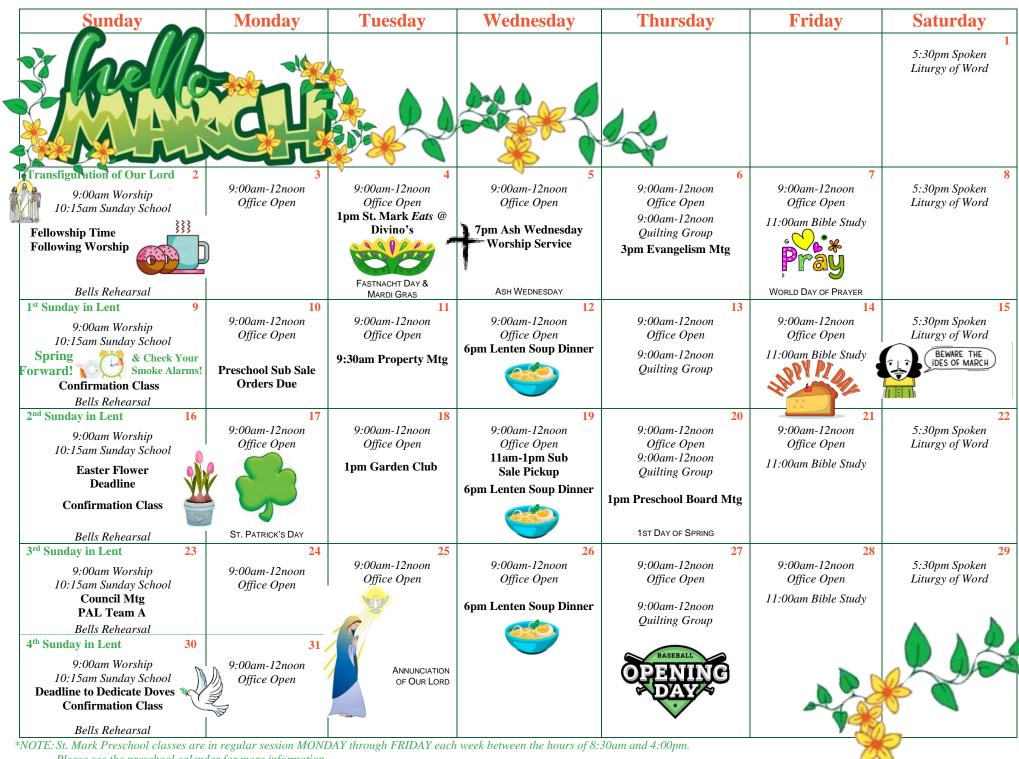




From St. Mark Preschool's 4-Year-Old Classes

If I were President, I would...





Please see the preschool calendar for more information.

St. Mark Lutheran Church

129 Charles Street Hanover, PA 17331

Visit us online at stmarkhanover.org

St. Mark Evangelical Lutheran Church's Purpose is to be

Growing in **G**race, **I**mpacting the **W**orld

March 2025 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

2025 Congregation Council: Kathy Gates, Kate Klunk, Martha Lippy, Hollis Long, Tom Long, Gail Merlo,

Michael Merlo, Hunter Shaw, Alexander Spalding