



# The Parishioner

Volume 28 Issue 11    A Publication of St. Mark's Evangelical Lutheran Church    December 2023

## From the Pastor's Desk:

Brothers and Sisters, grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

This is a first for me. As I begin this article, it is just after 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday, 31 October 2023 (Halloween). I have never started a newsletter article this early – almost a month ahead!!! But I, like most of you (as well as millions of people around the world), have been giving a lot of thought to what is going on in our nation and across the globe. Let me ask you to pause right here before you continue reading and ask yourself what I might be referring to. What did you come up with?

You might be thinking, “Pastor, it’s December. Surely, you’ll be writing about the joys of the celebration of Advent and Christmas.” You’d be partly right. We are called to celebrate the message of Advent and Christmas – “For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government will be upon his shoulder, and his name will be called ‘Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace’” (Isaiah 9.6, *Revised Standard Version*). We are all familiar with these words from our many times in worship during Christmas or from listening to Handel’s *Messiah*. But notice the context of this passage: Isaiah 9 opens with these words, “The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in the land of deep darkness, on them a light has shined” (9.2). (I would encourage you to devote the four weeks of Advent to the reading of the Book of Isaiah.)

When we turn to the Gospels – particularly Matthew and Luke and, with different emphases, John – we find this theme repeated and its promises fulfilled: “The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light....” Consider Mary’s Magnificat (Luke 1.46-55) and Simon’s Nunc Dimittis (Luke 2.29-32; as well as 2.33-35). Consider the powerful Prologue to John’s Gospel in John 1.1-18, where is found the affirmation, “In him (the eternal Word, the Son of God) was life, and the life was the light of humanity. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it” (John 1.4-5). This is the hope of Advent, the gift of Christmas.

My brothers and sisters, we are living in a time of darkness, a darkness that is spreading and tearing apart our communities, our country, and our world. Many of us have been taught about the horrible acts committed in Germany (as well as Poland and other nations) in the late 1930s and early 1940s, news about the Third Reich’s attempt to rid the world – or, at least, their part of it – of Jews. They were able to exterminate over six million Jews (and others – supporters, like Dietrich Bonhoeffer, the infirm [mentally and physically challenged], the “unwanted”).

And now there are vile protests in many American universities and colleges. They are also taking place in Russia, where people stormed an airport to attack Jews who had arrived from Tel Aviv. They are taking place in France, where citizens are marking Jewish homes with the Star of David or with swastikas. Today I heard a report about an American teacher/professor who asked his Jewish students to identify themselves. Why? To what end? This cannot be allowed to continue; nothing good and everything bad will come of it. This racism and hatred are

a symptom and manifestation of the very nature of evil. Evil often cloaks itself with different disguises and uses different names, so that we don't see it and understand it for what it is. This evil is "in your face."

What does all this have to do with Christmas? Everything! (Need I remind you that Jesus of Nazareth was a Jew, born to a young, devout Jewish mother and raised by a devout Jewish father?) If we believe the Good News of the incarnation of the eternal Son of God, born of the Virgin Mary, who suffered and died for our sake, who was raised from the dead, who ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father, who has poured out the Holy Spirit to create, empower, and sustain his holy church, we must be the people through whom "the light that has come into the world" will shine. The shining of that light will expose the darkness. Will it be easy? No! Will it take courage? Absolutely! Is it really necessary? Unquestionably! Jesus tells us that we, his followers, are the light of the world. He also issues a sobering warning: "If then the light in you is darkness, how great is that darkness!" (Matthew 6.23b)

As we begin our journey through Advent, beginning on Saturday, 2 December and Sunday, 3 December, I ask you to be faithful in worship, to gather as the people of God in Christ who make up St. Mark's Evangelical Lutheran Church, and to listen carefully to the Word of God read and proclaimed, to receive the Body and Blood of Christ. As I said in a recent sermon, "the world needs the Church. The Church needs to be renewed and empowered." "The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it."



Blessings, Pastor Phillips

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### Advent Begins

Join us in worship, for the four weekends of Advent to prepare our hearts for Christmas:

Saturday evenings @ 5:00 pm

Sunday mornings @ 9:00 am

December 2/3, December 9/10,

December 16/17, December 23/24

*"The celebration of Advent is possible only to those who are troubled in soul, who know themselves to be poor and imperfect, and who look forward to something greater to come." ~ Dietrich Bonhoeffer*

### CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT WORSHIP

*"But when the kindness and love of God our Savior appeared, he saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, whom he poured out on us generously through Jesus Christ our Savior." ~ Titus 3:4-6*

Invite your family & friends to join us as we focus our minds on the reason Christ came  
— and to worship Him!



**Sunday evening, December 24, 6:00 pm**



### 3T-Wednesday, December 6 @ 9:00 am

Time of talk, task & tea  
lite lunch @ 11:30am, bring a dish to share

*please  
join us*

Join us in this time of fellowship as we cut, stitch, tie, sort, weave. All abilities and hands are encouraged and welcome.

Our plastic collection for recycling and making mats has really been busy and we can use more hands to help prepare the bags for mat making and weigh the plastic for bench collections. We have begun collecting for our 2<sup>nd</sup> bench. The updated rules require 1000 lbs. of plastic donated in a 1-year period. Any questions about plastic donations can be directed to Carol Scott; all plastic used for this project diverts it from ending up in our landfills and waterways.

\*Our collection bins are located at the bottom of the steps coming in from the parking lot.

\*Find the list of acceptable plastic items that qualify on the table near the elevator and start recycling today!

#### Prayer Shawl Group

meets Wednesday, December 13 @ 1:00 pm.



If you are unable to join the group at the church, but would still like to add your talents, please reach out to Elaine Walker.

#### Stay Connected

We are working hard to continue reaching out, serving and “being witnesses” through a variety of old and new ways. Find us, “Like us” and Share us!

- Website – [stmarksbutler.org](http://stmarksbutler.org) / Facebook – St. Mark’s Evangelical Lutheran Church (Butler, PA)
- YouTube – St. Marks Butler PA / Radio Broadcast – WBUT 1050 AM, Sunday mornings @ 10:30 am
- Newsletter – “The Parishioner” - sent monthly to your mailbox and found on the website
- Email – Parish Administrator, [wendy.holt@stmarksbutler.org](mailto:wendy.holt@stmarksbutler.org) / Phone – (724)-287-6741
- Mail – 201 West Jefferson Street, Butler, PA 16001

Help us stay connected to you. Share and/or update your contact information so that we can keep you informed.

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2023 Pictures Directories are finally finished!

Stop by the Church to grab yours today!

### Congregational Council

> Next meeting <

Tuesday, December 12, @ 6:00

Please have your reports into the office by Thursday, Dec. 7. Envelopes will be available for pick-up in your mailboxes, Saturday, Dec. 9. Newly elected Council members are invited and encouraged to join the meeting and pot-luck.

>><<

*Dear fellow parishioners below please find the results from the 2023 Annual Meeting:*

- *Elected to Church Council, Sherry Montag (1-year term), Karen Grossman (2-year term).*
- *Budget Approved by 90%.*

*And at the latest Church Council Meeting the following have been appointed to Church Council starting in 2024, Peggy Morrison (2-year term), Jessie Phillips (2-year term).*

*Thank you,*

*Reuben Pink*

#### St. Mark’s Financial Overview October 2023

|                 |                     |
|-----------------|---------------------|
| Receipts        | \$ 31,321.62        |
| <u>Expenses</u> | <u>\$ 26,932.24</u> |
| Excess          | \$ 4,389.38         |

#### NO Old Testament Bible Study in December!



#### Eve Bible Study

Eve Bible Study luncheon and devotions will be held at the Butler Country Club on **Friday December 15 at 11:00 a.m.**



*"Wisdom comes with winters." – Oscar Wilde*





## *Katie's Kitchen Newsletter for December 2023.....*

*W*elcome December with all of the joy's & excitement of a young child!

This is my favorite time of year. The food, family, gifts, & goodwill exchanged make this such a special time. Everyone gets so busy that we often forget what this holiday is all about. The birth of Christ changed the world & brought Light to an otherwise dark & dismal place. We can be the Light of Christ every day, if we only pay attention. In our crazy, secular world, remember that YOU may be the only gospel someone hears or sees today! We are the eyes & hands & Light of Christ.

### **Notes from the Kitchen.....**

- ❖ It's been a tough few weeks in the kitchen. Early in November as it was getting colder, there was an issue with the boiler in Schramm Hall, so there was no heat. The following week, a gas leak was discovered in the stove -so the gas was shut off. As I write this, we are still waiting for someone to look at it. It has encouraged us to be creative in putting our meals together, but our great cooks & volunteers have been a tremendous help in getting this done! ♥
- ❖ During November we have been collecting toiletries for our annual Christmas bags. We plan to put these together the first week of December & will hand them out to our folks following week! Many thanks to all those who donated to this important project!
- ❖ In the coming weeks you will notice that KK and the general group of churches that make up the Community Meal Ministries will be sporting a new consistent logo. We have been working through this creative process to give us something as a group that is recognizable in the community. Each of the 5 churches that serve the community meals will be able to have one similar logo that can include their church name if they choose. There will also be a generic logo without specific church names that we will be able to use on our brochure that explains what we do. We will be able to use this on any other literature & advertising that we need in the future.
- ❖ Speaking of the Gala..... mark your calendars for the weekend of April 13, & 14, 2024. We have our 3 great artists returning for the Community Meal Ministries Annual Gala & Art Show. This year we will be showcasing 2 other local artists- Jennifer Spryn & Martie Easter and will be having a few other surprises, too.

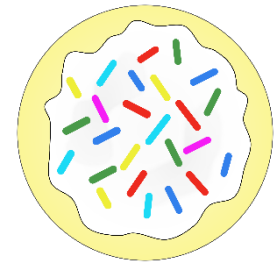
As we reflect on 2023, it has been a great year for KK. We have had our joys & a few sorrows .....But our time together has been filled with so many blessings.

Thank you all for your continued support!      *-Justine*

Everyone loves a good Sugar Cookie recipe, especially at this time of year. This is my go-to recipe for basic or cutout sugar cookies. This recipe came from Jane Kennedy who some of you may remember taught at the Junior High some time ago.

## Jane's Old Fashioned Sugar Cookies

4 c flour + a bit more for cutouts      1 c Margarine (2 sticks)  
1 tsp. Baking powder                      1  $\frac{1}{2}$  c sugar  
 $\frac{1}{2}$  tsp. Baking soda.                      1 egg  
 $\frac{1}{2}$  tsp salt                                       $\frac{1}{2}$  c sour cream  
 $\frac{1}{2}$  tsp nutmeg (optional).                  1 tsp. Vanilla



\*Preheat oven to 375. Blend dry ingredients in a bowl & set aside. Beat the margarine & sugar & egg until light & fluffy. Mix in sour cream & vanilla until smooth. Gradually add the dry ingredients. If making cutout cookies, roll dough out on a Lightly Floured surface to  $\frac{1}{4}$  thick. Cut out cookies & bake on a greased cookie sheet. Bake 10-12 minutes.

Ways to finish the cookies:

- Sprinkle cookies with sugar before they are baked
- Brush with egg whites & colored sprinkles before baking
- Bake cookies & ice when cool.

## Butter icing

1/3 c margarine  
4  $\frac{1}{2}$  c powdered sugar  
 $\frac{1}{4}$  c milk  
1  $\frac{1}{2}$  tsp vanilla

\*Beat margarine til fluffy. Gradually add 2 c powdered sugar. Slowly beat in the milk & vanilla. Then add the remaining sugar til you have the consistency that you like.

*Wishing you & yours a very blessed Christmas  
& a Happy, Healthy Prosperous New Year!*

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## Why serving others this holiday matters more than we think

Read the whole article here: <https://newspring.cc/articles/why-serving-others-this-holiday-matters-more-than-we-think#:~:text=Jesus%20has%20blessed%20us%20beyond,sacrifice%20Jesus%20made%20for%20us.>

Serving others, especially strangers in need, can be uncomfortable. But when we step out of our realm of comfort, God shows us something new about Himself.....God is always doing something in our lives and in the lives of everyone around us. He intersects our paths with people at just the right time to the benefit of everyone. What happens in our lives is never just about us. Proverbs 28:27 says "Whoever gives to the poor will not want." As we give of whatever we have, the Lord gives to us — more peace, provision, hope — whatever it is we need at the time. Opening our hands from whatever it is we are holding releases the power of God in our lives to provide more than we can imagine. Giving is a way we release control of our lives and trust God to do more than we could...

**Why Not You?** We all have something to give. Jesus has blessed us beyond anything we deserve. The real gift comes to us when we give it away, even if, especially if, it is uncomfortable. Jesus stepped out of His comfortable home in heaven and into a messy, uncomfortable world. The more we do the same, the more we will understand the sacrifice Jesus made for us. And wouldn't the best gift this holiday season be a greater picture of who Jesus is?







## Exciting News: \$100,000 Matching Gift Fund!

20/20  
VISION

As we embrace the season of Thanksgiving and look forward to Advent and Christmas, we are thrilled to announce a heartwarming opportunity to double the impact of your generosity! Thanks to the kindness of a generous donor, we have launched a **\$100,000 Matching Gift Fund**. From now until the end of the year, every dollar you contribute [to the NALC] will be matched, amplifying your support for our vital ministries and missions both locally and globally. This is a perfect time to make your gift count twice as much in advancing our shared vision and the transformative work of our church. Your contributions are not just funds; they are the seeds of change and growth in our communities and beyond. Your donations make an incredible difference. Let's join hands in this season of giving to magnify our impact and continue to spread the love and message of Christ. ~~~

### 20/20 Vision Prayer

From Bishop Dan Selbo



GROW / SERVE

RENEW / FULFILL

***Now to him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us, to him be glory in the Church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever. Amen. —Ephesians 3:20-21***

*Almighty God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, we thank you and praise you for the abundance of your mercy and the faithfulness of your grace revealed and given to us in Jesus Christ. We thank you for the calling we have in Him and for the way in which we have been brought together by You in the body of the North American Lutheran Church.*

*We pray for your Holy Spirit to guide us as we consider the opportunities we have to serve in ways that will honor You and as we share in the work entrusted to us by our Lord. We ask for open hearts to be attentive to Your leading, for open minds to be challenged and transformed by Your love, and for generous and faith-filled spirits to respond to the calling we share.*

*Lord, we pray for the 20/20 Vision of our church, asking for You to continue to work through us to carry out Your will. We pray that our individual gifts will be used in collective ways to offer a witness to the world of the salvation found only in the cross and resurrection of our Lord Jesus. Strengthen our faith. Bless our work. Use our lives, that the life-giving message of Jesus would be proclaimed and heard, today, tomorrow & forever. Amen.*



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**Advent/Christmas Devotional:** In the sacred tapestry of the Christian liturgical calendar, this year marks a significant expansion in our journey of faith as we extend our devotional reflections to encompass not only the season of Advent but also the joyous celebration of Christmas—as well as the illuminating days of Epiphany and the Baptism of Our Lord.

“*Echoes and Epiphanies*” is an invitation to embark on a scriptural pilgrimage, to discover the nuanced resonances and radiant epiphanies of Jesus Christ. It is an opportunity to appreciate the intricacy of God’s redemptive story and to inspire a life attuned not just to Christ’s gentle reverberations but to His moments of illuminating truth.

We encourage you to download the devotional and share it widely. We pray it guides you in your reflections, and deepens your faith during this extended season of grace and revelation.

**Ways to access the 2023 devotional:** *Receive a text message each day with that day’s devotion. To sign up, text: ReadingTheWord to 24251; To receive a daily email with that day’s devotion: Text “ReadingTheWord” to 24251, When they confirm your signup, you have to additionally let them know you’d like to be added to the email list by signing up via the link they provide. Then, if you wish, you can unsubscribe from the texts; Watch a video recording of the devotional daily: [facebook.com/thenalc](https://facebook.com/thenalc) . Paper copies will be available on the table by the elevator*



# Children's Hour Fun in October/November



Fall Festival Dress-up Day - October 29

Picture Day - November 15





## Trivia for the month of December

### Odd Moments This Month in History

#### December 14, 1807: Space Invader

At 6:30 a.m. on this day in 1807, residents from Vermont to Connecticut looked up at the sky and saw a red fireball. About two-thirds the size of a full Moon, it raced across the heavens, broke apart, and fell to earth in at least six areas of Weston (now Easton), Trumbull, and Fairfield, Connecticut. Whizzing sounds were heard close to the impact sites, and three sonic booms were heard as far as 40 miles away. The entire event took about 30 seconds. Upon hearing the news a few days later, Yale professor Benjamin Silliman, accompanied by his colleague, professor James Kingsley, traveled to the impact area to talk to witnesses, examine impact sites, and collect specimens (including some that enterprising townsfolk were selling as souvenirs). Silliman confirmed that it had been a meteorite—the first officially recorded in the New World. Meteorites, rocks that fell from space, were a concept slowly gaining acceptance in Europe, but their study was still a relatively new science. In an article in the Connecticut Herald published on December 29, Silliman and Kingsley described the Weston event. The news rapidly spread to other newspapers, and accounts were published in literary and philosophical journals. Later, Silliman performed a chemical analysis of the rocks and published a revised report. The findings were discussed by notable scientific organizations in Philadelphia, London, and Paris. Still, there were skeptics about the idea of meteorites, including U.S. president Thomas Jefferson, who was said to have remarked, "It is easier to believe that two Yankee professors could lie than to admit that stones could fall from heaven." <https://www.almanac.com/content/month-of-december-holidays-facts-folklore> Source

### JOKE OF THE MONTH

Q. What type of diet did the snowman go on????????????????????????????????????????  
????????????????????????????????????????  
????????????A. The Meltdown Diet????????????

## Birds of the Northeast – Tufted Titmouse

<https://www.audubon.org/field-guide/bird/tufted-titmouse>



This rather tame, active, crested little bird is common all year in eastern forests, where its whistled peter-peter-peter song may be heard even during mid-winter thaws. It is related to the chickadees, and like them it readily comes to bird feeders, often carrying away sunflower seeds one at a time. Feeders may be helping it to expand its range: in recent decades, Tufted Titmice have been steadily pushing north.

**Nesting** - Pairs may remain together all year, joining small flocks with other titmice in winter. Flocks break up in late winter, and pairs establish nesting territories. Male feeds female often from courtship stage until after eggs hatch. Breeding pair may have a "helper," one of their offspring from the previous year. Nest site is in hole in tree, either natural cavity or old woodpecker hole; averages about 35' above the ground, ranging from 3' to 90' up. Unlike the chickadees, apparently does not excavate its own nest hole. Will also use nest boxes. Nest (probably built by female) has foundation of grass, moss, leaves, bark strips, lined with soft materials, especially animal hair. Bird may pluck hair from live woodchuck, dog, or other animal, even from humans.

**Eggs** - 5-6, sometimes 3-9. White, finely dotted with brown, reddish, or purple. Incubation is by female only, 12-14 days. Young: Female stays with young much of time at first, while male brings food; later, young are fed by both parents, sometimes by additional helper. Young leave nest about 15-16 days after hatching.

**Feeding Behavior** – Forages by hopping actively among branches and twigs of trees, often hanging upside down, sometimes hovering momentarily. Often drops to the ground for food as well. Comes to bird feeders for seeds or suet. Opens acorns and seeds by holding them with feet and pounding with bill. Will store food items, retrieving them later.

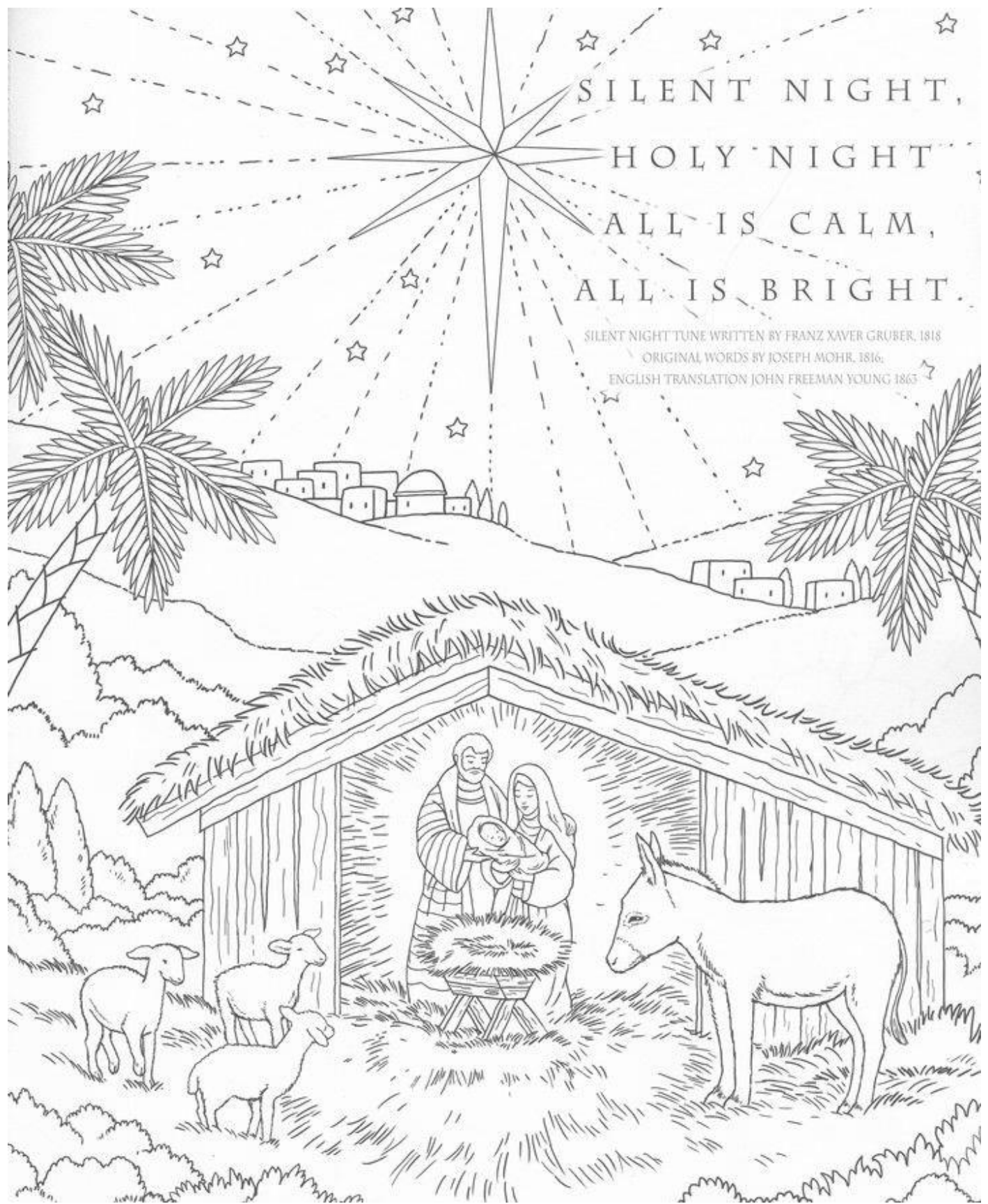
**Diet** - Mostly insects and seeds. Insects make up close to two-thirds of annual diet, with caterpillars the most important prey in summer; also eats wasps, bees, sawfly larvae, beetles, true bugs, scale insects, and many others, including many insect eggs and pupae. Also eats some spiders, snails. Seeds, nuts, berries, and small fruits are important in diet especially in winter.



Laughter is the sun that drives  
Winter from the human face.

~Victor Hugo





SILENT NIGHT,  
HOLY NIGHT,  
ALL IS CALM,  
ALL IS BRIGHT.

SILENT NIGHT TUNE WRITTEN BY FRANZ XAVER GRÜBER, 1818  
ORIGINAL WORDS BY JOSEPH MOHR, 1816,  
ENGLISH TRANSLATION JOHN FREEMAN YOUNG 1863

*thank you*

Dear Friends, members of St. Mark's, I want to wish you all a most blessed Christmas. You all mean so much to me. Thank you for the beautiful cards, floral arrangements, visits to the hospital and especially all the prayers. I could actually feel the power of your prayers as I was healing. You are the best. Enjoy the beautiful Christmas tide and have the best year (2024) – can you believe it? ~Joanne Lozier

## December Scriptures and Prayers

December 3, 2023 – Isaiah 64:1-9, Psalm 80:1-7, 1 Corinthians 1:3-9, Mark 13:24-37

*\* Stir up Your power, O Lord, and come. Protect us by Your strength and save us from the threatening dangers of our sins, for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.*

December 10, 2023 – Isaiah 40:1-11, Psalm 85, 2 Peter 3:8-14, Mark 1:1-8

*\* Stir up our hearts, O Lord, to prepare the way of Your only Son. By His coming give us strength in our conflicts and shed light on our path through the darkness of this world; through Your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.*

December 17, 2023 – Isaiah 61:1-4.8-11, Psalm 126, 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24, John 16-8, 19-28

*\* Almighty God, you once called John the Baptist to give witness to the coming of Your Son and to prepare His way. Grant us, Your people, the wisdom to see Your purpose today and the openness to hear Your will, that we may witness to Christ's coming and so prepare His way; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.*

December 24, 2023 – 2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16, Psalm 89:1-29, Romans 16:25-27 Luke 1:26-38

*\* Stir up Your power, O Lord, and come. Take away the hindrance of our sins and make us ready for the celebration of Your birth, that we may receive You in joy and serve You always, for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.*

Christmas Eve, 2023 – Isaiah 7:10-14, Psalm 110:1-4, 1 John 4:7-16, Matthew 1:18-25

*\* Almighty God, You made this holy night shine with the brightness of the true Light. Grant that here on earth we may walk in the light of Jesus' presence and in the last day wake to the brightness of His glory; through Your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.*

December 31, 2023 – Isaiah 61:10-62:3, Psalm 111, Galatians 4:4-7, Luke 2:22-40

*\* Almighty God, You wonderfully created and yet more wonderfully restored the dignity of human nature. In Your mercy, let us share the divine life of Jesus Christ who came to share our humanity, and who now lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.*

### **Address Updates for your directory.**

Since printing the directory we have had a few address changes and/or corrections. We will try to print updates monthly to keep you up to date. Please note the changes below:

- Bahorich, Jan
- Betz, Daryl –
- Collings (Cyp
- Fibick, Carole
- Hughes, Lynr
- Hunka, Marc,
- Hillberry, Rob
- Kriess, Dralyn
- Leithold, Vict
- Matthews, Pe
- PA 16001
- Shedio, Irene
- Truby, Nancy

**Contact the church office for the  
changes.**



| SUNDAY                                                          | MONDAY          | TUESDAY                                                               | WEDNESDAY                                                                                                                                                                | THURSDAY                                   | FRIDAY                                                  | SATURDAY                                                       |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------|
|                                                                 |                 |                                                                       |                                                                                                                                                                          |                                            |                                                         | 4:00pm 4F Dinner/Bake Sale<br>5:00pm Worship <b>1</b> <b>2</b> |
| 9:00am Worship<br>"Hanging the Greens"<br>10:15am S.S. <b>3</b> |                 | 5:00pm Bell Choir<br>6:00pm Choir <b>4</b>                            | 9:00am 3T<br>9:30am Children's Hour <b>5</b>                                                                                                                             | 5:00pm Katie's Kitchen <b>6</b> <b>7</b>   |                                                         | 5:00pm Worship <b>8</b> <b>9</b>                               |
| 9:00am Worship<br>10:15am S.S. <b>10</b>                        |                 | 5:00pm Bell Choir<br>6:00pm Choir<br>6:00pm Council Meeting <b>11</b> | 9:30am Children's Hour<br>1:00pm Prayer Shawl <b>12</b>                                                                                                                  | 5:00pm Katie's Kitchen <b>13</b> <b>14</b> | 11:00am Eve Bible Study @ Butler Country Club <b>15</b> | 5:00pm Worship <b>16</b>                                       |
| 9:00am Worship<br>10:15am S.S. <b>17</b>                        |                 | 5:00pm Bell Choir<br>6:00pm Choir <b>18</b>                           | 9:30am Children's Hour <b>19</b>                                                                                                                                         | 5:00pm Katie's Kitchen <b>20</b> <b>21</b> |                                                         | 5:00pm Worship <b>22</b> <b>23</b>                             |
| 9:00am Worship<br>10:15am S.S.<br>6:00pm Worship <b>24</b>      | MERRY CHRISTMAS | Church Office CLOSED <b>25</b>                                        |                                                                                                                                                                          | 5:00pm Katie's Kitchen <b>27</b> <b>28</b> |                                                         | 5:00pm Worship <b>29</b> <b>30</b>                             |
| 9:00am Worship<br>10:15am S.S. <b>31</b>                        | happy New Year  |                                                                       | Fun Dates to Celebrate: 12/4 – Wear Brown Shoes Day, 12/8 – National Brownie Day, 12/15 – National Lemon Cupcake Day, 12/21 – National Flashlight Day, 12/30 – Bacon Day |                                            |                                                         |                                                                |

# DECEMBER 2023

|                      |                      |
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| 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 | 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 |
| 26 27 28 29 30       | 28 29 30 31          |

NOVEMBER 2023

JANUARY 2024

## SCRIPTURE:

"For God, who said, 'Let light shine out of darkness,' made his light shine in our hearts to give us the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ."

—2 Corinthians 4:6 (NIV)



St. Mark's Evangelical Lutheran Church  
201 West Jefferson Street  
Butler, Pennsylvania 16001  
Phone: 724-287-6741  
Fax: 724-287-6747  
Website: [www.stmarksbutler.org](http://www.stmarksbutler.org)

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Parish Office Hours:  
9:00 AM -- 1:00 PM  
Tuesday – Friday  
**WORSHIP SERVICES**

Saturday: 5:00 PM  
Sunday: 9:00 AM  
Sunday School: 10:15 AM

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED



Learn more about The North American

Lutheran Church

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Christ Centered

Mission Driven

Traditionally Grounded

Congregationally Focused



**St. Mark's Staff**

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Wendy Holt, Parish Administrator  
John Lingenfelter, Custodian  
Larry Rettig, Custodian  
Rebecca Veith, Director of Music  
Sherry Young, Treasurer  
Toni Tassey, Financial Secretary