



# THE MONTH OF DECEMBER 2017 AT ST. MARK LUTHERAN CHURCH

[www.thewelcomeplace.net](http://www.thewelcomeplace.net)

436 NORTH OAK AVENUE, CLIFTON HEIGHTS, PA 19018

610-626-5295

Pastor Tim Ness - [tness719@gmail.com](mailto:tness719@gmail.com)

St. Mark Office - [thewelcomeplace@comcast.net](mailto:thewelcomeplace@comcast.net)



---

**WORSHIP - TWO OPPORTUNITIES EVERY SUNDAY:**  
Sunday morning at 8:30 am - Contemporary Service with Communion  
Sunday morning at 11 am - Festival Service with Communion

---

## KEEP CHRIST IN CHRISTMAS AS JESUS IS THE REASON FOR THE SEASON

### Sunday School Christmas Pageant and Potluck

On **Sunday, December 17**, we will worship at one service - at **10 am**. At that service, the children and youth of St. Mark will be the tellers of the Gospel. The message of God's grace comes to us new every time we share God's Word. Join the Sunday School, parents, relatives and all of God's family for this special time at St. Mark.

After that service, we will gather in our Social Hall for a potluck luncheon. The church will provide the main course of chicken as well as dessert and water, coffee and tea. Please sign up in the Narthex to bring a salad, a casserole of some type and, if you wish, a beverage other than water, coffee or tea.

### DECEMBER 24 MORNING ADVENT WORSHIP

Note that, because of our calendar this year, our morning **December 24** services will celebrate the last Sunday in Advent. Again, we will worship at one service at **10 am**.

### DECEMBER 24 EVENING CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP

Our evening **December 24** services will celebrate the birth of our Lord, Jesus Christ:



## Christmas Eve - Sunday, December 24

7 pm - Children and Family Worship

11 pm - Festival Mass

*10:30 pm - Choral/Music Prelude*

Both services will include Bible readings, the singing of favorite carols and Holy Communion. The 7 pm service will include a children's sermon while the 11 pm service will include a homily.

## ADVENT WEDNESDAYS

We will be partnering with Incarnation Holy Sacrament Episcopal Church in Drexel Hill for a service of prayer and contemplation. Communion will be celebrated. We will gather at both locations on alternate weeks, beginning **Wednesday, December 6**, at 7 pm. Our location each week will be announced.

## DECEMBER 31 WORSHIP

On New Year's Eve Morning, **Sunday, December 31**, we will worship at one service - **10 am** - at our Lessons and Carols service.

## ORDER YOUR POINSETTIAS HERE!

Poinsettias will again grace our Chancel during the Christmas season. They will be available for order on the following Sundays at St. Mark: **November 19 through December 17**. Various sizes/prices are available in red and white. For more information, please call Mary Ellen Markovcy at 610-626-1216.

## REMEMBERING CHILDREN NO LONGER WITH US

St. Mark continues to host The Compassionate Friends of Delco, a support group for those mourning the death of a child. They meet the 2nd Wednesday of every month. Their annual memorial service (held in our sanctuary) and luncheon (held in our social hall) is scheduled for **Sunday, December 10 from 2 to 4 pm**.

## SHARING GOD'S LOVE MINISTRIES

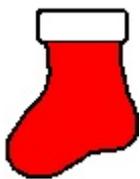
### Sunday Christmas Caroling

On **Sunday, December 10**, the entire congregation is invited to go caroling in Building #8 at Fair Acres at **2 pm**. We will first stop at Cocco's in Primos for lunch in a room reserved for our group. Nursing home residents especially enjoy seeing younger children, so this is surely an event for all ages, families, singles, youth, etc. If you will be joining us for lunch, please sign up in the Narthex so that we can let Cocco's know about how many people they will need to prepare for. You will be able to order off the menu!

## Christmas Gifts for Those Who Live Temporarily At The Life Center

As is true of many churches and synagogues in Delaware County, St. Mark provides meals, once a month, to those who live temporarily, and congregate each evening, at the Life Center of Eastern Delaware County. This year, we will be providing 50 gift cards for the temporary residents. If you would like to support this project, please make your contribution in the Red Stocking envelope or a pew envelope marked Life Center Christmas.

## Not Enough Time to Help?



Perhaps your Christmas Season is already too full of activities to find time to support St. Mark's outreach during the holiday season. However, surely everyone can afford to give something to support our Christmas outreach programs **AND** the outreach that occurs throughout the year by those engaged in our Sharing God's Love Ministries. Please make use of the Red Stocking Envelope this year to support the above efforts. Consider giving a tithe of what you are spending on gifts for family or others to support ministry at St. Mark.

## Warmth Tree

Our Warmth Tree is again in the Narthex, collecting hats, gloves, and winter items for those in need. Please bring newly purchased or new hand made items and help fill the tree with your love in response to the love that we celebrate in our newborn King, Jesus!

## The ELCA Good Gifts Campaign

This year, we will again have a second tree in the Narthex. Help fight hunger and poverty all over the world by sponsoring one of the Good Gift ornaments available on the tree in the Narthex.



## MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Our 2018 Annual Meeting will be held on **Sunday, January 28**. The schedule is as follows: (1) Regular worship at **8:30 am**- (2) Continental Breakfast in the Narthex -

(3) Meeting in the sanctuary and (4) Regular worship at **11 am**. Please plan to join us so that you are informed about the life of our congregation.

## FROM PASTOR TIM

---

### "Love Has Come"

*Love has come- a light in the darkness!  
Love shines forth in the Bethlehem skies.  
See, all heaven has come to proclaim it;  
here how their song of joy arises:  
Love! Love! Born unto you, a Savior!  
Love! Love! Glory to God on high.*

*Love is born! Come share in the wonder.  
Love is God now asleep in the hay.  
See, the glow in the eyes of his mother:*

*what is the name her heart is saying?  
Love! Love! Love is the name she whispers;  
Love! Love! Jesus, Immanuel.*

*Love has come and never will leave us!  
Love is life everlasting and free.  
Love is Jesus within and among us.  
Love is the peace our hearts are seeking.  
Love! Love! Love is the gift of Christmas.  
Love! Love! Praise to you, God on high!*

*God's peace be with you always.*

*Pastor Tim*

### ST. MARK'S NEWSLETTER

Since I came to St. Mark in 2003, it has been my privilege and joy to oversee a number of administrative projects and tasks. When we hired Cheryl Ferry as our Parish Administrator, in September 2016, I knew that having Cheryl in the office on a regular basis presented me with the opportunity to turn over these projects and tasks to her. Not because they were still not a privilege to oversee but because it was the right thing to do and the right time to do it. During 2017, that has been done and that process has been a special joy for me.

Now, it is time to turn over the preparation of St. Mark's monthly newsletter to Cheryl. As I thought about that, I also thought about alternatives for distributing the monthly newsletter since our current system, overseen by American Church, presents a definite challenge. That is because the newsletter must be to them 6 weeks prior to the month of the newsletter so that it can be printed and mailed with the envelopes for that month. To illustrate, this is being written in mid- October. So, in September, I recommended to council that our December newsletter be the last one to be prepared by me and the last one to be mailed with your envelopes. They approved my recommendations.

In late December, you will receive, with your January envelopes, a post card that reminds you of our 2018 Annual Meeting to be held on **Sunday, January 28**; there will be no actual January newsletter. Each month after that, going forward, you will receive your offering envelopes, as usual, from American Church. However, you will not receive your newsletter with the envelopes. Starting with February, you will receive your newsletter, as it will be prepared by Cheryl, in one of two ways: via e-mail or via US Mail. We anticipate that most of those who now receive the newsletter with their envelopes will receive the new newsletter via e-mail. However, we may not have your e-mail address or you may not have, and use, e-mail.

If you do not receive Pastor Tim's weekly e-mail or are not sure if we have your e-mail, please e-mail the office at [thewelcomeplace@comcast.net](mailto:thewelcomeplace@comcast.net) to provide your e-mail address and ask to be added to the e-mail newsletter list.

If you do not have, or do not use, e-mail, please call the office at 610-626-5295 and ask that you be placed on a list of individuals to receive our monthly newsletter via US Mail. Our newsletter will continue to be available on our website [www.thewelcomeplace.net](http://www.thewelcomeplace.net).

Thank you.

Marjorie A. Miller

BEST WISHES FOR A BLESSED, HOLY AND HAPPY CHRISTMAS SEASON