



THE MONTH OF DECEMBER 2018 AT ST. MARK LUTHERAN CHURCH



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WORSHIP - TWO OPPORTUNITIES EVERY SUNDAY:
Sunday morning at 8:30 am - Contemporary Service with Communion
Sunday morning at 11 am - Festival Service with Communion
ONE SERVICE ONLY AT 10 AM - December 16, 23 and 30

KEEP CHRIST IN CHRISTMAS AS JESUS IS THE REASON FOR THE SEASON **Sunday School Christmas Pageant and Potluck**

On **Sunday, December 16**, 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 sausage and peppers and meatballs as well as dessert and water, coffee and tea. Please sign up in the Narthex to bring a side, a salad or a casserole of some type and, if you wish, a beverage other than water, coffee or tea.

DECEMBER 24 EVENING CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP

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



Christmas Eve - Monday, December 24

7 pm - Children and Family Worship

11 pm - Festival Mass

10:45 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 St. Mark each week, beginning **Wednesday, December 5**, through **Wednesday, December 19**, at 7 pm. Prior to each worship service, we meet at **6:30 pm** for a potluck meal.

DECEMBER 23 and 31 WORSHIP SERVICES

On both **Sunday, December 23 and 30**, we will worship at one service - **10 am**. On **December 30**, we will have 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 25 through December 16**. Various sizes/prices are available in red and white. For more information, please call Mary Ellen Markovcy at 610-626-1216.

SHARING GOD'S LOVE MINISTRIES

Sunday Christmas Caroling

On **Sunday, December 23**, the entire congregation is invited to go caroling 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.

December Life Center Meal

Our December Life Center meal would normally be served on Monday, December 24th. Rather than serve our meatloaf and mac/cheese meal, we (and our partner church at Trinity in Wallingford) are providing a treat of hoagies, chips and desserts to our brothers and sisters in Christ; this meal will be served by people from another church. If you normally provide food for our December meal, you do not have to do so. However, we ask that you make a monetary donation to help defray the cost of this special meal. Of course, everyone is invited to contribute to help with the cost of this meal. Thank you.

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 2019 Annual Meeting will be held on **Sunday, January 27**. 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

STRESS AND PEACE

There is a lot going on in worship at St. Mark in the month of December. On Sunday mornings, we'll be talking, thinking, and praying about stress in the midst of this holiday season, in a series called "An Imperfect Christmas". As we face the prospects of family, gift buying, and general busyness, we'll take time to examine how to face it all in faithfulness.

Our Wednesday night Advent worship series with IHS Episcopal Church will follow a related theme: Peace. We'll be exploring how to make peace in our hearts, in our homes, and in our world as we prepare to welcome the Prince of Peace.

I look forward to being with you on both Sunday mornings and Wednesday evenings to worship, find our peace, and faithfully deal with our stress.

God's peace be with you always.

Pastor Tim

The following was Pastor Tim's December letter to us last year. Since he has chosen to talk about stress and peace, I thought that including this message again was appropriate. What better answer to stress than the love of our Savior who came to bring peace and love. (MAM)

"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!*

BEST WISHES FOR A BLESSED, HOLY AND HAPPY CHRISTMAS SEASON!!!!