



ST. MARK LUTHERAN CHURCH

201 E. JUNIATA STREET, ALLENTOWN, PA 18103

Phone: 610-797-6440 Fax: 610-351-6114

Email: office@saintmarkallentown.org www.saintmarkallentown.org

Hospital Code - #300 Office Hours: Monday - Thursday 10:00am - 1:00pm

God's People: Believing, Caring, Loving, and Serving

JUNE 2026 NEWSLETTER



The Pastor's Corner.....

Dear Friends in Christ,

So, you like to track things, "What is love?" was the most popular religious search term on the internet in 2025 (7.48 million searches). That more than doubled the 3.35 million searches for the same term in 2024, when it also was number one.

If you type "What is love?" into your browser, you get lots of dictionary definitions, song lyrics, Youtube and music videos, movie quotes, advertisements, and links to all kinds of websites that offer substitutes for love. Google gives 14,130,000,000 answers in 0.55 seconds - about 2 answers for every person on the planet!

Buried somewhere in there, if you refine your search, you might come across what God says about love in the Bible. The Triune God has much to say about love, and much to show about it.

In the Old Testament we find God constantly showing His "steadfast love and faithfulness" and gracious mercy to those whom He loves, even when they (or we) are less than loving and faithful to Him.

In the Gospel of John, we find Jesus describing how God shows His love towards us: "As Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in Him may have eternal life. For God so loved the world, that He gave His only Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through Him." Christians refer to the latter part of this passage as the "Gospel in a nutshell" because Jesus summarizes the good news of who He is and why He

came to heal, teach, suffer crucifixion and death, and rise again to life, all to save us.

In his first letter to the believers in Corinth, probably about 55 A.D., the Apostle Paul describes the nature of love in Christ:

"If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging symbol. And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. If I give away all I have, and if I deliver up my body to be burned, but have not love, I gain nothing.

"Love is patient and kind. Love does not envy or boast. It is not arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way. It is not irritable or resentful. It does not rejoice at wrongdoing but rejoices with the truth. Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

"Love never fails. As for prophecies, they will pass away. As for tongues, they will cease. As for knowledge, it will pass away. For we know in part and we prophesy in part, but when the perfect comes, the partial will pass away.

"When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I gave up childish ways. For now, we see in a mirror dimly but then face to face. Now I know in part, then I shall know fully, even as I have been fully known.

"So now faith, hope and love abide, these three, but the greatest of these is love."

Our God loves us still and reaches out to us in the Word. Jesus offered himself up for all of us.

Blessings,
Pastor Lynn



A message from your Council President

As we move forward to the year ahead our future is bright and we will see new people stepping into roles that we held by long time members. We thank our Financial Secretary, Anita Vandergrift and Treasurer, Roxann Rieger who will serve through 2026.

As we look toward the coming year at St. Mark, we do so with gratitude, hope, and confidence in God's continued guidance. God has been faithful through every season of our congregation's life, and we trust that the year ahead will be another chapter filled with opportunity, growth, and renewed purpose.

Over the next year, leadership within our congregation will continue to evolve. That is a natural and healthy part of the life of the church. Throughout Scripture, God continually raised up faithful leaders for each season of ministry. Moses prepared Joshua. The disciples were called and sent. The church has always grown through faithful people answering God's call in new and meaningful ways.

At St. Mark, we are blessed by those who have served faithfully and continue to lead with dedication and care. Their commitment has strengthened our congregation and laid a solid foundation for ministry. As we move into the next year, some responsibilities may shift, new voices may step forward, and leadership may take shape in new ways. While change can sometimes feel uncertain, it also opens doors for fresh ideas, renewed energy, and opportunities to discover where God is calling us next.

This is an exciting time in the life of our congregation. The mission of the church remains strong. Worship continues. Service continues. Our care for one another and our witness in the community continue. Most importantly, Christ remains at the center of all we do.

The future before us is bright. God is already preparing the way, and each of us has a part to play in the ministry of this church. In the coming months, may we pray for our leaders, encourage one another, and remain open to where the Holy Spirit may be leading. Together we move forward in faith—with gratitude for the past, confidence in the present, and hope for all that lies ahead.

"Be strong and courageous... for the Lord your God goes with you; He will not leave you or forsake you." —
The Bible 31:6

In Christian Service,
Thomas F Rieger

CHURCH COUNCIL

HIGHLIGHTS.....

- The roof over our sanctuary suffered wind and hail damage and is a total loss. Our Insurance Company approved a full replacement minus our \$2500.00 deductible. Replacement will occur in three to five weeks. We continue to work with the quotes on all the bids received for the replacement of the flat roofs over the offices which will be at our expense. More information to follow and will require council approval and Congregation approval.
- Council accepted with deep regret the resignation of Anita Vandergrift as our Financial Secretary. We thank her for her many years of service. She will serve through 2026.
- Council will need to find replacements for the Treasurer and Financial Secretary for 2027. More information to follow in next month's newsletter.(July)
- Council authorized the replacement of the dishwasher in the kitchen as repairs would exceed cost of a replacement.
- Pastor Lynn's contract is awaiting her signature and then will be signed and sent to the Synod for approval.
- Knopp Funeral Home will offer a seminar and luncheon on May 21st, 2026, on pre-planning your funeral.
- Constitution and Bylaws will need to be updated after the Synod Assembly.
- Council authorized a letter notifying Synod that we will not be at the Synod Assembly this year.
- Property needs continue to being assessed and various quotes are being solicited.
- Next Council Meeting is June 17, 2026 @ 6:00 PM.

REMINDER: Summer Services begin on Sunday, May 31st and will begin at 9:30am. We hope this helps a bit with the warmer weather.



The Open Door Food Pantry

Our pantry served 75 families in the month of April. We helped to feed 166 adults, 92 children and 53 elderly for a total of 311 of our neighbors! This is such an important mission in our community and I want to thank everyone who contributes in any way.

We were able to do a second order from Second Harvest for the month of May. We have grant money to spend on certain items and it needs to be spent by the end of June (Second Harvest is trying to get the date extended). Because of all the budget issues earlier in the year, the grant money was released to food pantries with approximately only 3 months to spend an entire year's worth. I want to thank all the volunteers that stepped up and helped with this second order! A special shout out to Bob & Rick! Terri and I really do try to keep it under 1000 pounds!

For the month of June our suggested items are evaporated milk and canned corn. These are 2 popular items which we have not been able to order in recent months. As always, we appreciate all donations (monetary and food items).

Have a blessed month!
Sandy



2026 IronPigs Baseball with St. Mark

Friday, June 19th – General Seating gates open at 5:30pm. \$13.00 person, ticket comes w/ \$2.00 food voucher.

Friday, August 28th – Buffet on the Berks Patio, Gates open at 5:30pm, \$30.00 per person, food served from 5:15-8:00. All are invited to join us.
Bring family and friends!

Sign-up sheets are on the glass case in the Narthex. Questions about this event please see, Sue Krasley. Pray for nice weather it's always a FUN TIME!!!



Play Ball.



May Happenings

Craft – Terri, Created beautiful wind chimes out of cans. Or participants could paint or decoupage metal stars. (Sue and Jen) worked with a group of participants from Comfort Homes creating sun catchers.

Knitting/ Crocheting - Participants continue working on their projects, enjoying each other's fellowship. Pastor Lynn has been taking the lap robes created to parishioners she visits.

Luncheon - Cinco de Mayo was celebrated on May 20th, food included Taco's, Mexican corn casserole, Spanish rice and everyone's favorite bingo.

Mental Health Walk- May 19, 2026 - Thank you to DJ, Brenda, Charlie, Suzie and Ashley for manning the table, transporting the items and creating outreach items to hand out. There were over 600 people in attendance. It was an amazing day. We handed out most of the items we had.

1. Seed Packets with our sharing life/church address and phone.
2. Flyers with our church/ sharing life information on it.
3. Brenda's crafts

Looking Ahead - We are currently working to update our current flyers that we can hand out with more information about Sharing Life and offer resources.

Brenda and Charie will be doing the craft for June and our luncheon will be an indoor picnic.

Many Blessings,
Sue Krasley and the Sharing Life committee.



It is with Christian Sympathy we announce the passing of Cheryl G. Geary
Cheryl was called to be with our Lord Monday, May 4th
She was surrounded with family. A beautiful service was held on Saturday, May 30th at St. Mark.
Thank You to Robin and Tricia for sharing the fellowship after with our Congregation.



Sunday, June 7th
the following will receive
Holy Baptism during worship.

Stella Louise Raad

We welcome her into the St. Mark Family.
A celebration of Stella's baptism will follow in Luther
Hall after the worship service. All are welcome.



To everyone who....
Donated to the 2026 ELCA Good Gifts. This year as
you know, we did chicks and goats during the season
of Lent. Well, we collected \$475 that went to help
purchase these items to help families with food and to
provide a business for them. YAY!!!!



JUNE BIRTHDAYS!!!
We want to wish
you a Very, Blessed
Happy Birthday!!

- Sue Krasley – June 7
- Glenn Kocher – June 9
- Theresa Brown – June 12
- DJ Landis – June 14
- Patricia Moyer – June 15
- Nancy Allender – June 25
- Mary Lessig – June 25
- Anita Vandergrift – June 25

Share your birthday with us, please call the
church office. We would love to see you on our
birthday list.



"Congratulations on a fantastic school year!
We're all so very proud of you! Your hard work
and perseverance have paid off! Enjoy your
summer!"

SAINT MARK BLESSING BOX....

*Our community is called to care for one another in
practical, compassionate ways, and one simple need
many families quietly face is access to basic personal
hygiene items. We are currently collecting donations
of essential products such as soap, shampoo,
toothpaste, deodorant, feminine hygiene products,
and other daily necessities to support individuals and
families in our area who are experiencing hardship.*

*These items, often taken for granted can make a
meaningful difference in restoring dignity and
promoting health.*

*We invite you to prayerfully consider contributing
what you are able and placing donations in the
designated bin in the new narthex. Through these
small acts of generosity, we live our Christ's call to
love our neighbors and serve those in need.*

HAPPY FATHER'S Day!

Sunday, June 21st
Wishing all the Father's, Grandfather's
and Great-Grandfather's a wonderful
day filled with love.



Debra Deifer will always be
collecting old eye glasses
and all kinds of can tabs. They
benefit The Pennsylvania Association
for the Blind. There is a basket in the Narhex
on the table to place your items. Thank You!!!



I would like to Thank Everyone for the beautiful
flowers and gift I received in April for
Administrator Professionals Day.

Many Blessings,
Terri

Don't forget to place all old recyclable clothing, bed
sheets, purses, backpacks and shoes can be placed in
the **Green Bin** in the Parking lot, we receive a donation
for every pound they pick up. To date we have made
over \$200 for just filling the bin.



Altar Guild, Lectors, Ushers, Acolytes and videographers are asked to perform their duties each Sunday. Please find a replacement and notify the church office if you cannot join us on your scheduled Sunday.

May 31st, 2026 – The Holy Trinity

Genesis 1:1 -- 2:4a

Psalms 8

2 Corinthians 13:11-13

Matthew 28:16-20

June 7th, 2026 – 2nd Sunday after Pentecost

Hosea 5:15—6:6-31

Psalms 50:7-15

Romans 4:13-25

Matthew 9:9-13, 18-26

June 14th, 2026 – 3rd Sunday after Pentecost

Exodus 19:2-8a

Psalms 100

Romans 5:1-8

Matthew 9:35—10:8 [9-23]

June 21st, 2026 – 4th Sunday after Pentecost

Jeremiah 20:7-13

Psalms 69:7-10 [11-15] 16-18

Romans 6:1b-1

Matthew 10:24-39

June 28th, 2026 – 5th Sunday after Pentecost

Jeremiah 28:5-9

Psalms 89:1-4, 15-18

Romans 6:12-23

Matthew 10:40-42

Reminder to Everyone

Please remember to secure the door when exiting the building to make sure the lock has secured. During times of humidity the doors do not always close and lock automatically

Friday, JUNE 19th is the deadline for the church office to receive all Newsletter Information for July.



We are streaming "LIVE" during the service via Facebook each Sunday.

You can access the service on Facebook, user or not, at the following web address: www.facebook.com/stmarkallentown
Please be patient while the page loads.



Sunday, September 13th :

St. Mark Annual Church Picnic,
Emmaus Park, pavillon #2

TBD: Jonah, Sight and Sound Theater
and Miller's Smorgasbord
2027 Bus Trip

Did You Know???

**Presentation of the Augsburg Confession,
1530**

Thursday, June 25, 2026

On this day in 1530 the German and Latin editions of the Augsburg Confession were presented to the Emperor Charles of the Holy Roman Empire. The Augsburg Confession was written by Philipp Melancthon and endorsed by Martin Luther, and consists of a brief summary of points in which the reformers saw their teaching as either agreeing with or differing from that of the Roman Catholic Church of the time.

**ST MARK'S LUTHERAN CHURCH
ALLENTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA
TREASURER'S REPORT FOR FEBRUARY 2026
(Subject to Audit)**

	MONTH OF FEBRUARY	2ND MONTH BUDGET	2ND MONTH ACTUAL 2026	2ND MONTH ACTUAL 2025
BUDGETED CURRENT INCOME	\$9,760.22	\$12,730.00	\$15,510.14	\$16,049.66
BENEVOLENCE	\$188.00	\$270.00	\$192.00	\$13.03
TOTAL BUDGETED INCOME	\$9,948.22	\$13,000.00	\$15,702.14	\$16,062.69
NON-BUDGETED INCOME	\$7,071.80	\$0.00	\$8,432.53	\$7,506.21
TOTAL INCOME	\$17,020.02	\$13,000.00	\$24,134.67	\$23,568.90
BUDGETED CURRENT EXPENSES	\$11,215.39	\$29,713.00	\$22,014.25	\$24,329.79
BENEVOLENCE	\$606.25	\$260.00	\$687.50	\$325.00
TOTAL BUDGETED EXPENSES	\$11,821.64	\$29,973.00	\$22,701.75	\$24,654.79
NON-BUDGETED EXPENSES	\$1,708.61	\$0.00	\$1,931.01	\$633.18
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$13,530.25	\$29,973.00	\$24,632.76	\$25,487.97
MONTHLY ACTIVITY SUMMARY	BALANCE 2/1/2026	RECEIPTS	EXPENSES	BALANCE 2/28/2026
CURRENT OPERATING FUND - TRUIST	\$6,119.71	\$17,020.02	\$13,530.25	\$9,609.48 +
QUAINT OAK BANK	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
TOTAL OPERATING FUND	\$6,119.71	\$17,020.02	\$13,530.25	\$9,609.48
NORTHEASTERN PA SYNOD	PROCEEDS	INTEREST	PAYMENTS	LOAN BALANCE
SYNOD LOAN				\$0.00

**TREASURER'S REPORT FOR MARCH 2026
(Subject to Audit)**

	MONTH OF MARCH	3RD MONTH BUDGET	3RD MONTH ACTUAL 2026	3RD MONTH ACTUAL 2025
BUDGETED CURRENT INCOME	\$10,776.42	\$19,112.00	\$26,334.56	\$27,410.85
BENEVOLENCE	\$391.00	\$408.00	\$583.00	\$710.29
TOTAL BUDGETED INCOME	\$11,167.42	\$19,520.00	\$26,917.56	\$28,121.14
NON-BUDGETED INCOME	\$7,239.46	\$0.00	\$16,623.99	\$15,096.66
TOTAL INCOME	\$18,406.88	\$19,520.00	\$42,541.55	\$43,217.80
BUDGETED CURRENT EXPENSES	\$12,648.21	\$44,576.00	\$34,662.46	\$43,208.28
BENEVOLENCE	\$181.25	\$399.00	\$668.75	\$787.50
TOTAL BUDGETED EXPENSES	\$12,829.46	\$44,975.00	\$35,531.21	\$43,995.78
NON-BUDGETED EXPENSES	\$7,771.75	\$0.00	\$9,702.76	\$4,531.15
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$20,601.21	\$44,975.00	\$45,233.97	\$48,526.93
MONTHLY ACTIVITY SUMMARY	BALANCE 3/1/2026	RECEIPTS	EXPENSES	BALANCE 3/31/2026
CURRENT OPERATING FUND - TRUIST	\$9,609.48	\$18,406.88	\$20,601.21	\$7,415.15 +
QUAINT OAK BANK	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
TOTAL OPERATING FUND	\$9,609.48	\$18,406.88	\$20,601.21	\$7,415.15
NORTHEASTERN PA SYNOD	PROCEEDS	INTEREST	PAYMENTS	LOAN BALANCE
SYNOD LOAN				\$0.00

**TREASURER'S REPORT FOR APRIL 2026
(Subject to Audit)**

	MONTH OF APRIL	4TH MONTH BUDGET	4TH MONTH ACTUAL 2026	4TH MONTH ACTUAL 2025
BUDGETED CURRENT INCOME	\$8,476.04	\$25,494.00	\$34,503.09	\$37,126.95
BENEVOLENCE	\$147.00	\$548.00	\$730.00	\$925.29
TOTAL BUDGETED INCOME	\$8,623.04	\$26,040.00	\$35,233.09	\$38,052.24
NON-BUDGETED INCOME	\$723.21	\$0.00	\$16,854.71	\$18,923.12
TOTAL INCOME	\$9,346.25	\$26,040.00	\$51,887.80	\$56,975.36
BUDGETED CURRENT EXPENSES	\$11,008.50	\$59,439.00	\$45,670.86	\$54,152.25
BENEVOLENCE	\$556.25	\$538.00	\$1,425.00	\$1,285.00
TOTAL BUDGETED EXPENSES	\$11,564.75	\$59,977.00	\$47,095.86	\$55,437.25
NON-BUDGETED EXPENSES	\$431.03	\$0.00	\$10,133.79	\$6,489.93
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$11,995.78	\$59,977.00	\$57,229.75	\$61,927.18
MONTHLY ACTIVITY SUMMARY	BALANCE 4/1/2026	RECEIPTS	EXPENSES	BALANCE 4/30/2026
CURRENT OPERATING FUND - TRUIST	\$7,415.15	\$9,346.25	\$11,995.78	\$4,765.62 +
QUAINT OAK BANK	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
TOTAL OPERATING FUND	\$7,415.15	\$9,346.25	\$11,995.78	\$4,765.62
NORTHEASTERN PA SYNOD	PROCEEDS	INTEREST	PAYMENTS	LOAN BALANCE
SYNOD LOAN				\$0.00



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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 Worship/Music Meeting 6:00pm	2 Sharing Life Craft/Needlework 1:00pm-3:00pm	3	4	5	6
7 Worship 9:30am Pressure Cuff Ministry Fellowship following worship in Luther Hall	8 Open Door 10:00am - 12:00pm	9 Widows' Club 1:00pm Perkins Lehigh St	10	11	12	13
14 Flag Day 9:30am Coffee Hour sponsored by Parish Life	15 Open Door Food Delivery 10:30am	16 Sharing Life Luncheon 12:00pm - 3:00pm Council 6:00pm	17	18	19 	20
21 Father's Day 9:30am	22	23	24 Open Door 4:00pm - 6:00pm	25	26	27
28 Worship 9:30am	29	30 Sharing Life Craft/Needlework 1:00pm-3:00pm	JULY 1	2	3	4



Serving Our Church June 2026		
June 7 th , 2026 – 2 nd Sunday after Pentecost 9:30am Worship/Pressure Cuff <i>Fellowship for the Baptism of Stella Raad after the service in Luther Hall</i>		
Lector/Communion Assistant: Linda Kline Altar Guild: Sue Krasley, Makayla Krasley and Josephine Wieder	Ushers: Doris Brezan Tammy Walbert Linda Gier Terri Harkins Sandy Biery	Council on Duty: Rick Krasley Videographer: Tom Rieger Acolyte: Aliyah Wragg
June 14 th – 3 rd Sunday after Pentecost 9:30am Worship <i>Coffee Hour Sponsored by the Parish Life</i>		
Lector/Communion Assistant: Brenda Mann-Orben Altar Guild: Sue Krasley, Makayla Krasley and Josephine Wieder	Ushers: Doris Brezan Tammy Walbert Linda Gier Terri Harkins Sandy Biery	Council on Duty: Cindy Arnold Videographer: Terri Harkins Acolyte: Patrick Merkle
June 21 st – 4 th Sunday after Pentecost 9:30am Worship		
Lector/Communion Assistant: Carol Hartigan Altar Guild: Terri Harkins and Linda Gier	Ushers: Brenda Covely Tom Rieger Roxann Rieger Kathy Walker Zachary Walker	Council on Duty: Dan Christman Videographer: Kathy Walker Acolyte: Zander Wragg

June 28 th , 2026 – 5 th Sunday after Pentecost 9:30am Worship		
Lector/Communion Assistant: Linda Kline Altar Guild: Terri Harkins and Linda Gier	Ushers: Brenda Covely Tom Rieger Roxann Rieger Kathy Walker Zachary Walker	Council on Duty: Sandy Biery Videographer: Dan Christman Acolyte: Wyatt Trautman
July 5 th , 2026 – 6 th Sunday after Pentecost 9:30am Worship		
Lector/Communion Assistant: Linda Kline Altar Guild: Linda Kline and Linda Raad	Ushers: LuAnn Bresnak June Ruth Bill Ruth Sam Wragg Josephine Wieder	Council on Duty: Tom Rieger Videographer: Tom Rieger Acolyte: Aliyah Wragg