



the welcome place.

## St. Mark Lutheran Church

436 N. Oak Avenue

Clifton Heights, PA 19018

Website: [www.stmarkcliftonheights.org](http://www.stmarkcliftonheights.org)

Email: [office@stmarkcliftonheights.org](mailto:office@stmarkcliftonheights.org)

Phone: 610-626-5295

August 29<sup>th</sup>, 2025

*May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.*

Romans 15:13

Friends in Christ,

Blessing to you as we prepare for the newness and transition that comes with this time of year. Here at St. Mark, we are preparing to welcome new and returning students back to the building on the 3<sup>rd</sup>. Our space is bustling with movement and preparation – and just a little bit of anxiety – as staff members step into new roles, enrollment continues to grow, and families prepare for the joys and challenges of a new school year.

We are also coming off a very successful summer here! I am grateful for the hard work and dedication of our incredible summer staff who welcomed over 115 children to our program this summer. We continue to see growth and connection in our school program, and those connections continue to deepen and strengthen beyond the walls of our building. And I am so grateful for the continued increase in weekly worship attendance and the visitors we've been welcoming into this community.

As we prepare for our upcoming program year, we have a variety of exciting opportunities before us. From new Bible Study opportunities, small groups, the fall festival, and a visit from Bishop Penman, this fall will be an exciting time of connection and growth as we consider who God is calling us to be, here in Clifton Heights and beyond!

One of those initiatives, specifically designed to honor our past, grow our present, and ensure our future, is the St. Mark Mission Endowment Fund. Designed with our values and guiding principles in mind, the endowment fund will support our ongoing mission and ministry. Included within this letter is a document with some information about the fund. We will formally adopt the bylaws for this fund at our annual meeting in January.

As we consider our ministry together, and ponder anew about who God is calling us to be, I invite you to contribute to the St. Mark Mission Endowment Fund in whatever ways you are able. No gift is too small or too big.



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We have set an ambitious goal to open our endowment with \$66,000 – that is \$1,000 for every year since 1959. If you didn't know, in 1959, Temple Lutheran and St. Mark Lutheran merged to create the church that we are today.

I invite you to prayerfully consider how you can support this funding drive. There are a few dates to keep in mind.

- ⇒ Sunday, September 7<sup>th</sup> | The St. Mark Mission Endowment Fund formally opens to receive gifts
- ⇒ Sunday, September 28<sup>th</sup> | Mike Ghelardi, from Thrivent Financial, will visit with us to share more about Thrivent and answer any questions you may have. Plan to stay after worship for a community picnic.
- ⇒ Friday, October 17<sup>th</sup> | To be counted toward our total, gifts must be received by this date. You'll learn about additional ways to contribute to the endowment in the future.
- ⇒ Sunday, October 19<sup>th</sup> | Our bishop, the Reverend Bryan J. Penman, will join us for worship where he will preach and preside – and celebrate with us as we reveal the final total of endowment gifts.

I am excited to hear more about the abundant grace and mercy of God – and how God is moving in your life. Together, we can ensure that this place we love and cherish will continue to do important ministry, here in Clifton Heights and beyond.

If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to our finance team ([finance@stmarkcliftonheights.org](mailto:finance@stmarkcliftonheights.org)) or to me directly. Your questions and curiosities are welcome as we continue forward together.

I look forward to seeing you in worship and around the community.

Your coworker in the Gospel,

The Reverend Kevin M. B. Tracey  
*Pastor, St. Mark Clifton Heights*