

ST. MARK LUTHERAN CHURCH
436 N. OAK AVENUE
CLIFTON HEIGHTS, PA 19018

2025 Annual Report



Annual Meeting / January 25th, 2026

CHURCH STAFF

Rev. Kevin M. B. Tracey, Pastor
Faith Woodward, Director of Music Ministry
Alice Kaplan, Parish Administrator
Melisa McDaid, School Director

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CONNECT WITH ST. MARK

Have you updated your information with the church office yet? We've been updating our records and want to make sure we have the most current information.

Scan the QR code to update your information. If you haven't used this form before, please submit your information – even if you believe we already have accurate data on file. It will ensure we have the correct details in the proper database.



OUR CORE VALUES

Inclusive Fellowship

We are a community of Christians who believe that St. Mark is a place of welcome and belonging. We value the individual gifts of every part of our community and work together to find new ways to build connection and understanding across boundaries.

For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. For in the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and we were all made to drink of one Spirit. Indeed, the body does not consist of one member but of many. 1 Cor. 12:12-14

Intentional Stewardship

We celebrate the abundance God has put in our lives: our gifts and skills, our faith, our relationships, and our finances. We intentionally share these gifts of abundance with one another, our church community, and the whole world.

Like good stewards of the manifold grace of God, serve one another with whatever gift each of you has received. Whoever speaks must do so as one speaking the very words of God; whoever serves must do so with the strength that God supplies, so that God may be glorified in all things through Jesus Christ. 1 Peter 4:10-11

Active Compassion

We seek out meaningful ways to serve each other and our neighbor and we spend time listening to the world around us. We work to practice the extraordinary love of Jesus Christ through our worship, service, and fellowship.

I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.” John 13:34-35

Responsive Faith

We believe that the voice of God is active and vibrant and we seek to respond in joyful faith and hopeful optimism. We celebrate the movement of God in our worship and our daily lives. We celebrate all that God has done and look with trust to the future.

Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, “Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?” And I said, “Here am I; send me!” Isaiah 6:8

OUR GUIDING PRINCIPLES

At St. Mark, we seek to grow:
closer through fellowship
deeper through discipleship

stronger through worship

wider through outreach
bigger through invitation



As you therefore have received Christ Jesus the Lord, continue to live your lives in him, rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving. Colossians 2:6-7

PASTOR

I am the LORD, your Holy One,
the Creator of Israel, your King.
Do not remember the former things,
or consider the things of old.
I am about to do a new thing;
now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?
I will make a way in the wilderness
and rivers in the desert.
Jeremiah 43:15,18-19

Friends in Christ,
Grace to you and Peace from God our Creator and our Lord, Jesus Christ!

I am so very grateful for each and every one of you. God is up to something in this place – and I give thanks for the opportunity to continue to be with you as we work together to proclaim the Good News of Jesus Christ in word and deed.

I have spent this past year walking alongside our leadership as they continue to discern who and how God is calling our community to be. We continue to hear a common theme, from within the church walls and beyond: people are looking for ways to connect and ways to belong.



Fall Fest, 2025

Our community events, like outdoor movie nights, trunk-or-treat, and bingo nights continue to be crowd-pleasers! We brought back our Fall Fest this year, but with a new vision. We focused on creating space for our community to gather and get to know one another. The event was a huge success (in no small part due to Melisa McDaid and Alice Kaplan's enormous effort) and we are looking forward to how this will continue to grow and change.

We continue to explore new ways of worship and connection. Through adjusted holiday service times, expanded opportunities for children to participate in worship, and more, we are continuing to explore new and diverse ways to invite folks to worship with us.

Beyond my traditional administrative and pastoral duties, I continue to serve the Synod in a few ways. I serve on a few teams: the worship team, the inclusive Communities Committee, and the Love Revolution steering team.

At the request of the Office of the Bishop, I have been serving as Vice-Pastor for Christ Lutheran Community Church, Upper Darby. Those duties are primarily administrative. On the second Sunday of the month, schedules permitting, we've done a pulpit swap with CLCC. Their leadership has expressed deep gratitude to the congregation here at St. Mark for collaborating in this way.

Across the synod, similar questions are being asked: *what does it mean to be the church today, in a changing world?* I am grateful that I get to lift up our incredible ministries here as an example of what it means to be a church deeply grounded in its community.



First Wednesday Worship with Ms. Faith

Our Christian School continues to a hub of connection. We are building relationships with the hundreds of families that we see each year. This year, we've added something new to our chapel time.



On the first Wednesday of the month, we gather as one big group (all 80+ children and I!) and we have a mini worship service. Faith leads us in singing, we read a story together, do some activities, and talk about Jesus. It's a beautiful example of the chaos of the Kingdom of Heaven.

God is up to something in this place! And I am always in awe of the movement of the Holy Spirit to break through barriers and build something new. I am hopeful and excited for the future that lies before us.

Enclosed are assorted reports and notes from across the work of **your** church. We are, together, the body of Christ – and these reports represent the life and ministry of St. Mark. They are a mere glimpse into the life we live together.

Please, take a few minutes to read this report in its entirety. A dedicated team of leaders works tirelessly to do ministry together. I see their hard work and passions represented within these pages and I hope you will too. If you see something that you are curious about, bring those questions to our annual meeting on January 25th, immediately following worship.

If you are looking for a way to get more involved in the life of St. Mark, we want to hear from you! Every ministry team represented in this report would welcome new voices, and I'll be happy to connect you.

As the church and the world change, we remain confident and reliant upon the God of All Things – the One who can do anything but fail.

Beloved, you belong here – in the pews, in the work we do day-to-day, and in the gracious and diverse Body of Christ.

Your co-worker in the Gospel,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'K. Tracey' with a stylized cross at the end.

The Reverend Kevin M. B. Tracey, Pastor



At St. Mark,
we seek to grow

*closer through fellowship
deeper through discipleship
stronger through worship
wider through outreach
bigger through invitation*

DIRECTOR OF MUSIC

I am responsible for providing music for each worship service at St Mark, including preludes, postludes, choir anthems, offering music, hymn selections throughout the church year, and incidental music and memorial services as requested; to direct choir members and rehearse with them for leading worship services; to report any issues with the organ and piano to the chair of the Music and Support committee and contracted tuners; and to lead the children of the Christian School in music for their worship each month.

Working with a small, talented choir and instrumentalists throughout the year has been rewarding.

Highlights

Special inspiring music was provided this year with flute and trumpet instrumentalists. Music at Christmas Eve and Easter services is always a highlight.

Involving a middle school trumpeter on Christmas Eve is so important to church life. The new Clavinova keyboard this year has provided us with a variety of delightful instrumental sounds and a more sonorous tone for our worship services.

Challenges

The greatest challenge has been providing appropriate anthems depending on the number of choir members attending St Mark on Sundays and indeed even having a choir at all. Beginning in January, the choir sang an anthem one Sunday each month (including Easter) until the summer break, and since then we have reserved our talents for Christmas Eve and leading the service music and hymns during worship. Please consider joining the choir!

Another challenge has involved the organ and its tuning. Our longtime organ tuner did not live up to our expectations, so we engaged another tuner only to find that, due to a lack of communication, we again had to contact a new tuner. The newest tuner, Kehoe and Company, LLC tuned the organ in November. I anticipate working closely with this new group to solve an ongoing problem that remains unaddressed.

Growing

We would love to grow our choir member numbers and to improve the organ. The congregation has an opportunity to grow by considering the purpose of music in the worship service. Again, I would like to present brief introductions to the congregation before the worship service that highlight different aspects of music to increase our spiritual experience in worship.

Recognition

The most rewarding part of my report is to recognize our choir members! John and Jeanne Kampmeyer, and Kathy Cosentino have been faithful singers throughout the year, with Evelyn Knoell, Kim Bainum, Bill Bohne, and Bit Holt helping as well. We thank trumpeter Kyle Talley who joined us for Christmas Eve services.

Special thanks go to Tom Petree for helping to choose and donate the Clavinova. John Kampmeyer's expertise with church organs was very helpful as we selected and cancelled contracts with organ tuners.

We thank Brian Tracey for his talent as substitute organist. Finding substitute organists remains difficult in all churches.

Many thanks to Pastor Kevin and the Worship Support Committee, who have been very supportive of our entire music program at St. Mark.

The outpouring of gifts and thanks for my 20th anniversary at St Mark was truly unexpected but appreciated!

Submitted by Faith Woodward

PARISH ADMINISTRATOR

You are all invited to stop by the church office and say hello, so that I can put a face to the names that I see in my daily activities, and you can meet me, the person who works behind the scenes overseeing St. Mark's routine operations and managing its business side. This includes tasks such as producing worship bulletins and other church documents, maintaining administrative and worship supplies, creating publicity materials (flyers, emails, ads, signs, etc.) for church ministries and events, and paying the church's bills. I'm also the face or the voice of St. Mark when people come to the door, email, or call the church with various inquiries.

I'd love to have your ideas and input (and pictures) for the weekly eblast newsletter and for our website. It's important to make them informative and engaging not just for the members of the congregation, but also for the members of the public who we'd love to have come to our events and to worship on Sundays.

For those of you who don't know, I'm a 28-year member of Christ Lutheran Church in Upper Darby and manage the church office there. That's why you don't see me at St. Mark on Sundays, though I do hope to come worship with you some Sunday. Thank you to everyone who contributed to Christ Lutheran's Thanksgiving ministries; donating food and frozen turkeys for the Thanksgiving baskets and cooked turkeys for the free meal on Thanksgiving Day, and helping to dish out the cooked meals.

If any of you have a little free time and would like to help with mailings or other office projects, just let me know. I no longer need someone to fold bulletins, however, since our new copier folds for us!

Respectfully submitted,

Alice Kaplan



SCHOOL DIRECTOR

Responsibilities/Accomplishments

The School Director of St. Mark Christian School provides visionary educational and operational leadership, ensuring that all aspects of school life reflect the values of Christian love, academic excellence, and community partnership. This role is responsible for overseeing daily administration, nurturing a safe and supportive environment for students and staff, and upholding the school's commitment to whole-child development rooted in faith.



I have continued to pursue growth opportunities by completing a CDA (Child Development Associate) program this year, in addition to numerous online courses focused on ECE (Early Childhood Education) and Child Care Director development.



Highlights

The school and summer camp remain highly recommended by both former and current families. Summer camp hosted over 100 children (ages 3-11) for 10 weeks. This was our highest summer in all 17 years of operation. The Christian school continues to have strong enrollment, and we look forward to continued growth. Our Christian School children enjoy specials such as Music, Gym, Art and Chapel. This year, Pastor Kevin started a monthly whole-school Chapel. Faith has joined in to teach some new songs. The teachers and students are really enjoying this change. Staffing changes made prior to the school year starting have really worked well!

Challenges

Our challenge working in ECE is getting additional resources for the students who need them. DCIU is a great resource, but requires director guidance. Many parents are unaware of what resources are available or how to access/apply for them. I advocate for our families even after they leave St. Mark's by attending IEP Zoom meetings and providing input. We have students who require PCAs to support them throughout the day.

Growing

In September, I would like to add a half-day enrichment program for Westbrook Park Kindergarten students. This Program would be for 5 A.M. students and 5 P.M. students. They would be walked to and from by a member of our staff. Staff will support Kindergarten students with homework, take them for indoor or outdoor play, and support their social-emotional



growth. We find that not everyone can afford to pay for a full-day private Kindergarten program but *need* full-day care so that they can work and pay the bills. I hope to run this small pilot program for the 2026-27 school year.

Recognition

I appreciate all the support I have received since taking over as the director of the Christian School! It is super important to recognize that it takes the entire team to make the day-to-day operations work. I am fortunate to have a staff that will cover for each other when needed or help out in any way needed.

Respectfully submitted
Melisa McDaid, School Director

CHURCH COUNCIL

Meetings are held on the third Tuesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. Anyone is allowed to attend and is encouraged to do so to learn about what the council does and what is happening in the church. During the meeting, council members review reports from the following committees: property, kids closet, worship support, school, social, personnel, finance, and the pastor. Meeting minutes are available from the church office.

Council members are elected, as needed, during the annual meeting for a 3-year term. They can elect to continue for a second term for a total of 6 years. After that, they must step down. This year, the council will lose 3 valuable members: Alma Noecker, Bramblee Bird, and Cathy Bohné. We also lost John Kampmeyer who decided to step down. We thank them for their years of dedicated service. Council will elect three - possibly four new members during the annual meeting to fill the vacancies. Being on council does not take a lot of time and effort. Please consider volunteering your time and talents to serve on council or any of the other committees.

Current council members remaining on board are Bonnie Tillman, serving as President, Denise Pflieger, Chris Kanter, Jeanne Kampmeyer (serving as Treasurer) and of course, Pastor Kevin

Tracey. Please bring any of your concerns / issues / suggestions / offers to volunteer to any member of council.

Last year was the first year we had a Nativity scene placed outside. The statues were donated by the Bohne family and the crèche was created by Pastor Kevin's father. The awful windstorms did some damage to the crèche, but it was up again this year with the addition of one cow and three donkeys! We had also placed wreaths on all the doors for a seasonal and welcoming look.

We had two successful Bingo events, movie night was cancelled due to rain, but we had a very well attended Fall Fest with vendors, pony rides, face painting, bouncy houses, and food. The Fall Fest was all thanks to Melissa McDade, our school director, and Alice Kaplan, our Office Administrator. We have outside community resources that use the social hall, which provide a small source of income and show Saint Mark as a valuable asset to the broader community.



This past year was an eventful one. In April, we had a call vote to offer Pastor Kevin a full-time permanent position as pastor of Saint Mark. Thankfully, he accepted the call. In addition to serving as our Pastor, he is also assisting Christ Lutheran in Upper Darby during their time without a pastor.

We established the Prayground for younger members to use during service. We have had new members attending service. The Mission Endowment Fund was established with substantial initial funding. Remember, you can contribute to it at any time! Bible study is now online on Wednesday evenings and is well attended. The Thrift Shop has grown, so renovations have been started to expand the shopping area. The School and summer camp have been extremely successful under the direction of our director, Melissa.

I am thankful for the support I received from the past council. I am hopeful the new council, which will bring new thoughts and ideas, will be as well. I am excited about those who volunteered to join council

for the first time. I am hopeful about the younger people now attending. Nothing wrong with the "older" members as they give us history and a route to follow but "we've always done it that way" isn't going to propel us into the ever changing climate of today. We value the thoughts and ideas of everyone and strive to really make Saint Mark Clifton Heights "The Welcome Place"

Yours in Christ,
Bonnie Tillman
Council President

FINANCE TEAM

The Finance Committee is broadly responsible for overseeing St. Mark's financial resources. More specifically, that would include things like creating budgets, helping with fundraising and stewardship campaigns, and developing financial policies and procedures. Our committee members include Pastor Kevin, Council Liaison Chris Kantner, Tom Petree, Kathy Cosentino, Edie Beaupre, Justin Bainum, and Jeanne Kampmeyer. In 2025, we met in May and October.

During our meetings we discussed two main topics: the creation of the Mission Endowment Fund and the budget process. Justin, Tom and Jeanne volunteered to look over an Endowment Fund By-Laws template. With the help of Jeff Nast, we came up with the new by-laws that will be voted on at the annual meeting.

Tom and Jeanne volunteered to work on the budget process. One of Tom's brilliant ideas for this process was to break down the budget into smaller parts and assign each part to the committee responsible for the expense. We then used the numbers returned by each committee to create the budget you see now.

The big difference with the budget that we are passing in January is that it is only a budget for the time period of January 2026 through August 2026. The reason for this is that we are combining the church and the school into one cohesive budget. The Finance team decided it made the most sense to align the church's budget with the school's budget (instead of the school converting to a calendar year). In order to do this, the church needed to be converted to the fiscal budget time period that the school uses. So, we will approve an eight month budget in January and then in September we will approve a 12 month budget that will include both the school and the church for the time period of September 2026 – August 2027.

Please take a moment to look over the attached budget summary. There are several things that we would like to point out. On the offering side, we used last year's generous amounts and increased them by 5%. Our rental income is slightly lower than last year but we are working on some new ideas to increase rental income by way of advertising our wonderful kitchen and substantial hall!

In looking at the expenses, you will notice a decrease in property expenses. The church is now enrolled in the budget plan with PECO which helps by keeping this expense predictable. In addition to the budget plan, we have also contracted with a new landscaping and snow removal company which offered us better pricing than the previous one. Under staff expenses we worked into the budget a much-deserved cost of living increase of 2.8% to Alice and Faith. Our mortgage rates re-set at Thrivent which initiated an increase of a little less than 2%, but the payments only increased by \$71.00. This is largely in part because our balances on the two loans (as of the end of December) are approximately \$45,973.00 and \$39,320.00. And even better news is that we only have 6 years left on the one loan and 5 years left on the other one. There is light at the end of the tunnel!

The budget is being presented in a summary format, but if you are interested in a more detailed one, please let us know, and we will provide you with a copy. We feel that we have created a very solid 8-month budget, which in the end has a positive outcome of \$1,119.00.

Respectfully Submitted,
Jeanne Kampmeyer

BUDGET | JAN. 2026 – AUG. 2026

Proposed Budget

For the period January 2026 through August 2026

	Budget	Actual 1/1/25- 8/31/25
Income		
Unrestricted Giving	104,715	99,498
Restricted Giving	1,120	32,584
Ministry Support	32,000	37,620
Rental of property	12,060	12,740
Investment and other income	2,800	2,705
Total Income	152,695	185,147
Expenses		
Property	43,329	51,807
Office & Supplies	8,395	10,699
Staff - Admin	14,640	15,190
Staff - Music	8,715	9,688
Staff - Clergy	50,461	46,875
Staff - Other	4,145	4,737
Other employee benefits	14,560	18,301
Other administrative	925	923
Programs	6,406	6,935
Total Expenses	151,576	165,155
Income over/(under) Expenses	1,119	19,992

COMMITTEE AND MINISTRY REPORTS

St. Mark's Christian School Board

Responsibilities of St Mark Christian School Board

The St Mark Christian School Board is responsible for supporting the Director and overseeing the general operation of our Christian School throughout the year. We are responsible for the overall operation of the school, including but not limited to: overseeing and modifying the school Bylaws when necessary; school staffing – including appointing the School Director, teachers, assistant teachers, and other staff members based on the recommendations of the Director; overseeing school funding – setting yearly tuition rates and staff salaries; classroom sizes; reviewing and approving curriculum recommended by the Director; handling serious student educational and discipline issues that must go beyond the Director level and as brought to us by the Director; handling teacher and staff issues that cannot be resolved at the Director level; scheduling and holding quarterly School Board meetings; and reviewing and discussing ideas for improving the educational experiences for those darling children and their families who depend on us to begin their life-long educational journeys! We do all this while always keeping in mind our responsibilities to Christ and our community as a Christian school!

Significant Updates

The 2024/2025 school year was again a busy one for us. We continue to offer 6 different school programs, with additional before-care and after-care school programs. Following is a list of our current programs the respective teachers are:

- Moms Morning Out – Ms. Patty (lead) & Ms. Kelly
- Full and ½ day Pre-school – Ms. Chrissy (lead) & Ms. Juliet
- Full and ½ day Pre-K - Ms. Melisa & Ms. Bridget (co-leads) & Ms. Mary
- Kindergarten – Ms. Diane (lead); Ms. Mackenzie, & Ms. Ethel

Current enrollment is at 93 students, representing nearly full enrollment.

We continue to provide art classes, music classes, and gym classes for all our students! Every Wednesday, Pastor Kevin continues to hold chapel for all students.

As we are always looking for ways to improve the learning experiences for the children, Ms. Juliet was moved to the Pre-school class as Assistant Teacher, and Ms. Mackenzie was a building substitute last year and was moved to Kindergarten as the Assistant Teacher. The change is working out great! Mary Fisher was hired in September to supplement our staff and has proven to be a great addition to our staff!

In September of 2025, Kathy Cosentino resigned as School Administrator and took on the position of School Treasurer, a position previously held by Justin Bainum. Kathy continues to serve as part-time administrator on a volunteer basis, assisting Melisa with these duties. We would be remiss if we didn't thank Justin for all the work he's done in handling our financial matters.

As for our Director, we worry about Melisa taking on too much, but she says she's just fine with all she does. In fact, it seems the more she does the happier she is! We are truly blessed to have her leading our school and hope to have her for many, many years into the future!

Financial Cooperation with the Church

During the 2024/2025 school year, the school contributed around \$64,000 in ministry support. This is approximately \$13,000 more than we provided the previous year, a year in which we contributed quite a bit more for snow removal \$5,625. The school also continued to contribute to various property improvement projects during the year. We helped with more improvements with the landscaping and gardening on the school side of the building and in the courtyard by our Scattering Garden. And lastly, we sponsored three community events - Trunk or Treat, an Easter Egg hunt, and an outdoor movie night! Raising funds for the school and church are always top priorities. But more importantly, we hold these events to promote our School and Church and to hopefully attract more church members and more students into our building.

While we understand that the school funds are also considered funds of the church, we feel it is important to note how vital our school is in contributing to the continued life of St. Mark.

Challenges for 2025/2026 School Year

Our biggest challenge for the 2025/2026 school year is maintaining our number one status in the Delaware County Daily Times rankings, not simply for bragging rights but for our students! With all of the preschools in Delaware County, this certainly is not an easy accomplishment, in fact it's a very honorable distinction that becomes increasingly harder to win year after year. And we've also been ranked as one of the top Summer Camps in Delco! These are two accomplishments that we owe a deep debt of gratitude and thanks to Melisa and the entire school staff for. So, from the bottom of our hearts – Thank you! Thank you! Thank you!!

We continue to hold special events not just to raise funds for the school, but also to get our name out in the community. Turnout for these events is usually pretty good, and our reputation in the community is second to none! Our “Outdoor Movie Night” is but one example of an outreach program that is very successful year after year. We don't see ourselves as just a school, but as a vehicle to continue spreading the good news of Jesus Christ throughout our community!

Plans are underway to add an additional program for the 2026/2027 school year: a Kindergarten Enrichment program for students who attend ½-day Kindergarten at Westbrook Park School. Classes will be for 5 students in the mornings and an additional 5 in the afternoons. Not only will this bring in additional income, but, most importantly, it will provide educational opportunities the community currently lacks.

Recognition

The Board currently consists of the following members - Bill Bohne - Chairman, Jeff Nast – Vice Chairman, Donna Charlier - Secretary, Kim Bainum, Tracy Talley, and Bramblee Bird. After serving many years on the Board, Avie Mock and Bonnie Tillman stepped off the board. We'd like to thank Avie for her many years of service as a Board member as Board Secretary! Kathy Cosentino presently serves as our Treasurer. I would like to personally thank all of them for their time and dedication to their responsibilities. And we would be remiss if we didn't extend a special

thanks to Fran Cosentino and Alice Kaplan for all of the work they do on behalf of the school throughout the year. Of course, our School would not be the great school it is without the unconditional support of Pastor Kevin, and we thank him for his support!

Last but not least, the Board would like to offer special thanks to our Director, Melisa McDaid, and her entire staff for the work they do day in and day out each year to make our school the number one preschool in Delaware County.

Respectfully submitted,

Bill Bohné Jr.
Chairman

Thrift Shop

St. Mark's Thrift Shop is open the second Saturday of each month – except January – from 10:00 until 2:00. The thrift shop collects donations of gently used women's and children's clothing and miscellaneous household items for resale.

Of course, more time is spent working the Thrift Shop than just the “open for business” hours. We can usually be found there on most Tuesdays between 8 in the morning until 2 in the afternoon. If anyone needs something to do on a Tuesday, stop by. We can usually use the help!

Volunteers sort the donations, tag the clothing by size and price the household items based on condition. Any items deemed not up to our resale standards are donated to Green Drop. Any men's clothing received is given to Church of the Redeemer for their thrift shop (Redeemer is Josh's church), so very little of our donations received go into a landfill which helps the environment. We have recently discovered a company by the name of Pick Up Please, which helps support Vietnam Veterans of America. This company will come to the church and pick up the donations for us. We no longer have to load the items into our vehicles and take them to Green Drop.

Listed below is what our sales were for each month. The monthly totals may not seem to be a huge amount but those sales will enable the thrift shop to begin and pay for the renovations we started in December.

February	\$281
March	\$266
April	\$316
May	\$287
June	\$361
July	\$381

August	\$357
September	\$501
October	\$347
November	\$238
December	\$541

In December, we began our renovations, in which our sorting room will become the new store, and the store will become the new sorting room. We are adding a new door and steps coming from the kids section into the hall. Both rooms, the new door and the steps will receive a new coat of paint. The floors will also be scrubbed and waxed and the landing at the entrance will have new flooring installed.

We have various sales at different times throughout the year. We have a bag sale (all clothing you can fit in a bag for \$10) in March and August. During June and December, we have 50% off everything. And there are other sales monthly with percentages off certain items.

For the third year in a row, the kindergarten children were invited to come select gifts for their family members. It is a joy to see the thoughtful selection each child makes in selecting gifts. And they don't just buy for Mom and Dad. They think of siblings and grandparents, too. The selections are then wrapped and delivered to the classroom for the children to take home for special surprises on Christmas morning.

We would like to thank everyone who donates or shops with us. We want to thank our faithful volunteers – Alma Noecker and John Beaupre, who are usually there every day we are open and those other volunteers who can't help every week but do so when able.

Remember – if it looks nice and you no longer want or need it - donate it.

We can also now accept Venmo payments.

Respectfully submitted
Greg Whitton & Bonnie Tillman

Prayer Ministry

Prayer is an important way for us to communicate our thoughts, hopes, and happenings to the Lord. It is also a time for reflection, in our very hurried lives, and remembering to thank and praise the Lord for all He has done for us. We have a very strong prayer group that continues to pray with me via email. They are, Edie, Bramblee, Bonnie, Bill, Greg, Tracey, Brit, Mary Ellen, Alice, Melisa, Avie, Naydeen, Cheryl, Fran, Faith. Sandy, Steve, Jeanne, John, Kim, Jen and Mary. I am grateful for all of their support.

In the future, I hope that more people will come and indicate that they would like to join this ministry. No one needs to feel either intimidated or unworthy to prayer as we are all, as sinners, are unworthy, yet we continue to pray and express our feelings to the Lord who listens and guides us each and every day.

I would like to talk about taking prayer to the "people"; what that would look like, when it would be, and how we would do this amazing ministry.

In service to our Lord,
Kathy Cosentino

Property & Grounds

In the spring, we had an outdoor property cleanup, which wasn't very well attended. I'm hoping we have a couple this year in the spring and throughout the summer to help keep our property looking very nice.

We had the scattering garden mulched, along with the main sign that's out on the side property at Crestwood. The gardens around the school area were also weeded and mulched. *Thank you very much, Melisa.*

In the fall, we had a young man who belongs to the congregation come up and clean around the dumpster, around the property fence, by the dumpster, and do some weeding and trimming around the cross on the side of the church on Crestwood. *Thank you, Colby.*

We had all our heater units at the church and on the rental property serviced. Everything looks pretty good. We also had two deliveries of oil. The thrift shop is under construction, and we hope it's done by the end of January 2026 so we can reopen in February.

Submitted by: Greg Whitton
Property Team Chair

Personnel Team

The Personnel Committee is responsible for reviewing and revising documents related to St. Mark employees and addressing any issues or concerns that may arise. Our committee members are Pastor Kevin, Council Liaison Denise Pfeiger, Alma Noecker, Kim Bainum, and Jeanne Kampmeyer. In 2025, we met in February and May.

During the two meetings, the group developed procedures for annual staff reviews. We developed the questions for their self-evaluations and for each review. Evaluations took place in the fall. In early spring, we will conduct a brief follow-up/check-in to ensure everything is going well for the staff.

Next year, we will be working on the family leave and harassment and discrimination policies.

Respectfully Submitted,
Jeanne Kampmeyer

Life Center Meals

The Life Center Meal Ministry cooks and delivers meals to the Life Center in Upper Darby on the 4th Monday of the odd months. We are extremely grateful to have the following participants who help immensely with this coordination: Edie Beaupre, Sandy Gilchrist, Tracey Talley, Bonnie Tillman, Greg Whitton, Kevin Tracey, Bill & Cathy Bohne, Naydeen Marino, Melisa McDaid, Cheryl Baylor, Avie Mock, Steve DeMott, Bramblee Bird, Fran and Kathy Cosentino, Jenn Kantner, Faith Woodward and Alma Noecker.

During the odd months in 2025, not only did we cook and assemble five chicken and vegetable casseroles for the Life Center, but we also supplied packs of cookies, water bottles, and applesauce cups. They are so grateful when we pull up to deliver the food. In November, I actually got a hug from one of the residents!

If you would like to be a part of this ministry, please see me after church, and I will add you to the list!

Respectfully Submitted,
Jeanne Kampmeyer

Worship Support Team

Responsibilities of the Worship Support Team include:

- Planning, carrying out, and reflecting on the worship needs of the church
- Planning the annual calendar of services.
- Arranging for the staffing and scheduling of the services.
- Involving laypersons in worship participation
- Updating the sanctuary décor to reflect the changing church seasons.
- Providing resources to help enhance worship services.
- Preparing for administration of the sacraments.
- Providing monthly reports to the Church Council
- Projecting financial needs to be considered in annual church budget

2025 Updates

Faith Woodward continues to provide beautiful music each Sunday and leads the choir for holidays and special services. We are always looking for new choir members and instrumentalists. Please speak with Faith if you have interest in joining the choir or if you play an instrument and would like to share your musical gifts.

In January 2025 the Worship Support Team and Church Council voted to accept the anonymous gift of a new digital piano to replace our Baldwin piano in the Sanctuary. We have enjoyed having the new instrument enhance the music each Sunday morning. Special thanks to the donor for this beautiful and much appreciated gift!

We switched organ tuners twice in 2025. We initially used the Emery Brothers for our Spring cleaning. We were unable to secure a written annual contract with them and their feedback was very limited on any organ issues we need to focus on for the future. Therefore we made the decision to move to Kehoe and Company for the Fall cleaning. We did receive an annual contract from them. We hope to get more feedback from them at the Spring cleaning.

Nancy Scharff and her praise team led a Sunday worship service in mid-August 2025. It is always a joy to welcome Nancy and her group to St. Mark.

Christmas Eve services were moved to 5 pm and 7:30 pm this year. We had a total attendance of 64 people between the two services this year with the 7:30 pm service being much better attended. We plan to move to just one service at 7:30 pm for Christmas Eve December 2026.

Thanks to Kyle Talley who played Trumpet at the 5 pm service this year. Many thanks to Faith and the choir for their extra preparation for the 7:30 pm Christmas Eve service. Our choir members on Christmas Eve included Jeanne Kampmeyer, Kim Bainum, Evelyn Knoell, and Kathy Cosentino who all sang beautifully.

Thanks to the Kampmeyer family for purchasing the 2 church Christmas trees this year and to everyone that helped decorate the trees and the Sanctuary this year. Thanks also to everyone that helped to take down the Christmas decorations after Epiphany in early January. Thanks to Bill Tracey for repairing the creche for the nativity, which was placed in front of the St. Mark sign on Oak Avenue this year.

Recognition

Thanks to Fran Cosentino and Greg Whitton for lighting the sanctuary lamp each week and for the many jobs they do throughout the year.

Thanks to all who assisted with technology support throughout the year including Tom Petree, Edie Beaupre, Justin Bainum, Bill Caughlan, Chris Kantner, Denise Pflieger, and Bonnie Tillman. Bill and Nadine Marino answered the call for additional support on Altar Guild. They are now helping set up the altar for services most weeks. We appreciate their willingness to serve in this important area!

Looking ahead:

We continue to seek additional people to serve as worship assistants each week which include lectors, ushers, greeters and communion assistants. Bramblee Bird assigned lectors 4 to 6 weeks in advance for much of the year. Starting in November we moved to a more automated system for scheduling the weekly lectors. Other worship assistants are selected Sunday morning by Bonnie Tillman. Please reach out to either Bramblee or Bonnie if you would like to serve in one of these worship assistant positions. All are welcome and training is gladly provided as needed!

We continue to seek additional people to help run the slides and/or the Mevo Camera each week. Please see either Edie Beaupre or Pastor Kevin if you are interested in being on the Tech team. Training is gladly provided!

Worship Support Team Committee Members

Chair: Edie Beaupre. Members: Bonnie Tillman, Cathy Bohne, Alma Noecker, Faith Woodward and Pastor Kevin.

Respectfully submitted,
Edie Beaupre

ADDITIONAL MINISTRIES AFFILIATED WITH ST. MARK

AA/NA:

St. Mark is blessed to have AA and NA groups meeting each week at the church. You are invited to hold these groups and those who attend in prayer.

Each group makes a monthly donation to St. Mark and signs a contract regarding building use.

St. Stephen's Food Pantry

After consulting with a member of the Clifton Heights borough council, St. Mark has partnered with St. Stephen's Episcopal Church (199 W. Baltimore Avenue) to broaden the reach of our food pantry. Observing the lack of engagement with the pantry at St. Mark, we have relocated all donated food to St. Stephen's for distribution. We will continue to accept food donations directly at the church office and will transport them to St. Stephen's as part of this ongoing partnership.

General Building Use

In addition to the many recovery groups that use St. Mark's social hall, we have been intentionally expanding its use. Various groups and organizations, including the local PTA, non-profit groups dedicated to community improvement, and others, have been utilizing the space. We've welcomed a congregation member who leads a small Dungeons & Dragons (D&D) group, and a community member who runs a softball hitting clinic.

We are always seeking new partnerships, especially those that will support our budget and foster relationships within the community. We welcome recommendations to the church office or the Pastor.