

ST. MARK LUTHERAN CHURCH
WEEKLY DEVOTIONAL AND REMINDERS/UPDATES
January 18, 2023

From DAILY GUIDEPOSTS 2017: Written by Patty Kirk

*You save humans and animals alike, oh Lord.
How precious is your steadfast love, oh God!... PSALM: 36:6-7*

My sister Sharon and her husband, Tom, moved to Oklahoma from Colorado. Until they build a house, they are living on our farm in my mother-in-law's old house, which has been vacant since she died. It's a nice arrangement – handy for shared meals and shopping.

One problem, however, has been the matter of dogs. Their elderly Shiba Inu, Andy, is an indoor dog, feisty and territorial but frail. Sharon and Tom dote on him as they would on a toddling son.

Our two Labradors, Moe and Erica, and two beagles, Sawyer and Russell, roam the farm in the way of country dogs and consider my mother-in-law's house part of their domain. Since Sharon's at home more than the rest of us (and gives dog treats all the time), our four dogs have taken to hanging out on her porch. They tolerate Andy and sniff his nose when he bites at them through the pen Tom built for him out back. Sharon lives in terror, though, that Andy will escape, pick a fight with them, and be killed.

It may happen. That doesn't stop Sharon from giving our dogs treats though. Or putting out water for them. Or loving them. Or sitting on her porch, watching them chase cows, then calling to tell me about it.

When it comes to dogs, Sharon is like God: all-loving. If only we were the same about humans.

Oh, Father, let me love others as you do. – PATTY KIRK

Prayer: *Creator Lord, by your Word all of creation was formed. By your glory you made the animals of the land, the birds of the air, and the fish of the sea. Every day I give thanks for the beauty of all this creation that surrounds me. Help me live, fully loving others and all animals as you have loved me. Guide me in my interactions, in my speech, and all my intentions so that they may be for the good. I pray all this seeking your glory, in the name of your Son, my Lord, Jesus. Amen.*

Weekly Schedule:

Office Hours: Monday through Friday 9:00am-12:00noon

Preschool: Monday/Wednesday/Friday 8:30am-4:00pm; Tuesday/Thursday 8:30am-12:00pm

Thursday, January 19	9:00am to 12noon – Quilters Group 5:00pm – Post-Christmas Council Get-Together
Friday, January 20	11:00am to 12noon – Bible Study
Saturday, January 21	5:30pm – Spoken Worship – 3 rd Weekend After Epiphany
Sunday, January 22	9:00am – Traditional Worship – 3 rd Weekend After Epiphany Sunday School / Confirmation Class Following Worship End-of-Year Committee Reports Due to Church Office Bells Rehearsal PAL Team 1 Serves Lunch at HACC – 9:30am-12:30pm
Tuesday, January 24	5:00pm – Council Meeting
Wednesday, January 25	7:00pm – Future Task Force Meeting (NOTE: New Date)

Sunday Worship Leaders:

CPIC: Penelope Highlands

Lector: Sami Slusser

Communion Assistants: Sue O'Brien and Penelope Highlands

Altar Care: Linda Bolin



Prayer List: We ask that you keep all our shut-ins and those needing special help in your daily prayers. We will keep the shut-ins on the list indefinitely and those needing extra prayers will be removed after one month unless hearing otherwise. To add a name to the prayer list please write it on the list on the narthex brass stand or call the office. This week keep in your prayers: *Carolyn Anderson, Barb Baublitz, Nancy Bittinger, Larry Bolin, Katherine Borsella, Bob Bortner, Allen Bowersox, Alice Button, Wilma Crawford, Jada Crow, Irene DeMart, Gail Dorsey, Diane Duffy, Robin Eline, Tarek Elnaggar, Jean Eshbach, Gwenyeth Eyer, Julia Eyer, Family of Jeff Eyer, Vickie Gouker, Dane Graham, Tom Greenholt, Family & Friends of Ron Hagarman, Carol Ann Haines, Shirley Hippensteel, Jean Huskin, Don Jamison, Donna Jones, Pat Keefer, JoAnn Kirkpatrick, Norma Kreidler, Robert Krick, Mary Lou Krummeck, Allen Kuhns, John Kuhns, David Kunkel, Gardy Lawrence, Naura Luqman, Ricky Mai, Dave & Denise Martin, Mary Ellen Melhorn, Carol Miller, Merita Moore, Leah Moul, Merle Mummert, Pam Mummert, Tammy Mummert, Carolyn Neumyer, Marian Noble, Family & Friends of Stef Reid, Mary Riley, Ethan Schneider, Tony Schuman, Robert Sell, Luanne Slusser, Pr. Jerry Smith, Beverly Snyder, Mary Stahl, Kady Storm, Phyllis Tasto, Jennie Tome, Anna Turvin, Lois VandenHeuvel, Naomi Warren, Family & Friends of Paul Warren (Melinda Elnaggar's Father), Barb Watson, Diana Weaver, Ron Wentz, Rebecca Wisotzkey, Shannon Yoeman.*

St. Mark's Monthly Offering for Designated Needs gives us an opportunity as a congregation to support specific domestic and international needs which are pre-determined by our council each year. January's offering benefits **Lutheran Disaster Response (LDR)** to "bring God's hope, healing and renewal to people whose lives have been disrupted by disasters in the United States and around the world."

To contribute to this month's designated need, please mail your donations to our office or place them in our weekend collection plates by specifying "Lutheran Disaster Response" or January Designated Giving on your check or the *other* line of any of our weekly offering envelopes. Whenever a donation is made on the *other* line that does not have a written designation, it will automatically be given to the ministry fund designated for that month. Thanks for your support.

You Can Help with Altar Care: We need volunteers for altar cleanup in the coming months. A sign-up sheet for 2023 is in the narthex (next to the Flower Book) – most of 2023 is open. Please sign up for this important job of tidying up after the service and taking care of the altar flowers.

Congregational Year-in-Review Meeting: Our annual Congregational Meeting to review the previous year will be on **February 5th** following worship. All annual committee reports and reports from auxiliary groups are due to the church office by this coming Sunday, **January 22nd**, so they can be included in the meeting. The makeup date in case of postponement is **February 12th**.

Follow Us on Facebook: And invite your friends to follow us, too! @129charlesstreet.

Give Blood, Get Ice Cream and a Lunch Cooler! Our next UPMC Blood Drive is **February 2nd** from 7:00am to 7:00pm in the Fellowship Hall. Donors will receive a voucher for a FREE pint of ice cream from Bruster's and an insulated lunch bag. Get up and look for your shadow and join us to donate. You can register online <https://donate.717giveblood.org/> or call 1-800-771-0059.

Help Staying Warm This Winter: Are you having trouble paying your heating bill? Pennsylvanians with low incomes can apply for LIHEAP, which is a federally funded program to assist those who need help paying to heat their homes. Contact County Assistance at 877-395-8930 or apply at: <https://www.compass.state.pa.us/compass.web/Public/CMPHome>

Help with Tax Preparation: The AARP Foundation Tax-Aide Program is again offering FREE tax service for York County taxpayers, especially adults 50 and older with low or moderate income. Volunteers are available to assist with most personal tax returns, including basic self-employment returns. To make an appointment, contact the Hanover Area Council of Churches at 717-633-6353.

Host a Fellowship Time: Many of us enjoy our fellowship time on the first Sunday of each month. To continue these gatherings, we need hosts. If you are willing to set up/clean up doughnuts and coffee (purchased by the church) after worship, please sign up on the hallway bulletin board or contact the church office at 717-637-8904. The first Sunday of every month in 2023 is open, so you can choose the Sunday that works for you!

Inclement Weather: Remember, cancellations of services due to inclement weather will be noted at WGAL radio and WGAL.com. We will also do our best to update the website and voicemail (637-8904), as well as send emails. If in any doubt about the conditions of the roads, please stay home and stay safe!

PAL Team Help: Provide-A-Lunch members prepare and package lunch at HACC on the **4th Sunday** of each month, and a staff member hands them out. Our teams rotate, so **each team only serves once every three months**. We'd love to have you on one of our teams. If you'd like to try it, contact our office.

Piggie Bank Project: Please pick up one of the piggie banks on the table in the narthex and fill it with loose change from now until Easter, when it will be used to provide animals and other necessities to impoverished international communities. Thank you for your help!

Preschool Open House: The Preschool has openings in all but the 4-year-old morning class. If you or anyone you know is interested in having a child attend St. Mark Preschool, they will also be hosting an Open House on **February 1st** from 6:00pm to 8:00pm for current and interested parents.

Preschool Registration: St. Mark Preschool is now accepting priority registration applications for the 2023/2024 school year. Families with a child who has attended in the past and St. Mark church members may submit an early application between **January 1st and 31st**. Applications can be found on our website: stmarkhanover.org and on the preschool's website: stmarkpreschoolhanover.weebly.com. Open registration for everyone else will begin **February 1st**. For those who don't qualify for priority registration, you may still mail in or drop off your form and \$35 deposit in January, and it will be held until February 1st, where they will be processed in the order they arrived, and you will be notified at that time if there is a spot for your child. If you are interested in applying, please do so ASAP as spots fill up very quickly!

Quilt Help: Our Thursday morning quilting group is thankful for all the sheets they've received. Additionally, they really could use extra helpers to accomplish their mission. No sewing or quilting experience necessary. Please contact the church office for more information. This is a really fun group and a great opportunity for fellowship, even if you don't know how to sew.

Ruth's Harvest Donations Sought: Individual fruit, veggies, snacks, and tuna/chicken pouches make great donations to support the children's hunger program. These weekend bags help feed the children when the school lunch programs can't. Please place donations in the floor bin next to the office.

Souper Bowl of Caring: On Super Bowl Sunday weekend (**February 11th and 12th**) we'll be collecting non-perishable food items (and cash if you're so inclined). Please bring in food to donate to help our local food bank meet the needs of the Hanover community! If you won't be here that weekend, feel free to drop off your donations at the church office (open weekdays, 9:00am to noon) before then.

St. Mark Eats: We enjoyed our first lunchtime gathering at El Rodeo. On **February 7th at 1:00pm** we'll meet at Olive Garden. Please join us for lunch and a good time – sign up in the narthex so we can be sure to include you in our reservations.

2023 St. Mark Directory Now Available: Our church directory of active members has been updated for 2023. Copies are now available on the table in the bell tower room. If you would like a copy sent to you by email or snail mail, please email the church office at offcoor129@gmail.com or call Joni at 717-637-8904.

\$1,000 Scholarship Opportunity! Once again, the Slagle Scholarship Committee is accepting applications. This year, the scholarship is worth \$1,000 and will be awarded to a graduating senior of Hanover High School or South Western High School who plans to enter the nursing profession, the ministry or other religious work, or attend a vocational (technical) school. If you know anyone who fits the bill, please have them contact Martha Lippy at 717-637-8891 or come by the church office on weekdays between 9:00am and 12noon to pick up an application. **Completed applications must be received by the church office by March 31, 2023.**

The Hills of Lent: Yes, I know Ash Wednesday is still a month away, but our Wednesday Lenten Soup and Bible Study nights are in the planning stages. This year we will travel some of the Biblical Hills such as Moriah, Sanai, Carmel, Zion, and others. As we have always enjoyed the various soups and breads people provide through these dinners, we are asking once again for people to sign up to bake, make, and donate. Look for the sign-up sheet in the narthex if you are able to make a pot of soup or bring bread.