

ST. MARK LUTHERAN CHURCH WEEKLY DEVOTIONAL AND REMINDERS/UPDATES

January 25, 2023

From *DAILY GUIDEPOSTS 2017*: Written by Penney Schwab

*There's a season for everything and a time for every matter
under the heavens. – ECCLESIASTES 3:1*

When we bought it in 1979, the tandem-axle grain truck was state of the art. I drove it until I took an off-farm job with a social service agency. 30 plus years later the brakes were shot, the crank windows were cranky, and the motor used lots of oil. The truck was worn out, and my husband was wearing out too. Each year it was harder for him to work 12-hour shifts and wrestle the heavy tarp in the Kansas wind.

So last winter Don parked the truck on a dealer's lot. I thought I would be glad to see it go but, instead, I was sad. Our last tie to farming was gone. The truck was useless and would likely be sold for scrap iron. I felt pretty useless, too, retired now.

When we drove by the dealer a week later, the truck was gone. An Oklahoma farmer bought it to haul seed wheat.

The truck's new life helped me to remember that my activities in retirement are different but still beneficial. While I don't have the agility to paint the house roof again, I am helping Don put up drywall in the basement. My swollen thumb joints keep me from playing difficult organ preludes, but each Sunday I play hymns for our small congregation. I don't speak to large groups about justice issues, but I do visit an elderly friend in a care home.

Different ages, different stages, different tasks - they're all part of God's perfect design.

*Everlasting God, thank You for using a worn-out truck to give me a new perspective
on the seasons of life. – PENNEY SCHWAB*

Prayer: *Almighty God, you have formed me in my mother's womb. You know my days and have watched me through the years. Help me see the walk of life that follows alongside your will. No matter where I am or how I feel, I know you have a purpose for me. Guide me in doing that work this day, being a witness of your Son, my Lord, Jesus, in whose name I pray. 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

Wednesday, January 25 7:00pm – Future Task Force Meeting (NOTE: New Date)

Thursday, January 26 9:00am to 12noon – Quilters Group

Friday, January 27 11:00am to 12noon – Bible Study

Saturday, January 28 5:30pm – Spoken Worship – 4th Weekend After Epiphany

Sunday, January 29 9:00am – Traditional Worship – 4th Weekend After Epiphany

Sunday School Following Worship

Worship & Music Committee Meeting

Bells Rehearsal

Wednesday, February 1 6pm to 8pm – Preschool Open House for Current and Prospective Preschool Parents

Thursday, February 2 *Groundhog Day*

7:00am to 7:00pm – UPMC Blood Drive in Fellowship Hall

9:00am to 12noon – Quilters Group

3:00pm – Evangelism Committee Meeting

Sunday Worship Leaders:

CPIC: Karen Feeser **Lector:** Kathy Gates

Communion Assistants: Mike Merlo and Gail Merlo **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 Eyler, Julia Eyler, Family of Jeff Eyler, 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, Tony Schuman, Robert Sell, Family & Friends of Dorothy Shaffer, 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.

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.

Congregational Year-in-Review Meeting: Our annual Congregational Meeting to review the previous year will be on **February 5th** following worship. The makeup date is **February 12th**. Copies of the 2022 Annual Report will be available in the narthex for pickup this weekend.

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. **There are only 7 Spots left to register for the day.** So register soon online at <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 coffee and doughnuts (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!

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.

Scholarship Opportunities:

Slagle Scholarship - \$1,000. 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 on or before March 31, 2023.**

Stolte Scholarship - \$1,000: To be awarded to a high school senior or college/seminary student living in the greater Hanover area pursuing a career in the field of ministry, mission, or humanitarian service. Applications are **due April 28, 2023**. For more information, call 717-637-6973 or email kabortner@comcast.net.

Florence DeHaven Stick Memorial Scholarship - \$3,000-\$5,000: The Visiting Nurse Association is awarding a scholarship to nursing students – current or those accepted for classes in fall of 2023. The deadline is **March 17, 2023**. For more information, call 717-637-1227 or 1-800-422-3197, ext 292.

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: Please join us for lunch and a good time at our next gathering on **February 7th at 1:00pm** at Olive Garden – sign up in the narthex so we can be sure to include you in our reservations.

The Hills of Lent: Our Wednesday Lenten Soup and Bible Study nights are coming soon. 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.

You Can Help with Altar Care: We *really* 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.