

ST. MARK LUTHERAN CHURCH
WEEKLY DEVOTIONAL AND REMINDERS/UPDATES
September 13, 2023

From DAILY GUIDEPOSTS 2017: Written by *Ginger Rue*

Comfort, comfort my people, says your God. – ISAIAH 40:1

I was having a medical test – routine but involving sedation. Yet when they wheeled me into the room for the procedure, I found I couldn't stop shaking. Fear gripped me. What if I didn't wake up? What would my daughters do without me?

My nurse and anesthetist, Errica, is the wife of a former student of mine. Just seeing her friendly face that morning had made me less anxious. But now she looked concerned. “Are you cold?” she asked.

I felt silly but admitted the truth. “I'm scared,” I answered.

Errica took my hand. “It's okay. I get emotional every time I have to be sedated. It's perfectly normal.” She let me talk about my daughters and my love and concern for them. Errica has little girls of her own, so she could relate. What a sweet blessing to be understood and reassured!

I've been reading about a missionary who gave up everything to move far away and help people. I'd prayed about whether I was going about God's business enough, here in my safe Southern hometown. Maybe someday I would go afar and do mission work, but Errica's kindness reminded me that I could minister to others right where I was.

I said a prayer of thanks for Errica before I drifted off. When I awoke, my family was there. I could hardly wait to get back home to my own little mission field.

Lord, thank You for the kindness of others.

Help me extend that same kindness to those I encounter today. – GINGER RUE

Prayer: *Let us pray: Heavenly Father, embrace me and hold me fast in all my needs this day. Help me see the mission field of blessings that have filled my life. Use me in being Your worker in the love and peace that You have shown to me. Guide me in being the ear that listens and understands, that supports and comforts, that challenges and lifts up those who need of Your presence in their lives. Help me be that person in that mission work. I pray this in the name of Jesus Christ, Your Son, my Savior. 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, September 14	<i>Holy Cross Day</i> 9:00am to 12noon – Quilters Group 7:00pm – Future Task Force Meeting
Friday, September 15	11:00am to 12noon – Bible Study
Saturday, September 16	5:30pm – NON-COMMUNION Laity Worship – 16 th Weekend after Pentecost
Sunday, September 17	9:00am – NON-COMMUNION Laity Worship – 16 th Weekend after Pentecost Sunday School following Worship Bells Rehearsal
Tuesday, September 19	1:00pm – Garden Club Meeting
Thursday, September 21	7:00am to 7:00pm – UPMC Blood Drive 9:00am to 12noon – Quilters Group
Friday, September 22	NO BIBLE STUDY

Saturday Worship Leader

Karen Feeser

Sunday Worship Leaders

CPIC: Kathy Gates **Opening & Confession:** David Gates

Greeting/Kyrie/Hymn-of-Praise: Choir **Prayer & Readings:** Linda Bolin

Gospel & Sermon: Karen Feeser **Creed/Prayers/Peace:** Hollis Long

Offertory/Prayer/Lord's Prayer: Kathy Gates **Benediction/Dismissal:** Gary Laabs

Greeters: Linda Bolin / *Need Volunteer* **Altar Care:** *Need Volunteer(s)*



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: *Fred*

Baber, Donald Becker, Family & Friends of Nancy Bittinger, Larry Bolin, Jessica (Feeser) Boone, Katherine Borsella, Allen Bowersox, Pat Brooks, Family & Friends of Dwight Cooper, Wilma Crawford, Jada Crow, Deb Day, Pam DeWitt, Lisa Dickensheets, Gail Dorsey, Diane Duffy, Robin Eline, Tarek Elnaggar, Jean Eshbach, Gwenyth Eyler, Julia Eyler, Family of Jeff Eyler, Nancy Fridinger, Family & Friends of Brian Gehman, Vickie Gouker, Dane Graham, Tom Greenholt, Carol Ann Haines, Carrie Hernden, Shirley Hippensteel, Jean Huskin, Don Jamison, Donna Jones, Craig King, Family & Friends of JoAnn Kirkpatrick, Family & Friends of Benjamin Klunk, Norma Kreidler, Mary Lou Krummeck, Allen Kubns, David Kunkel, Amos Laughman, Naura Luqman, Ricky Mai, Dave & Denise Martin, Mary Ellen Melborn, Carol Miller, Sandy Miller, Merita Moore, Leah Moul, Merle Mummert, Pam Mummert, Tammy Mummert, Carolyn Neumyer, Marian Noble, Susan O'Brien, Kelly Perdue, Mindy Repass, Mary Riley, Charles Rupp, Lucas Schneider, Bob and Cecelia Sell, Luanne Slusser, Pr. Jerry Smith, JoAnn Smith, Beverly Snyder, Sally Soule, Phyllis Tasto, Jennie Tome, Allison Trump, Lois VandenHeuvel, Jody Walter, Naomi Warren, Barb Watson, Diana Weaver, Ron Wentz, Scott Wisner, Rebecca Wisotzkey.

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. During September, our designated need will be **Habitat for Humanity**, split between the York and Adams County chapters. Habitat Humanity partners with people in the community and all over the world to help them build or improve a place they can call home. Habitat homeowners help build their own homes alongside volunteers and pay an affordable mortgage. With your support, Habitat homeowners achieve the strength, stability, and independence they need to build a better life for themselves and for their families. To contribute to this fund, please mail your donations to our office or place them in our weekend collection plates by specifying "Habitat for Humanity" 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. Thank you for your support.

LWR Care Kits: On September 10th, "God's work. Our hands." Sunday, we had enough donations to assemble **101 care kits** to benefit Lutheran World Relief and bring sanitation and dignity to those in need. Thank you to all who donated and to all who stayed on Sunday to help prepare the kits.

Welcome Nancy Brady! Welcome to our new member who affirmed her faith and joined with us in membership this past Saturday. Nancy Brady has been actively attending our Saturday evening worship services. If you see Nancy, please be sure to welcome her!

Altar Flower Vase Dedications: Thank you to those who have sponsored vases. September is covered, but we do have three vases left in October – **October 15th** (both vases) and **October 29th** (one vase). If you'd like to dedicate a vase to a loved one or their memory, we also have plenty of vases left for the remainder of fall.

Help Clean Up Hanover: Hanover Clean Up Day will be on **October 7th** from 9:00am to 12noon. For more information, contact HACC. All are welcome to help keep Hanover clean and enjoy lunch after!

Memorial Service Update: A Memorial Service has been planned by Nancy Bittinger's family to be held at St. Mark on Saturday, **September 30th** at 11:00am.

Norman Rockwell Book: Linda Bolin has placed a wonderful book about Norman Rockwell's life and art in the church parlor. If you think you'll enjoy a walk down memory lane seeing the *Saturday Evening Post* covers, be sure to check it out! If you'd like to take it home for a brief time, contact Linda at 633-6426.

CROP Hunger Walk: The CROP Walk is scheduled for Sunday, **October 15th**. To walk or sponsor a walker, contact the church office at 637-8904 or talk to Linda Bolin, Team Captain.

Alzheimer's Walk: This Saturday, **September 16th**, Pat Keefer will be walking to help end Alzheimer's. To join her team or donate on behalf of her team, go to alz.org/walk and search for Wayne's Walkers.

Disaster Relief: With the spate of recent disasters including the Libyan floods, Moroccan earthquake, Hurricane Idalia, and the Hawaiian wildfires, the need for relief is overwhelming. Please consider supporting efforts to help our neighbors by marking your special offerings "LWR" or by choosing a specific relief effort.

Do You Have a Family Bible? We are looking to display family Bibles in the hallway glass cabinet this fall. We invite all members to share your favorite Bible and any information, thoughts, and memories about your special book. Contact the office if you have a Bible we can share and display.

Hallway Photo Display: Thank you to Pennie Highlands for showcasing our back-to-school photos. Please be sure to check out the display in the church office hallway glass case!

Hanover Against Hunger Event: On **November 4th and 5th**, St. Matthew on Chestnut will host a meal-packing event. Volunteers for 2-1/2 hour shifts of packing are requested – there will be plenty to do for any age or ability. The goal is to pack 200,000 meals at a cost of \$76,200, so donations are welcome, as well. For more information go to hanoveragainsthunger.org, or email info@hanoveragainsthunger.org.

Hanover Area Historical Society Talks: The HAHS presents a free talk, "From Vietnam to Hanover – Moon's Story," on **September 19th** at 7:00pm at the Warehime/Myers Mansion.

Ruth's Harvest Reopens for Fall: Individual fruit, veggies, snacks, and tuna/chicken pouches make great donations to help feed children on weekends when they don't have access to school lunch. Please place donations in the floor bin next to the office.

Save the Date: Our Pet Blessing will be held at St. Mark on Saturday, **October 7th**, at 2:00pm. Please bring your beloved pets to be blessed at this annual ceremony. Any type of pet is welcome!

September Inspirations Are Here: Take home an envelope full of free daily inspirations for yourself (found near the narthex shelf) – and take some to share with friends.

St. Mark's Fall Bazaar: Our annual bazaar is scheduled for Saturday, **November 4th**. Signups will be available soon to volunteer, but in the meantime please spread the word! We are also looking for vendors – if you'd like to rent a table or know someone who does, contact Linda Bolin at 633-6426.

Sunday Fellowship: We are in need of fellowship hosts. All dates from **November 5th** on are open. Please sign up to help us keep this tradition going.

Sunday School Teacher Blessing: As Sunday School has just begun, we give thanks to: Karen Feeser, Christian Ed Director; Judy Laughman, Nursery Teacher; Amanda Stuckey, Elementary Teacher; and Amy Shermeyer and Hollis Long, Assistant/Substitute Teachers. Let's keep them in our prayers.

Two Laity Weekends in September: On **September 16th/17th** and **23rd/24th**, we will enjoy non-Communion services by our lay leaders. Please plan to support the members who are stepping up to lead our worship.

Upcoming St. Mark Eats Locations: On **October 3rd** at 5:00pm, we'll be eating at C&D in New Oxford.

Then on **November 2nd we'll be switching to wintertime lunch gatherings**, beginning with Rosie's in New Oxford at **1:00pm**. Due to scheduling conflicts at Rosie's, please note the November event will be on the **first THURSDAY of November**. Signups are in the narthex.

Advanced Planning Event at St. Mark: On **November 11th** from 1:00pm to 3:00pm, St. Mark is hosting a UPMC Advanced Planning Event with lots of helpful information on advanced directives, emotional support for families, insurance options, and end-of-life planning, including legal information regarding POAs and wills. There will be vendors, a kid zone, and free screenings. More details to come soon!

Our Next Blood Drive: We'll be hosting our next UPMC Blood Drive on Thursday, **September 21st**, from 7:00am to 7:00pm. Go to 717GiveBlood.org and click on Donate Now to schedule or call 800-771-0059.

Employment Opportunity: Our Housekeeper, Tammy, is moving closer to her daughter and so we have begun to search for a new Church Housekeeper/Custodian. This is a part-time position, 15-20 hours a week at \$15.00 an hour. Scheduled time of day is very flexible. See the office or our website for an application.