

ST. MARK LUTHERAN CHURCH
WEEKLY DEVOTIONAL AND REMINDERS/UPDATES
November 29, 2023

From DAILY GUIDEPOSTS 2017: Written by Sabra Giancanelli

For he shall give his angels charge over thee, to keep thee in all thy ways. – PSALM 91:11

The sun wasn't even up when I got the email saying school was canceled. I let the boys sleep and tried to get some work done. I was knee deep in a problem when I heard Henry yell, "Yippee!" from his bedroom.

Looking out the window, I noticed the ground was completely covered with fresh, powdery snow. Solomon groaned, but I could tell from his smile he was thrilled to have the day off too.

Henry couldn't wait. He put on his snow pants and boots and ventured out in the cold without having cereal. I kept working, smiling now and then when the splat of a snowball would hit my office window.

Tony made grilled cheese sandwiches, and I went downstairs, surprised that it was already lunchtime. The boys were on the couch. Henry's mittens and boots were drying by the fire. His cheeks were still rosy from outdoors.

"Like your angel?" he asked. I didn't know what he was talking about, so I shrugged. "I made it for you, Mommy. Outside your window. You didn't see it?"

He ran upstairs and I followed him to my office. Perfectly placed, just outside the window facing my desk was my snow angel.

Dear Lord, thank You for the reminders that no matter what challenges I face, it's important to look up now and then, to see blessings right in view. – SABRA GIANCANELLI

Prayer: *Let us pray: Loving Father, I thank You for the blessings of opportunities to see the wonders of joy and life that surround me each day. As the days get shorter and my time seems squeezed, help me take those moments to notice the blessings that are right in view and renew me in those moments of peace. Guide me this day in sharing those experiences with others as You, Yourself, have done, through Your Son, Jesus Christ, 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

Thursday, November 30 9:00am to 12noon – Quilters Group

Friday, December 1 8:00am to 5:00pm – Garden Club Greens Sale

11:00am to 12noon – Bible Study

Saturday, December 2 8:00am to 1:00pm – Garden Club Greens Sale

5:30pm – Spoken Worship – *1st Weekend in Advent*

Sunday, December 3 9:00am – Traditional Worship – *1st Weekend in Advent*

Sunday School following Worship

Fellowship Time following Worship

Bells Rehearsal

Monday, December 4

Wreath/Hunger Star Dedication Deadline

Tuesday, December 5

1:00pm – St. Mark *Eats* @ Railside Restaurant

Thursday, December 7

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

9:00am to 12noon – Quilters Group

3:00pm – Evangelism Meeting

Friday, December 8

11:00am to 12noon – Bible Study

Sunday Worship Leaders

Assisting Minister: Hollis Long

CPIC: Hollis Long **Lector:** Karen Feeser

Communion Assistants: Hollis Long | *Need Volunteer* **Acolyte:** Noah Shermeyer

Advent Wreath Lighting: The Wildasin Family

Greeters: Bill Leppo | *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, Larry Bolin, Jessica (Feeser) Boone, Katherine Borsella, Allen Bowersox,*

Family & Friends of Pat Brooks, Frances Claybaugh, Wilma Crawford, Jada Crow, Deb Day, Pam DeWitt, Lisa Dickensheets, Gail Dorsey, Diane Duffy, Robin Eline, Tarek Elnaggar, Jean Eshbach, Nancy Fridinger, Scott Gonzales, Vickie Gouker, Dane Graham, Tom Greenholt, Carol Ann Haines, Carrie Hernden, Shirley Hippensteel, Jean Huskin, Don Jamison, Donna Jones, Craig King, Norma Kreidler, Mary Lou Krummeck, Nancy Kuhn, Allen Kuhns, David Kunkel, Amos Laughman, Susie Laughman, Naura Luqman, Dave & Denise Martin, Carol McDermitt-Humes, Mary Ellen Melhorn, Carol Miller, Kathy Miller, Sandy Miller, MMI Amazon River Medical Trip, 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, Tara Shaw, Bob Shue, Luanne Slusser, Pr. Jerry Smith, JoAnn Smith, Beverly Snyder, Sally Soule, Phyllis Tasto, Jennie Tome, George Tracy, 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. During December, we are given the opportunity to contribute to the **Alzheimer's Association of PA**. This chapter serves 59 counties in western, central, and northeast PA. Their vision is to see a world without Alzheimer's and all dementia by accelerating global research, driving risk reduction/early detection, and maximizing quality care and support. To contribute to our designated giving, please mail your donations to our office or place them in our weekend collection plates. Specify on the convenience or designated need envelopes in our pew racks or on the *Other* line of any of our weekly offering envelopes, "Alzheimer's Association." 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!

Advent Knit Tree: Beginning this weekend, **December 2nd & 3rd**, we'll be collecting donations of socks, hats, gloves, scarves, etc. Please place donations under the Advent Knit Tree in the narthex.

Altar Flowers: Thank you to all who answered the newsletter pleas and sponsored flowers for the rest of 2023. Just a quick note for next year – lately, we've had several people express disappointment because they tried to sign up for a special birthday or anniversary dedication, but both vases were already full. If you have a special date you'd like to reserve in 2024, be sure to sign up now!

Bible Study Available on Recording: We now are recording the Friday Bible Study so that anyone who can't make it can still catch up on the week's topic. Contact the church office for more info.

Christmas Cookie Fellowship Notice: This year, **our January fellowship time has been changed to December 31st, New Year's Eve**. In keeping with tradition, we will have the "Share-Your-Christmas-Cookies Sunday" the week after Christmas Eve, which means this year it is **December 31st**. This will ensure our shared leftover Christmas cookies are fresher (since the first Sunday in January isn't until the 7th), and it will also get them out of our houses before the New Year's diet resolutions begin. Please plan to join us after Sunday service that morning and bring any cookies you'd like to share!

Christmas Tree Decorating: On **December 16th** we'll be gathering to decorate our Christmas tree, followed by a potluck breakfast brunch. Please sign up in the church office hallway if you'd like to help us make the sanctuary festive and enjoy some fellowship and good food after.

Christmas Eve: This year is special, as our 4th Sunday of Advent pageant falls on the same day as our Christmas Eve Services. So, we'll be holding our traditional 4th Sunday of Advent Sunday service and pageant at 9:00am, followed by our two **Christmas Eve services at 3:00pm and 7:00pm**. We hope you can join us for the regular service *and* a Christmas Eve service on the 24th – you're even welcome to come to both Christmas Eve services! The later worship will also feature special music at 6:30pm. Please join us – and bring a friend!

Christmas Tree Tours at the Mansion: Christmas Tree tours at the Warehime/Myers Mansion began on **November 25th**. Contact the Hanover Historical Society or see Mike Noble for more information.

Congregational Meeting: Our annual congregation election and budget meeting will be held following morning worship on **December 10th** with a makeup day the following Sunday, if needed.

Nominations Sought: As noted above, the election meeting is coming up and we are still seeking: one more nominee to serve a three-year term on Council; two people to serve a one-year term on the Nominating Committee; and one male delegate to the 2024 Synod Assembly. Please talk with Council if interested.

Garden Club Greens Sale: The Hanover Garden Club will be holding their annual Greens Sale here this Friday, **December 1st**, 8:00am to 5:00pm, and Saturday, **December 2nd**, 8:00am to 1:00pm.

Holiday Program at South Western: South Western School District invites you to a Hanover Community Partnership Holiday Program to be held at Emory H. Markle Middle School on **December 8th** from 1:00pm to 2:00pm. Please call 717-632-2500 with any questions.

Thank you! Thank you to all who brought in food donations for our Harvest Home food drive and toys, etc., for JJ's Toy Shop. 87 food items were donated, as well as many toys, games, and PJs for children in need.

LDR Support Needed in the Middle East: In response to the escalating violence in and around Gaza, Presiding Bishop Eaton has issued a call to action for food, supplies, medical help, and emotional/spiritual support. To help Lutheran Disaster Response provide aid to those suffering in this difficult time, please mark your *Other* line donations to go to "Middle East Crisis."

Next UPMC Blood Drive: On Thursday, **December 7th**, St. Mark will be hosting another UPMC Blood Drive. Anyone who gives blood on that date will receive 2 tickets to a comedy show and a BOGO coupon for Papa John's pizza. To register, go to 717GiveBlood.org or call 800-771-0059.

Offering Booklets: Next year's renumbered contribution envelopes are in the hallway ready for pickup. Be sure to use your new number on any handwritten envelopes after January 1st.

Christmas Wreaths / Stars: If you missed the chance to dedicate a poinsettia but still want to remember or honor a loved one this Christmas, it's not too late to dedicate a wreath (\$25) or World Hunger Star (\$5). Please fill out a form (located on the narthex shelf and in the newsletter) and submit it to the office by Monday, **December 4th**.

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

St. Mark Eats: On **December 5th** we'll meet at the Railside at 1:00pm, and on Thursday, **January 4th**, we'll return to Rosie's instead of our previously planned trip to Hoss's. Please sign up in the narthex.

In Case of Inclement Weather: If weather causes services to be canceled, we will do our best to get the word out via WGAL and WGAL.com. We'll also get a message on the church website (stmarkhanover.org) and the phone's voicemail (637-8904), as well as send emails if at all possible. If you're not sure whether we'll be worshipping on our normal schedule, please check before braving the weather. And if you're worried at all about ice or other unsafe conditions, please stay home and stay safe!

Directory Request: As we are currently updating the St. Mark Church Directory to be published in January, we ask that you please take a moment and check the current directory to be sure your information is correct. Thank you for helping us to make available the most accurate information possible!

Inspiration Packets: December is almost here, which means new inspiration packets are available. Be sure to pick up a packet of cards, not just for yourself, but also one or more to share! The Evangelism Committee appreciates supplies to keep this project going. Please contact Vivian Cullison for more information.

Christmas Eve Worship Leaders Needed: We still need worship helpers for our Christmas Eve services, especially the 3:00pm service. Please contact the church office or check out the signup sheets in the narthex if you can fill one of these needs. Thank you!