

**ST. MARK LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
**WEEKLY DEVOTIONAL AND REMINDERS/UPDATES**  
**February 7, 2024**

From *DAILY GUIDEPOSTS 2017*: John Dilworth

*Truly I tell you, whatever you did not do for one of the least of these,  
you did not do for me. – MATTHEW 25:45*

My wife, Pat, and I had moved to Brazil. We were warned from the day we arrived not to give to beggars. After months in hotels, we finally moved into our house. All day long I looked forward to dinner, the first meal in our new home.

As soon as we sat down to eat, the doorbell rang. *What if it's a beggar?* I thought. I could still hear those voices telling us not to help them. I could picture the lines of people we were told would come.

The man waiting at our gate asked for bread. "No, I'm sorry," I said.

His dark eyes stared deep into mine. "You don't have bread for me?"

I shook my head.

As I walked back inside, Jesus's words from Matthew 25:45 seared into my soul. Filled with sorrow, I took a loaf of bread from the pantry and searched the neighborhood for the man who only moments before I had turned away.

Never again did I say no to those who came by for food. The lines of people at our door never formed – just a few beggars on some days. But my attitude toward helping and listening was changed forever.

*Dear God, forgive me when I stumble and say no to serving You. Amen. – JOHN DILWORTH*

**Prayer:** *Let us pray: Loving Father, Your Son has taught me to pray giving thanks for my daily bread. Help me know that it means more than giving thanks for all that I have, but also for the ability to share the abundance of Your blessings with others who may be in need of their daily bread. Grant me the ability to always have an open heart and mind to friends and strangers alike, taking care of myself, but having enough to care for others also. In You I have an assurance that is eternal. Guide me in my daily walk so that I may give as You have given 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, February 8** 9:00am to 12noon – Quilters Group

**Friday, February 9** 11:00am to 12noon – Bible Study

5:30pm to 7:30pm – Messy Church Community Event

**Saturday, February 10** 5:30pm – Spoken Worship – 6<sup>th</sup> Weekend after Epiphany

**Sunday, February 11** *Transfiguration of Our Lord*

9:00am – Traditional Worship – 6<sup>th</sup> Weekend after Epiphany

Congregational Business Meeting following Worship

10:15am – Sunday School

Confirmation Class

Souper Bowl Sunday Canned Food Drive (Last Day)

**Tuesday, February 13** *Fasnacht Day/Fat Tuesday/Mardi Gras*

9:30am – Property Meeting

7:00pm – Future Task Force Group

**Wednesday, February 14** *Ash Wednesday/Valentine's Day*

7:00pm – Ash Wednesday Worship Service

**Thursday, February 15** 9:00am to 12noon – Quilters Group

**Friday, February 16** 11:00am to 12noon – Bible Study

## Sunday Worship Leaders

**CPIC:** Gail Merlo

**Lector:** Hollis Long

**Communion Assistants:** Gail Merlo | Karen Feeser

**Greeter:** Bill Leppo   **Altar Care:** *Need Volunteer(s)*

## Ash Wednesday Worship Leaders

**CPIC:** Tom Long

**Lector:** Alexander Spalding

**Communion Assistants:** Tom Long | Karen Feeser

**Greeter:** *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: *Alvan Allison, Donald Becker, Larry Bolin, Jessica (Feeser) Boone, Katherine Borsella, Allen Bowersox, Family & Friends of Nancy Bowser, Frances Claybaugh, Family & Friends of Wilma Crawford, Deb Day, Lisa Dickensheets, Gail Dorsey, Diane Duffy, Robin Eline, Tarek Elnaggar, Jean Eshbach, Dennis Fahey, Betty Fury, Nancy Fridinger, Vickie Gouker, Dane Graham, Tom Greenholt, Carol Ann Haines, Carrie Hernden, Shirley Hippensteel, Jean Huskin, Don Jamison, Donna Jones, Craig King, Norma Kreidler, Family & Friends of David Krick, Mary Lou Krummeck, Nancy Kuhn, Allen Kuhns, David Kunkel, Susie Laughman, Jean Lawrence, Tom Lawrence, Ronnie Lippy, Naura Luqman, Dave & Denise Martin, Clara McBrayer, Carol McDermitt-Humes, Mary Ellen Melhorn, Carol Miller, Kathy Miller, Sandy Miller, Susan Miller, Merita Moore, Leah Moul, Merle Mummert, Pam Mummert, Tammy Mummert, Carolyn Neumyer, Marian Noble, Kelly Perdue, Mary Riley, Family & Friends of Charles Rupp, Lucas Schneider, Bob and Cecelia Sell, Bob Shue, Luanne Slusser, Denise Smith, Pr. Jerry Smith, JoAnn Smith, Family & Friends of Wyndell Smith, Beverly Snyder, Family & Friends of the Stranic Family, Phyllis Tasto, Jennie Tome, George Tracy, Allison Trump, Lois VandenHeuvel, Jody Walter, Naomi Warren, Barb Watson, Diana Weaver, Ron Wentz, Kathy Wildasin, Scott Wisner, Rebecca Wisotzkey, Steve Zinn.*

**St. Mark's Monthly Offering for Designated Needs** gives us an opportunity as a congregation to support specific domestic and international needs pre-determined by our council each year. February's offering benefits the **Hanover Area Council of Churches Changing Lives Shelter**—a year-round facility providing for the needs of singles and families in desperate need of housing. They provide housing, structure, life skills, case management, and other assistance in developing a successful productive transition into an independent lifestyle. Please mail your donations to our office or place them in a collection plate, specifying "HACC Changing Lives Shelter" or February Designated Giving. Unspecified donations noted on the *Other* line will automatically be given to that month's designated ministry fund. Thank you!

**2024-2025 Preschool Registration & Open House:** Registration for the 2024-2025 school year is now open to the public. Interested families can go to [stmarkpreschoolhanover.weebly.com/](http://stmarkpreschoolhanover.weebly.com/). **NOTE: The 4-year-old AM and 3-year-old Mon/Wed classes are now FULL. The 4-year-old PM class has 7 open spots, and the 3-year-old Tue/Thu class has 5.**

**Celtic Band:** First Evangelical Lutheran Church of Carlisle presents Cormorant's Fancy Celtic Band on Sunday, **February 25<sup>th</sup>** at 4:00pm. Admission is free. Please contact First Evangelical at 717-249-3310 or check out [firstlutherancarlisle.org](http://firstlutherancarlisle.org).

**Congregational Meeting:** We will have our annual year-in-review congregational business meeting on **February 11<sup>th</sup>** (makeup date is February 18<sup>th</sup>).

**Ash Wednesday and the Season of Lent:** We hope to see you at our special 7:00pm Ash Wednesday service next week, **February 14<sup>th</sup>**. The following week will see the start of our Soup & Bible Study Dinners each Wednesday night of Lent at 6:00pm. Signups to bring soup/bread or to simply attend are on the church hallway bulletin board across from the offices.

**Holy Week Preparations:** We are also beginning to prepare for Holy Week. Signups for special services are in the narthex now. Easter flower forms are now available on the narthex shelf and are in the February newsletter found online at [stmarkhanover.org](http://stmarkhanover.org). Flowers are \$13.00 this year, and orders are due to the church office by Monday, **February 26<sup>th</sup>**.

**EUCC Community Concert Series:** The next show on EUCC's concert schedule is the Susquehanna Slide Express. This trombone quintet is scheduled for Sunday, **March 10<sup>th</sup>** at 3:00pm. They have an extensive repertoire of marches, jazz, patriotic, show tunes, sacred, and Renaissance/Baroque/Classical music. Contact EUCC at 124 Broadway in Hanover for more information (717-632-8281).

**In Case of Inclement Weather:** If weather causes services to be canceled, we will do our best to get the word out via WGAL (posted on their website [WGAL.com](http://WGAL.com)). We'll also get a message on the church website ([stmarkhanover.org](http://stmarkhanover.org)), 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! NOTE: Due to technical difficulties, the church's voicemail message will not reflect closings as previously stated.

**Meals-on-Wheels Drivers Needed:** HACC is looking for regular and/or substitute drivers for Meals-on-Wheels. For more information, contact HACC at 717-633-6353.

**Sharing of Art:** Be sure to check out the inspiring artwork in the glass case in the church office hallway by our own Matt Funke! He uses colors and shapes to center us on the seasons of the church.

**Slagle Scholarship - \$1,000:** The Slagle Scholarship Committee is accepting applications. \$1,000 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 April 5, 2024.**

**Souper Bowl of Caring:** St. Mark is joining with over 300,000 churches to turn Super Bowl Sunday into the Souper Bowl of Caring. Please plan to bring non-perishable food donations and/or monetary donations to help us fight hunger in our community by stocking the HACC food bank with our contributions. We are collecting now through the weekend of **February 11<sup>th</sup>** to help our local food bank meet the needs of our hungry neighbors.

**St. Mark Eats:** Tired of hibernating this winter? On **March 5<sup>th</sup>**, we'll go to Lu Hibachi at 1:00pm. Please sign up in the narthex to join us for fellowship and good food. Then on **April 2<sup>nd</sup>**, we'll be lunching at Chili's. We'd love to have you join us!

**Sub Sale:** The preschool is having a sub sale fundraiser. Order forms can be found on the church hallway table. Orders and money are due Monday, **February 12<sup>th</sup>** for pickup **February 21<sup>st</sup>**.

**Tell a Friend!** St. Mark is happy to announce we're hosting a new, **free, community "Messy Church" event** this Friday, **February 9<sup>th</sup>**, at 5:30pm. There will be fun for all ages. Gary Laabs will share a slide show from his recent Amazon River mission trip, and we'll also have crafts, activities, and pizza! Please spread the word and share invitations with friends and neighbors – you can pick them up from the table outside the church office along with flyers to tack them up on local bulletin boards, or you can email [offcoor129@gmail.com](mailto:offcoor129@gmail.com) for one to post online or print. For more info, call Karen Feeser at 717-698-3535.

**New Glory Project:** The Evangelism Committee introduces a new project to encourage acts of kindness, service, generosity, or praise to the Lord – in other words, acts of glory. Examples are helping a friend or neighbor, donating time or money to charity, offering a kind word, praying, etc. – anything that glorifies God in your everyday life. The committee asks you to anonymously share your "acts of glory" via index card or by emailing them to [offcoor129@gmail.com](mailto:offcoor129@gmail.com). Index cards can be found in the pews, and completed cards should be placed in the bucket found with the Inspirations envelopes in the narthex. We plan to share the contributions on the hallway bulletin board. Please help us reach our goal of 2024 acts of glory this year!

**Upcoming UPMC Blood Drive:** St. Mark will be hosting another blood drive on Thursday, **March 14<sup>th</sup>**. To sign up, go to [717giveblood.org](http://717giveblood.org) and look for "UPMC" in the Donate Now dropdown menu.