

ST. MARK LUTHERAN CHURCH
WEEKLY DEVOTIONAL AND REMINDERS/UPDATES
July 31, 2024

From DAILY GUIDEPOSTS 2018: Erin MacPherson

*Give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in
Christ Jesus for you. – 1 THESSALONIANS 5:18*

It was one of those grumbling days.

You know the ones. Days when a lost backpack makes you late for school drop-off. When there is nothing left in the fridge except for an old apple and an almost empty gallon of milk. When appointments are missed, plans get canceled, important documents get lost.

I texted my husband that nothing was going right. That I was in a bad mood. And that I was tired of the frazzled, crazy, lukewarm way I was feeling.

Then I opened up Facebook.

My friend Sarah, the one battling breast cancer, the one who laughed as her husband shaved her balding head, had posted on Facebook about reading Corey ten Boom's book *The Hiding Place*. There is a story in the book in which Corey and her sister stand together in the middle of their desperation and thank God for the fleas in their room.

In her own post, Sarah gave thanks for her own "fleas" – for the cancer that had changed every "what should have been" in her life, that had stolen her hair, her health, her way of living. Yet she was thankful because God had used those "fleas" to help her to trust in Him.

So I got onto my knees and thanked God for my own "fleas." For mistakes, for problems, for niggling issues that seem to overtake my days. And while my "fleas" aren't nearly as awful as those of Sarah or Corey ten Boom, I know that God wants me to be grateful, not grumbling, no matter what circumstances come my way.

*Lord, help me to be thankful even for the "fleas" in my life so that I can honor You
and find hope in Your grace. Amen. – ERIN MACPHERSON*

Prayer: *Let us pray, Almighty God, I give thanks for my life and all the little bits and pieces of it that make it unique. Help me lift up the good instead of wallowing in the bad. Help me grow in faith instead of being filled with doubts. Help me live towards You and Your kingdom instead of this earthly realm. Help me in all ways to follow in the footsteps of Your Son, Jesus Christ, my Lord and Savior, in whose name I pray. Amen.*

Weekly Schedule:

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

Preschool: Preschool on Summer Break

Wednesday, July 31 9:30am to 12noon – Vacation Bible School

Thursday, August 1 9:00am to 12noon – Quilters Group

9:30am to 12noon – Vacation Bible School

12noon – Evangelism Committee

Friday, August 2

NO BIBLE STUDY

9:30am to 12noon – Vacation Bible School

Saturday, August 3

5:30pm – Spoken Worship – 11th Sunday After Pentecost

IN FELLOWSHIP HALL

Sunday, August 4

9:00am – Traditional Worship – 11th Sunday After Pentecost

IN FELLOWSHIP HALL

Fellowship Time Following Worship

Worship & Music Committee Meeting

Thursday, August 8

9:00am to 12noon – Quilters Group

Friday, August 9

11:00am to 12noon – Bible Study

Sunday Worship Leaders

CPIC: Hollis Long **Lector:** Hollis Long

Communion Assistants: Hollis Long | *Need Volunteer(s)*

Greeter: Bill Leppo **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: *Dora, Grayson, Donald Becker, Nancy Bender, Family & Friends of Larry Bolin, Jessica (Feeser)*

Boone, Katherine Borsella, Family & Friends of Allen Bowersox, Frances Claybaugh, Ann Clingan, Tim Cowan, Lisa Dickensheets, Gail Dorsey, Diane Duffy, Robin Eline, Tarek Elnaggar, Jean Eshbach, Dennis Fahey, Betty Fury, Nancy Fridinger, Nancy Gill, Vickie Gouker, Dane Graham, Tom Greenholt, Family & Friends of Patricia Hagarman, Carol Ann Haines, Justin Hartz, Chase Henry & Family, Carrie Hernden, Drew Highlands, Martha Howells, Family & Friends of Jean Huskin, Donna Jones, Debbie Kellenbenz, Craig King, Kelly Koontz, Norma Kreidler, Mary Lou Krummeck, Allen Kuhns, David Kunkel, Jean Lawrence, Tom Lawrence, Ronnie Lippy, Naura Luqman, Dave & Denise Martin, Carol McDermitt-Humes, Family & Friends of Mary Ellen Melhorn, Carol Miller, Sandy Miller, Merita Moore, Leah Moul, Merle Mummert, Pam Mummert, Carolyn Neumyer, Marian Noble, Kelly Perdue, Mary Riley, Lucus Schneider, Bob and Cecelia Sell, Bob Shue, Luanne Slusser, Denise Smith, Pr. Jerry Smith, JoAnn Smith, Sarah Smith, Beverly Snyder, Phyllis Tasto, Jennie Tome, George Tracy, Allison Trump, Family & Friends of Lois VandenHeuvel, Daniel & Gloria Wagaman, Jody Walter, Naomi Warren, Barb Watson, Diana Weaver, Ron Wentz, Kathy Wildasin, Edward Wiltrout, 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. On this last day of **July**, we are given the opportunity to contribute to **Medical Ministry International (MMI)**, a group which organizes medical missions to all parts of the world. It is the group responsible for planning and organizing the mission trips taken by Gary Laabs. All donations to MMI will go towards the ministry of this organization. To support July's designated fund, write "MMI" or "**July Fund**" on your check or on your offering envelope on the line marked "Other." In **August** (tomorrow), we will be contributing to **HACC's Ruth's Harvest** mission, a program that ensures school children have food on weekends. This weekend's handout will include more information about Ruth's Harvest. Amounts written in on the "Other" line this weekend with *no other fund specified* will automatically be attributed to **August's** designated fund.

In Memorial: A white rose will be placed in the chancel this weekend in memory of a beloved church member. It is with deep regret we must announce the passing of one of our members, Allen Bowersox, who entered the everlasting promise found in the living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead. Please keep Allen's family in your prayers.

AUGUST WORSHIP: Due to NO air conditioning in the sanctuary, **we will be meeting in the fellowship hall for worship** through August and September. Please enter through the parking lot door or the Willow Street side fellowship hall electric doors.

Altar Flowers: Thank you to all who sponsored summer vases. We still have some vases left in August. To honor a loved one or their memory, please add your dedication to the altar flower book in the narthex.

Blood Drive: We'll be holding another UPMC Blood Drive here at St. Mark on **August 15th**. To donate, go to donate.717giveblood.org, click on Donate Now, then UPMC Hanover. Or call 717-771-0059.

Flat Sheets Needed: The sewing group needs full or queen flat sheets in new condition – any colors but especially white, pastel colors, or even subtle prints. Thank you for your support of their mission!

Let the Screaming Begin! St. Mark Preschool is holding their first fundraiser of the year at Big Dippers (2135 Baltimore Pike) on Meet the Teacher Night, Thursday, **August 15th**. A portion of all sales between 5:00pm and 8:00pm will go to the preschool, so come out and enjoy a sweet treat while supporting the school. *I scream...you scream...we all scream for ICE CREAM!*

LWR - SCHOOL KITS: On **September 8th**, “God’s Work Our Hands Sunday,” we will be putting together Lutheran World Relief school kit bags to go to children here in the States and where needed around the world. Please help us! Each kit needs: (4) 70-sheet spiral notebooks (wide or college-ruled paper), (1) 30-centimeter ruler (12 inches), (1) pencil sharpener, (1) pair of blunt kid’s scissors, (5) unsharpened #2 pencils with erasers, (5) black or blue ballpoint pens, (1) box 24 crayons, (1) 2-½” eraser. We could also use financial donations – please mark on your offering envelope as “School Kits.” Donations can be placed in the narthex bins anytime – back-to-school stores sales have already begun.

Potluck Picnic and Worship: The Church Picnic this year will be indoors (no heat and bugs – yay!) on Saturday, **August 17th**. We will gather in the fellowship hall for worship at 5:30pm, followed by dinner at the tables at around 6:15pm. The signup is in the narthex if you would like to list what you might be bringing, but you’re also welcome to just stop by even if you don’t sign up – there is always plenty of food!

Sanctuary Air Conditioning Campaign: Given the age and ongoing issues with the current system, the congregation council voted to begin a campaign to raise funds and seek to replace the sanctuary air conditioning units by next summer. If you would like to donate towards this need, please mark your envelope on the “Other” line as “A/C Campaign.” If you would like to be a part of the campaign search and planning group, please talk with Pastor Kirk or Council President, Mike Merlo.

Medications Needed: Gary Laabs will be traveling to South America on a medical mission trip with MMI in September. He is collecting medication donations, including vitamins and pain relievers. He has just been informed that **gummy vitamins are okay after all**. Please see the narthex collection box for more specific requirements or contact the church office. He will need to submit all medications to Customs by **September 1st**, so please bring in your donations by the end of August. Thank you!

August Inspirations: August inspirations are now available in the Inspirations box in the narthex. Please feel free to take one for yourself and more to share, if you wish.

Free School Supplies/Car Seat Checks: Kate Klunk’s office is holding a free event at the Carlisle Street Utz on Tuesday, **August 13th**, from 5:30pm to 7:30pm. Families in need can pick up backpacks of school supplies. Also, if you have a car seat, this is your chance to get a technician to check the installation. Contact Kate’s office at 717-630-8942 for details.

Health & Wellness Classes: York County presents two health and wellness classes geared toward seniors: *Fall Prevention:* Call Lindsey at 717-487-2752 for more information. *Chronic Pain Management:* Thursdays in July and August. For that class, contact Megan at 717-855-0437. Go to yorkcountypa.gov/181/Health-Wellness for more information on both wellness classes.

Hymn Sing: St. Matthew on Chestnut is hosting an Old-Fashioned Hymn Sing on Sunday, **August 11th**, at 4:00pm with a reception to follow. Tickets are not required – a free will offering will be taken. Doors open at 3:30pm. Please contact St. Matthew Lutheran Church at 717-637-7101 for more information.

National Night Out: The Hanover Area Night Out is Tuesday, **August 6th**, from 6:00pm to 8:00pm at Emory H. Markle Middle School with free hot dogs and giveaways, and children can register for a bike raffle.

Summer Lawn Concerts: The Hanover Area Historical Society presents the Jazz Berries on **August 7th**. Then The Generations Big Band will perform on **September 4th**. Refreshments are available at 6:00pm, with the concerts beginning at 6:30pm.

URGENT NEED – Meals-On-Wheels Drivers Still Needed at HACC: If you can volunteer even one or two days, it’s a very big help! Please contact HACC at adminhacc@hanoverareacouncilofchurches.org.

YWCA Walk a Mile in Her Shoes: On Friday, **August 9th**, the Hanover YWCA will once again be hosting this one-mile walk to bring attention to domestic violence. Registration is required. For more information, call 637-2125 or email Janise Bankard at jbankard@ywcahanover.org

IMPORTANT Information for Seniors: The PA Dept of Banking and Securities is holding an information session at the Markets at Hanover (1649 Broadway) on Wednesday, **August 21st**, from 9:00am to 11:00am. It will be in the form of a game and instruct senior citizens on ways to protect themselves from common scams. This “Senior Scam Jam” is a very important event that Kate Klunk’s office contacted us about and asked us to share with our congregation. Please share this event info with any seniors in your life!