

ST. MARK LUTHERAN CHURCH
WEEKLY DEVOTIONAL AND REMINDERS/UPDATES
November 20, 2024

From *DAILY GUIDEPOSTS 2018*: Roberta Messner

*But I say unto you, Love your enemies...
and pray for them which spitefully use you... – MATTHEW 5:44*

A friend called with shocking news. “I ran into Mark at the doctor's office today, Roberta. He was bent over double with nausea and pain. Said it was either his liver or his pancreas.”

“Mark” could only be one person: my ex-husband. We had divorced nearly two decades ago after 25 years together. My friend didn't utter the C word, but the nurse in me fast forwarded to a diagnosis of either liver or pancreatic cancer. In my mind's eye, I saw Mark living out his last days in excruciating pain, jaundiced, and with a distended abdomen.

“Wait a minute,” I said. “I ran into Mark's girlfriend the other day. She didn't say he had been feeling bad or anything.”

“Not *that* Mark,” my friend corrected. Then she provided the last name of a mutual friend.

All afternoon I replayed our conversation and the specifics of my troubled marriage. I'd had to start over at midlife because of Mark's shenanigans. Relinquish a beloved home. Face a painful, catastrophic illness alone.

I thought I despised Mark for all of those wrongs and more. How was it that I still cared about what happened to him?

There was only one explanation: God. The Author of Love was moving me toward love for someone who had hurt me. It would never be the romantic love of my youth, but it could definitely be caring for another human being. A child of God every bit as cherished as I am.

Thank you, Lord, for stretching my heart in unexpected ways. – ROBERTA MESSNER

Prayer: *Let us pray: Loving Lord, by Your love I have been lifted up and given freedom from all earthly worries and fears. By that same love, You grant me the hope of a new day in Your kingdom that is assured by Your sacrifice that paid for my sins. Help me live in that assurance, filled with peace and joy, so that I may share that same gift with others. By Your Son, Jesus Christ, You have shown the way to live, loving friends and strangers alike, even seeking prayer blessings on my enemies. Help me follow in His footsteps as I pray in His name, Jesus Christ, my Lord and Savior. Amen.*

Weekly Schedule:

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

Preschool: Monday through Friday 8:30am to 4:00pm (Please See Preschool Calendar for Holiday Closings)

Thursday, November 21 9:00am to 12noon – Quilters Group

6:00pm to 7:00pm – Choir Practice

Friday, November 22 11:00am to 12noon – Bible Study

Saturday, November 23 5:30pm –Spoken Worship – *Christ the King/Harvest Home/27th Weekend After Pentecost*

Sunday, November 24 9:00am – Traditional Worship – *Christ the King/Harvest Home/27th Weekend After Pentecost*

Sunday School Following Worship

Confirmation Class

Bells Rehearsal

Last Day for Food Drive Collection

PAL Team #2 Serves at HACC

Monday, November 25

Thursday, November 28

DEADLINE TO ORDER POINSETTIAS

Happy Thanksgiving!

-OFFICE CLOSED- -NO ACTIVITIES-

Friday, November 29

-OFFICE CLOSED- -NO ACTIVITIES-

Sunday Worship Leaders

Assisting Minister: Penelope Highlands

Processional: Gail Merlo | Tom Long | Hollis Long | Noah Shermeyer | Penelope Highlands

CPIC: Penelope Highlands

Lector: Penelope Highlands

Acolyte: Noah Shermeyer

Communion Assistants: Penelope Highlands | Alex Spalding

Greeter: Bill Leppo

Altar Care: Sunday Morning Volunteers



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, Daniel Ard, Jessica (Feeser) Boone, Katherine Borsella, Patrick Brady, Frances Claybaugh, Tom Cowan, Family & Friends of John Cromer, Lisa Dickensheets, Diane Duffy, Robin Eline, Tarek Elnaggar, Jean Eshbach, Carol Fadenrecht & Family, Dennis Fahey, Betty Fury, Nancy Fridinger, Nancy Gill, Vickie Gouker, Dane Graham, Tom Greenholt, Bob Groft, John Hagerman, Carol Ann Haines, Chase Henry & Family, Carrie Hernden, Peg Hippensteel, Mary Hnatkowitz, Martha Howells, Donna Jones, Debbie Kellenbenz, Craig King, Shawn Klunk, Kelly Koontz, Norma Kreidler, Mary Lou Krummeck, Allen Kuhns, Jo Kuhns, David Kunkel, Jean Lawrence, Tom Lawrence, Ronnie Lippy, Naura Luqman, Dave & Denise Martin, Carol McDermitt-Humes, Carol Miller, Family & Friends of Sandy Miller, Merita Moore, Emily Moul, Leah Moul, Merle Mummert, Pam Mummert, Carolyn Neumyer, Marian Noble, Susan O'Brien, Kelly Perdue, Rose Poist, Mary Riley, Carl Sandruck, David Sandruck, Lucus Schneider, Jim Schuman, Bob and Cecelia Sell, Bob Shue, Dawn Slate, Luanne Slusser, Denise Smith, Pr. Jerry Smith, JoAnn Smith, Samuel Smith, Sarah Smith, Beverly Snyder, Jody Spellman, Phyllis Tasto, Jennie Tome, George Tracy, Allison Trump, Ed Wagaman, Gloria Wagaman, Jody Walter, Naomi Warren, Barb Watson, Ron Wentz, Kathy Wildasin, Edward Wiltrout, Scott Wisner, Rebecca Wisotzkey, Those dealing with the aftermath of Hurricanes Helene and Milton.*

St. Mark's Monthly Offering for Designated Needs gives us an opportunity as a congregation to support specific domestic and international needs. During November, we are given the opportunity to contribute to the **Roots for Boots** veterans aid group. The goal of Roots for Boots of New Oxford is to meet the current needs and future challenges of military families, predominantly in rural areas. Roots for Boots offers members of the community opportunities to use their skills, talents, and resources to engage, connect with, and support veterans, active-duty military, and military families in more direct and local ways. To contribute to this month's designated need, please mail in your donations or place them in our collection plates, specifying "Roots for Boots" or "November Designated Giving" on your check or the *Other* line of your offering envelope. Donations made on the *Other* line that have no written designation will automatically be given to that month's ministry fund. Thanks for your support.

2025 Offering Envelopes: Booklets will be available on **November 30th**, Thanksgiving weekend. They will be laid out in alphabetical order on a table in the church hallway, so be sure to pick up yours during worship or stop by any business day between 9:00am and 12:00noon.

Christmas Dedications: Dedications will be listed in our Christmas Eve bulletin, and poinsettias/stars can be taken home after the evening Christmas Eve service. This year's deadline for poinsettia (\$16.00) and indoor/wreath (\$25.00) dedications is **November 25th**. Stars (\$5.00) can be dedicated through **December 9th**. Order forms are in the newsletter or on narthex shelf, or contact Joni in the church office. Thank you!

Harvest Weekend Food Drive: We're requesting non-perishable food donations from now until Sunday, **November 24th**. Then we will take them to HACC to help feed our community members in need. Place your donations in the front of the Sanctuary on the Harvest Table near the lectern.

Hurricane Relief: With the immense devastation and loss of life caused by Helene and Milton, Lutheran Disaster Response is asking for your help. LDR will offer immediate and long-term aid to help victims rebuild. To contribute to this cause, please mark your giving envelope with "LDR" on the *Other* line.

Congregational Meeting: The annual election/budget meeting of the congregation will take place on Sunday, **December 1st** with an inclement weather make-up day of **December 8th**. Please consider looking over the budget that will be sent out soon in the December newsletter and think about nominating someone to serve as a council member, synod delegate, or as audit committee or nominating committee members.

JJ's Toy Shoppe Collection: We're collecting toys for JJ's Toy Shoppe, a HACC program that allows low-income families to select toys for their children. Please consider bringing donations for the shop. **If you didn't get a chance to choose a tag from our gift tag tree, don't worry** - you can still bring in a toy of your choosing (or snow boots, books, PJs, puzzles – whatever you wish) up until **December 1st**. Please plan to return new, unwrapped gifts to the church by **December 1st**, as HACC has requested we drop them off that week.

Mitten Tree: Beginning **November 30th** and continuing throughout Advent, the Advent Knit Tree will welcome donations of warm clothing: mittens, hats, socks, gloves, scarves, etc., as well as work gloves and socks. All donations are greatly appreciated and will be put to good use.

December Inspirations: December inspirations will soon be available in the narthex. Please feel free to take one for yourself and more to share, if you wish.

Ruth's Harvest Donations Sought: This HACC program provides children with packages of food to get them through the weekends when they might not otherwise be regularly fed. Individual shelf-stable microwave meals, fruit, veggies, snacks, and tuna/chicken pouches can be placed in the floor bin next to the office.

St. Mark Eats: On **December 3rd** we'll meet for a 1:00pm lunch at Perkins. Please sign up in the narthex!

Write a Note of Thanks or Praise: Our "God's Glory" ministry is still seeking those little notes of praise or thanksgiving. If you witness an act of glory this week (good deed, moment of joy, prayer, etc), write it down on one of the index cards found in the pews and share it with us by placing it in the offering plate.

Preschool Fundraiser: If you'd like to ask Santa to send a special letter to a child (or adult) in your life, you're in luck! Fill out a form (on the table near the office) and submit it, along with cash or a check to St. Mark Preschool, by Friday, **December 6th**! Letters are only \$5 and benefit the preschool.

Hanover Library Events: Guthrie Memorial is offering two upcoming Christmas events: **Paint Your Own Ornament** (ages 3-12) **November 27th**, 11:00am to 1:00pm and **Polar Express Story Time** on **Dec 9th & 10th** at 6:30pm. For more information on either or both, contact Guthrie Memorial at 717-632-5183

Ring a Bell: The Salvation Army is looking for volunteer bell ringers from mid-November until Christmas Eve. If you're willing and able, contact Kathi Thomas at 717-637-2105.

Meals-On-Wheels Help Needed: If you can drive or be a food runner, contact HACC at 717-633-6353.

Bedding Needed: HACC is asking for twin-size fitted sheets, pillowcases, and twin-size heavy, warm blankets for their cold weather shelter. Contact HACC at 717-633-6353 for more information.

Scam Alerts: If you receive a call from a bank employee asking you to confirm a code they just sent you, it's a scam. Most likely, they have your username and password and just need the code to finish logging into your account. For lots more tips like this one to protect yourself and others in this ever-changing world, go to <https://yorkcountypa.gov/1071/Fraud-Alerts>.

Christmas Tree Tours: The Hanover Area Historical Society presents a mansion full of Christmas trees, each decorated by a group, organization, or individual in the Hanover community. Check out their displays by taking a tour. Tours run **November 30th through January 11th**. Days and times vary, so contact HAHS at 717-632-3207 before going or for more information, or look for the green schedules on the narthex shelf.

Hanover Historical Society Events: Be sure to check out these other HAHS holiday events coming up: **Nutcracker Display** (plus items from the Nutcracker ballet) every Saturday in December until Christmas from 12:00noon to 3:00pm (free admission) at the Neas House. **Christmas with the Eisenhowers Tea** on **December 10th** from 5:00pm to 8:00pm (reservations required and are very limited, tickets are \$20 and include a tree tour). **Christmas Tea & Tour at the Warehime-Myers Mansion** on **December 6th and 7th** from 12:00pm to 3:00pm (tickets are \$60). For info on any of these events, go to hanoverpahistory.org or call 717-632-3207.

Carol Singing: Emmanuel UCC on Broadway is holding their 114th annual Carol Sing on **December 22nd** at 7:00pm. Contact EUCC at 717-632-8281 or go to www.emmanuelucc.org for more information.

Hot Chocolate Stroll: Main Street Hanover presents a downtown Hot Chocolate & Cookie Stroll **December 14th**, 1:00pm to 3:00pm. Tickets are \$25. Go to mainstreethanover.org for more information.

Free Groceries: Pick up free grocery kits at St. Paul's on York Street on Saturdays from 10:00am to 11:00am.

High School Play Alert! South Western High School presents *The Mysterious Murder at Manchester Manor* tomorrow, Thursday, **November 21st**, through Saturday, **November 23rd**. Tickets are \$5 in advance or \$7 at the door and can be purchased at vancoevents.com/us/CQOQ. Or call 717-633-4807 for more info.

Holiday Program: South Western School District invites you to the Hanover Community Partnership Holiday Program on Saturday, **December 13th**, at 1:00pm in the Emory H. Markle Middle School auditorium, 225 Bowman Road. Call 717-632-2500 for more information.



HARVEST HOME BLESSING – GIVING THANKS

If you are unable to join us for this weekend's blessing of quilts, toys, and food collected for those in need, please use these Service of Blessing prayers in your own home devotion to lift up the ministries of service and love to our neighbors.

P Almighty and gracious God,

C By Your love we pray as one people, connected as sisters and brothers with all the world. Empower us to care for others in need and open our hearts to those who struggle.

P Make us your servants with grateful hearts, for a humble awareness of our abundance amid all the world's poverty and pain.

C Lord, we pray for Your spirit to dwell within us and use the talents and gifts You have given to us to care for this world's needs.

P We pray for the courage to give generously of our imaginations and abilities.

C Lord, we give thanks for those who gave of their time and gifts to cut, sew, tie, and create such a beautiful patchwork of colorful quilts.

P We pray for the empowerment to give generously of our resources and our material wealth.

C Lord, we give thanks for those who gave of their time and gifts to collect such donations of food, toys, and gifts.

P We pray for confident hope, in the presence of such overwhelming needs, to know that each offering of money, quilt, toy, food staple, and all the material resources makes a welcome difference to others, and to You.

C We pray for justice and mercy, empower us to be advocates for those more needful than ourselves, being compassionate in our role as citizens and fellow members of one family of creation. Help all our social outreach partners, that we would uphold them with our prayers, our encouragement, our gifts, our willingness to learn and to invite the support of others.

P In the name of our Lord, Jesus Christ, who encourages us to ask boldly in his name, we pray,

C Amen.