

ST. MARK LUTHERAN CHURCH
WEEKLY DEVOTIONAL AND REMINDERS/UPDATES
November 6, 2024

From *DAILY GUIDEPOSTS 2018*: Daniel Schantz

... *The little foxes, that spoil the vines...* – SONG OF SOLOMON 2:15

One of my vehicles suddenly developed a rattle under the dashboard that sounded like a half-dozen marbles and a wooden box. “Just ignore it,” my wife said, ever helpful.

And I tried, but the noise seemed to get louder each day, until it felt like the marbles were actually in my head. But my wife assured me that I had lost all my marbles years ago.

From long experience with cars, I knew that the source of the rattle was likely to be something simple but that finding it could be wicked hard.

While Sharon drove the car over bumpy roads, I probed under the dash with a stethoscope and a variety of lights and mirrors, but found nothing. At one point I actually “laid hands” on the hood and prayed: “Lord, help me find this rattle before I have to be led away to rehab.”

In the end, I gave up. I just turn up the radio on bumpy roads.

Car noises are one thing, but a squeak or a rattle in a relationship is more serious. I once had a student who was the sweetest, most cooperative student ever. Then, abruptly, she began to complain about everything I did and said. Not until the end of the semester, when I got my student evaluations, did I find out the problem. I had said something in class that hurt her feelings. So I went to her and apologized, and she forgave me with a hug and tears.

It's not easy, finding the “little foxes” that are spoiling the vines, but it's worth the trouble, I think.

Lord, help me to not ignore the noises in my friendships.

Give me the courage to find out what's wrong and to fix it. – DANIEL SCHANTZ

Prayer: *Let us pray: Almighty God, by Your creation You made us, male and female, to live in relationship with You and each other. Help me learn to be in that relationship. To walk with You and to trust Your Word. Help me also to walk with my neighbors of this world, being a caring and supporting friend. Guide me in becoming as Christ-like as possible in my walk of faith. In His name, Jesus Christ, I pray. Amen.*

Weekly Schedule:

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

Preschool: Monday through Friday 8:30am to 4:00pm

Thursday, November 7 9:00am to 12noon – Quilters Group
3:00pm – Evangelism Meeting
~~6:00pm to 7:00pm – Choir Practice~~ **CANCELED**

Friday, November 8 11:00am to 12noon – Bible Study

Saturday, November 9 1:00pm to 3:00pm – UPMC Community Health Fair at St. Mark
5:30pm – Spoken Worship – 25th Weekend After Pentecost

Sunday, November 10 9:00am – *Of the Land & Seasons* Worship – 25th Weekend After Pentecost
Sunday School Following Worship
Bells Rehearsal

Monday, November 11 *Veterans Day* – To Our Veterans: Thank You for Your Service!

Thursday, November 14 9:00am to 12noon – Quilters Group

Friday, November 15 11:00am to 12noon – Bible Study

Sunday Worship Leaders

CPIC: Tom Long **Lector:** Pat Keefer

Communion Assistants: Tom Long | *Need Volunteer*

Greeters: Bill Leppo **Altar Care:** Sunday Volunteers

Band: Lee Ann Baird, Abby Shermeyer – Flute | Deb Zumbum – Violin | Martha Lippy – Cello
Noah Shermeyer – Saxophone | Joanna Suehr – Guitar

Vocal Leaders: Eric Shipman – Kyrie | Laurie Leppo – Hymn of Praise | Tom Long – Sanctus



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, Nancy Bender, Family & Friends of Sharon Bish, Jessica (Feeser) Boone, Katherine Borsella, Patrick Brady, Frances Claybaugh, Tim 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, 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, Sandy Miller, Merita Moore, Emily Moul, Leah Moul, Merle Mummert, Pam Mummert, Carolyn Neumyer, Marian Noble, Susan O'Brien, Kelly Perdue, Family & Friends of Caitlyn Riddle, Mary Riley, Carl Sandruck, David Sandruck, Lucus Schneider, 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, West Manheim Elementary, 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.

Thank You! Thanks to everyone who worked hard to make our Fall Bazaar a success. The money raised will assist those affected by recent hurricanes. We couldn't have done it without our cooks, bakers, salespeople, cashier, those who worked hard to set up, clean up, and spread the word, and everyone who donated rummage sale items. Thanks also to our vendors and all those who stopped by to make a purchase or enjoy lunch and baked goods! From Martha Lippy, Chair: "A big THANK YOU to all that contributed or helped make our Fall Bazaar a success. Our proceeds amounted to \$1530 and will be contributed to Lutheran Disaster Response. The money will be used to help the hurricane Helene and Milton survivors in the southern United States."

Bake Sale: Also, thank you to everyone who donated baked goods for the Preschool's bake sale yesterday, as well as those who purchased the treats. Together, we raised over \$900 to benefit the school!

Greeter Thank You: A big thanks to those who greeted voters on Election Day, helped people up and down the steps, and pointed them in the direction of the Preschool Bake Sale. It was a very pleasant day.

Christmas Dedications: Believe it or not, it's time to start thinking about poinsettias, wreaths, and world hunger stars. 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 the narthex shelf or contact Joni in the church office. Thank you for helping to beautify our Christmas Eve altar.

Harvest Weekend Food Drive: November is almost upon us, and our annual Harvest Weekend Food Drive has begun. 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. Please join us in our fight against local hunger!

Here at St. Mark: UPMC Health Fair Day: This Saturday, **November 9th**, 1:00pm to 3:00pm in the fellowship hall – come out and learn more about community services and agencies that help in our times of need and poor health. Be sure to tell others and invite them to St. Mark for this community event.

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.

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 day between 9:00am and 12:00noon.

It's Nomination Time: The Nomination Committee (Penelope Highlands, Martha Lippy, Hunter Shaw, Linda Bolin, and Mike Noble) are searching for 3 or 4 council nominees, 1 auditor, 2 nominating committee members, and a female and male delegate to the 2025 Synod Assembly in York, PA. Please talk with one of the nominating committee members to suggest someone or if you're interested in filling a position.

JJ's Toy Shoppe Collection: Our gift tag tree is now up in the narthex. 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 choosing a tag with a gift suggestion by **November 17th**. Remember – the **tags are just suggestions**, so feel free to purchase whatever you'd like to donate. Please plan to return new, unwrapped gifts to the church by **December 1st**, as HACC has requested we drop them off that week. If you miss the chance to grab a tag, that's fine – you can still bring in a toy of your choosing (or snow boots, books, PJs, puzzles – whatever you wish) up until **December 1st**!

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.

November Inspirations: November inspirations are now 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: We enjoyed lunch at Hoss's yesterday. Next up on **December 3rd** we'll meet for a 1:00pm meal at Perkins. Please sign up in the narthex if you'd like to have lunch with us at our events!

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 a Godly moment this week, 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. You can praise someone for a good deed, give thanks to God for a moment of joy, or share an experience of that epiphany glimmer in your life.

Do You Have a Few Hours to Spare? We have community members who need assistance from Meals-On-Wheels each day. Drivers or food runners are needed to take those meal packs from HACC to our neighbors throughout Hanover. If you can help in any way, please contact HACC at 717-633-6353.

HACC Adopt-A-Child: HACC is asking for sponsors to adopt a child (or family) in need this Christmas. Gift wish tags will be available at HACC from **November 1st through 10th**, and purchased/wrapped gifts should be dropped off by **November 27th**. Please contact HACC at 633-6353 for more information. **NOTE:** This program is in *addition to* JJ's Toy Shoppe (info above), for which St. Mark will once again will be collecting.

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. Be sure to check out their displays by taking a tour. Tours run from **November 30th through January 11th**. Days and times vary, so be sure to contact HAHS at 717-632-3207 before going or for more information.

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.

St. Paul's (Broadway) Bazaar: St. Paul Lutheran on Broadway presents their Holiday Bazaar on **November 9th** from 8:00am to 2:00pm. For more info, call 717-637-0511.

St. Paul's (Spring Grove) Holiday Makers Market: St. Paul on Main Street in Spring Grove will host a craft market on **December 7th** from 8:00am to 2:00pm. Contact the Spring Grove St. Paul for more info.