

ST. MARK LUTHERAN CHURCH
WEEKLY DEVOTIONAL AND REMINDERS/UPDATES
December 18, 2024

From DAILY GUIDEPOSTS 2018: Julie Garmin

Let the morning bring me word of your unfailing love, for I have put my trust in you... – PSALM 143:8

During forty years of marriage, my husband, Rick, and I have argued about one thing in particular: I love being prepared and doing things ahead of schedule; Rick is laid back and never worries.

One night, during the 11:00 p.m. news, the weatherman forecast the possibility of snow. “We better run to the grocery store,” I said.

“Nah, it's not going to snow.”

“What if it does? What if we lose power? The freezer’s full of meat.”

“Relax,” he said.

“How? We could be homebound if a blizzard strikes.”

Sure enough, the next morning the house was cold and dark. No power. No heat. I peered into our snow-covered backyard. “The weatherman and I were right,” I said, “annoyance creeping into my tone.”

“I'll set up the generator,” he replied, getting out of bed.

“What generator?”

“The one I bought a few years ago.” Minutes later, Rick restored enough power to save the meat, keep his outdoor parakeets warm, and make coffee.

I'd doubted my husband would take care of me, the same way I doubted God could handle my fears and worries. Filled with admiration and gratitude, I crunched my way through our snowy yard, the air smelling woody, like home and wintertime and safety.

“I worried for nothing. Your survival skills are quite impressive.”

Rick winked at me. “Just doing my job, ma'am.”

Plenty of times, I've assumed You weren't doing your job, Lord.

I'm sorry. You always have everything under control. – JULIE GARMIN

Prayer: *Let us pray: Almighty Father, You have shown Your love over and over again to Your creation and to me. Help me learn to trust in Your blessings, to seek Your guidance and rely on Your will to always seek the best. Guide me in seeking Your path for my life, so that I may grow in faith and devotion. I release all my worries and my fears into Your care, trusting in Your promise as I pray in the name of Your Son, Jesus Christ, my Lord and Savior. Amen.*

Weekly Schedule:

Office Hours: Mon through Fri 9:00am to 12:00noon **Preschool:** (See Preschool Calendar for Holiday Schedule)

Wednesday, December 18 10:45am – Preschool Christmas Program – 3’s Class

Thursday, December 19 10:45am – Preschool Christmas Program – 3’s Class

6:00pm to 7:00pm – Choir Practice

Friday, December 20 10:30am/2:00pm – Preschool Christmas Program – 4’s Class

11:00am – Bible Study

Saturday, December 21 *1st Day of Winter*

8:00am – Tree Decorating and Brunch

5:30pm – Spoken Worship – *4th Weekend of Advent*

Sunday, December 22 9:00am – Pageant Sunday – *4th Weekend of Advent*

No Sunday School/No Confirmation

Bells Rehearsal

PAL Team 1 Serves at HACC

Tuesday, December 24 *Christmas Eve* **-OFFICE CLOSED-**



3:00pm – Christmas Eve Worship

7:00pm – Christmas Eve Worship with 6:30pm Prelude

Wednesday, December 25 *Merry Christmas!* **-OFFICE CLOSED-**

Thursday, December 26 **NO SEWING GROUP**

Friday, December 27 11:00am to 12noon – Bible Study

Sunday Worship Leaders

Wreath-Lighting Reader: Shermeyer Family

CPIC: Gail Merlo

Lector: Mike Merlo

Communion Assistants: Gail Merlo | Mike Merlo

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, Gary Arruda, Family & Friends of William Barnett, Jessica (Feeser) Boone, Katherine Borsella, Patrick Brady, Frances Claybaugh, Tom Cowan, Oscar Crow, Lisa Dickensheets, Diane Duffy, Robin Eline, Tarek Elnaggar, Jean Eshbach, Carol Fadenrecht & Family, Dennis Fahey, Family & Friends of 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, Michael Humes, 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, Ed Moran, 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 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 and early detection, and maximizing quality care and support. To contribute to this month's designated need, please specify "Alzheimer's" or "December 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.



Christmas Eve Worship at St. Mark: On Tuesday, **December 24th**, we invite you to Christmas Eve worship. Our afternoon worship of carols and lessons is at **3:00pm**, with Holy Communion and candle-lighting. The evening worship begins at **6:30pm** with a special prelude selection of music to help lead us to the **7:00pm** service of carols and lessons – Holy Communion and candle-lighting will also be included. Come join us and bring family, friends, and neighbors as we celebrate the birth of our Messiah, Jesus the Christ.



Pageant Sunday: This Sunday is Pageant Sunday. Please come join us as congregation members, young and old, reenact the birth of Jesus, Our Lord and Savior. It promises to be an enjoyable time for all!

Mitten Tree: Through **January 6th**, the Advent Knit Tree welcomes donations of warm clothing: mittens, hats, socks, gloves, scarves, etc., as well as work gloves and socks. All donations are greatly appreciated.

(Don't) Let it Snow! If snow, ice, or other 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 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!

2025 Offering Envelopes: Booklets are available in the church hallway until after Christmas Eve, so be sure to pick up yours during worship or on business days between 9:00am and 12:00noon.

Cookie Fellowship: Be sure to mark your calendars for Sunday, **December 29th**, as we share our cookies after worship in fellowship time. Please consider bringing a cookie or treat to share.

Christmas Carol Singing Worship: Join us on Sunday, **December 29th**, as we celebrate the twelve days of Christmas by singing as many Christmas carols as we can during worship. Come join in the singing and suggest one of your favorites – then stick around for some cookies!

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

Help Us Help You: As we update the St. Mark Church Directory to be published in January, we ask that you please take a moment and check the current contact list to be sure your information is correct. Thank you for helping us to make available the most accurate information possible.

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.

Ruth's Harvest: 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.

Snow Removal: We need your help with snow removal or finding a reliable snow removal company to remove snow from the church entrances. We're searching for a solution. If you know of anyone, please talk with a Church Council member as soon as possible.

St. Mark Eats: Join us **January 7th** at 1:00pm at **Primanti's** – and bring family and friends!

Tree-Decorating Brunch: There is a sign-up to help decorate our tree and pews this Saturday, **December 21st**, starting at 8:00am. Please join us (especially if you're really, really tall or having really, really long arms)!

Quilting Group: Please note – our Thursday morning Sewing and Quilting Group will be on holiday hiatus until **January 9th**.

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.

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.

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 through **January 11th**. Days and times vary, so contact HAHS at 717-632-3207 for more information or look for the green schedules on the narthex shelf.

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

Puppet Show: St. Matthew's on Chestnut presents a puppet show and light meal on **December 28th** following 5:00pm worship. Contact St. Matthew's at 717-637-7101 for more information.

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

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>.