

ST. MARK LUTHERAN CHURCH
WEEKLY DEVOTIONAL AND REMINDERS/UPDATES
December 4, 2024

From DAILY GUIDEPOSTS 2018: Ginger Rue

“Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest.” – MATTHEW 11:28

It's the second Sunday of the month, and I have nursery duty at church. I always sign up for the babies! It's a great opportunity to get lots of good cuddles while the parents enjoy a quiet worship service.

Today I have only one baby. He's “fat and fine,” as my grandmother would have said. Thirteen months old and lots to love. I can hardly wait to get my hands on him and tickle those adorable piggy toes! “He woke up at 5:30 this morning, so he could really use a nap,” his mother tells me before she leaves.

It's not long after she's out the door that the baby experiences separation anxiety. “Now, now. I understand, sweet doll,” I say, holding him close. He's wailing at this point, and his eyes are beyond tired. I hold him close, but he fights me, resisting the sleep he doesn't realize he so desperately needs. My rocking chair keeps a steady pace, and I hum along with the hymn I can hear from the auditorium. The baby keeps on crying, but as I continue to rock him, he puts up less and less of a fight until finally he is limp in my arms, his tired little eyes closed and his face a relaxed picture of contentment.

For the next hour, I rock this precious gift on loan to me. When worship is over and his mother returns, we almost hate to transfer him to her arms and disturb his deep slumber.

Lord, how many times have I been stubborn and not heeded Your wisdom! Thank You for holding me close. Thank You for the perfect peace you offer when I trust in You. – GINGER RUE

Prayer: *Let us pray: Loving Father, You have embraced me in Your arms and lifted me up in my times of need. I give thanks for that comforting embrace, even when I didn't know I needed it. Continue to hold me in Your hands and give me strength to be about Your work, giving glory to Your name. Lift me up by the Spirit to follow in the ways of Your Son, Jesus Christ, in whose name I pray. Amen.*

Weekly Schedule:

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

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

Wednesday, December 4 6:00pm to 7:00pm – Choir Practice

Thursday, December 5 9:00am to 12noon – Quilters Group
3:00pm – Evangelism Committee Meeting

Friday, December 6 *St. Nicholas Day*

9:00am to 6:00pm (NOTE: TIME CHANGE) – Garden Club Greens Sale in Fellowship Hall

11:00am to 12noon – Bible Study

Saturday, December 7 **9:00am to 1:00pm (NOTE: TIME CHANGE)** – Garden Club Greens Sale in Fellowship Hall

5:30pm –Spoken Worship – 2nd Weekend of Advent

Sunday, December 8 9:00am – Traditional Worship – 2nd Weekend of Advent

Sunday School and Confirmation Class Following Worship
Bells Rehearsal

Monday, December 9

DEADLINE TO DEDICATE WORLD HUNGER STARS

Thursday, December 12 7:00am to 7:00pm – UPMC Blood Drive

9:00am to 12noon – Quilters Group

Friday, December 13 11:00am to 12noon – Bible Study

Sunday Worship Leaders

Wreath-Lighting Reader: Shermeyer Family

CPIC: Martha Lippy **Lector:** Kathy Gates

Communion Assistants: Martha Lippy | Kathy Gates

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, Family & Friends of William Barnett, Jessica (Feeser) Boone, Katherine Borsella, Patrick Brady, Frances Claybaugh, Tom Cowan, 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, 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, Mary Lou Krummeck, 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 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.

2025 Offering Envelopes: Booklets are now available in the church hallway, so be sure to pick up yours during worship or any business day between 9:00am and 12:00noon.

Breakfast Brunch and Help Decorate: There is a sign up for those who can help decorate our tree and pews on **December 21st** starting at 8:00am. We especially need a person or two not afraid of heights to get up to the top of that tree – so come and bring your favorite mountain-climbing friend to help us out.

Christmas Dedications: Dedications will be listed in our Christmas Eve bulletin, and poinsettias/stars can be taken home after the evening Christmas Eve service. The deadline for poinsettias may have passed, but you can still dedicate World Hunger Stars (\$5.00) through **December 9th**. Order forms are in the newsletter or on the narthex shelf, or contact Joni in the church office. Thank you!

Christmas Eve Readers Needed: We would sure like to hear you read a scripture lesson at either our 3:00pm or the 7:00pm worship service. Sign up on the narthex bulletin board.

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

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.

St. Mark Eats: Yesterday, we met for lunch at Perkins. Please consider joining us **January 7th** at 1:00pm at **Primanti's** – and bring family and friends! We always enjoy sharing our fellowship with new people.

Blood Drive: We'll be holding another UPMC Blood Drive here at St. Mark on **December 12th**. To donate, go to donate.717giveblood.org, click on Donate Now, then UPMC Hanover. Or call 717-771-0059.

JJ's Toy Shoppe Collection: Thank you to everyone who brought in toys, games, puzzles, pajamas, snow boots, etc. for JJ's Toy Shoppe. We took them to HACC earlier this week so they can be set up to allow parents to choose what's best for their children. Thanks to your generosity there will be many happier kids on Christmas morning...and relieved parents!

Mitten Tree: Throughout Advent, 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!

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 this Friday, **December 6th**! Letters are only \$5 and benefit the preschool.

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.

Greens Sale: The Hanover Garden Club is holding their annual Greens Sale in our fellowship hall this Friday (9:00am to 6:00pm) and Saturday (9:00am to 1:00pm). **PLEASE NOTE:** They're trying out a new schedule this year, so be sure to note the new times – previously listed times are incorrect.

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.

Free Community Meal with Entertainment: St. Matthew's on Chestnut is hosting a free turkey and ham dinner, along with music, bingo, and puppets, for the Hanover community. The event is **December 15th** from 3:00pm to 6:00pm. Contact St. Matthew's at 717-637-7101 for more information.

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.

Winter Handbell Concert: The Westminster Ringers will perform at 4:00pm on **December 7th** at St. Paul's on York Street. Contact St. Paul's at 717-637-5941 for more information.

Bazaar/Raffle: All Saints Episcopal on McCosh is hosting a bazaar and raffle this Friday, **December 6th**, from 9:00am to 2:00pm, and Saturday, **December 7th**, from 9:00am to 12noon. Contact All Saints at 717-637-5772 for details.

Cookie Walk: Emmanuel UCC in Abbottstown is offering a Cookie Walk on **December 14th** at 9:00am. Contact Elaina DeHoff at 717-521-3715 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 Story Time: Guthrie Memorial is having a **Polar Express Story Time** on **Dec 9th & 10th** at 6:30pm. For more information, contact Guthrie Memorial at 717-632-5183

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.

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 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.

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.

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.

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

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.

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>.