

ST. MARK LUTHERAN CHURCH
WEEKLY DEVOTIONAL AND REMINDERS/UPDATES
January 22, 2025

From *DAILY GUIDEPOSTS 2018*: Natalie Perkins

*“Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be long
in the land that the Lord your God is giving you.” – EXODUS 20:12*

Both of my parents fell ill this year at the same time. This was the first time either of them had been hospitalized for a serious condition. It seemed as if the moment that one of them was released from the hospital, the other would have to go back in the very next day. It was overwhelming to experience the entire thing from more than seven hundred miles away.

I had planned a trip home to celebrate the birth of my nephew, but by the time the trip arrived my parents needed help; the trip was filled with doctor's appointments, calls to different health professionals and providers, monitoring medicine intake, fluid bags, and sleep.

I felt sad not to have special time to bond with my new nephew, but I also couldn't help feeling grateful for opportunities to give back, in any profound way, to those who nurtured me and help me grow.

The week was in no way glamorous, nor were there grandiose gestures made. However, I do not underestimate the power of showing love and I didn't take for granted that one emotion-filled week where love was not just a word but an action.

*Lord, help me to be fully present in the time I spend with my parents
and to honor them by simply practicing love. – NATALIE PERKINS*

Prayer: *Let us pray: Gracious heavenly Father, I praise Your gift of relationship. You have taken me in and called me Your own child, showering love and mercy. Help me grow in that connection with You and in the same way with all my earthly relationships. Help me value the connections I have with others so that I may grow in dedication and friendship. Almighty Lord, in You I have found strength and courage to be Your servant in the way of Jesus Christ, in His name I pray, Jesus, 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

Thursday, January 23 9:00am to 12noon – Quilting Group

CHOIR PRACTICE MOVED TO SUNDAY

Friday, January 24 11:00am – Bible Study

Saturday, January 25 5:30pm –Spoken Worship – 3rd Weekend after Epiphany

Sunday, January 26 **8:15am – Choir Practice in Music Room (NOTE: New Date)**

9:00am – Traditional Worship – 3rd Weekend after Epiphany

Sunday School Following Worship

Confirmation Class

Bells Rehearsal

Provide-A-Lunch “Team A” Serves at HACC

Tuesday, January 28 4:00pm – Council Meeting

Thursday, January 30 9:00am to 12noon – Quilting Group

CHOIR PRACTICE MOVED TO SUNDAY

Friday, January 31 11:00am – Bible Study

Sunday Worship Leaders

CPIC: Gail Merlo **Lector:** Karen Feeser

Communion Assistants: Gail Merlo | Karen Feeser

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, Jessica (Feeser) Boone, Katherine Borsella, Patrick Brady, Family & Friends of Delores Brillhart, Frances Claybaugh, Tom Cowan, Oscar Crow, Pastor David DeLong, Lisa Dickensheets, Diane Duffy, Robin Eline, Tarek Elnaggar, Jean Eshbach, Carol Fadenrecht & Family, Dennis Fahey, Nancy Fridinger, Nancy Gill, Vickie Gouker, Dane Graham, Tom Greenholt, Bob Groft, John Hagerman, Richard Hagarman, 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, 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, Sarah Smith, Family & Friends of Beverly Snyder, Jody Spellman, Phyllis Tasto, Jennie Tome, George Tracy, Allison Trump, Ed Wagaman, Gloria Wagaman, Jody Walter, Naomi Warren, Barb Watson, Ron Wentz, Family & Friends of Brad Weiss, Kathy Wildasin, Edward Wiltrout, Family & Friends of 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 pre-determined by our council each year. January's offering benefits **Lutheran Disaster Response (LDR)** to "bring God's hope, healing, and renewal to people whose lives have been disrupted by disasters in the United States and around the world." To contribute to this month's designated need, please mail in your donations or place them in our collection plates, specifying "Lutheran Disaster Response" or "January 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.

LDR, while still helping in the hurricane ravaged areas of the US, is now beginning to work with the Pacifica Lutheran Synod, the Southwest California Lutheran Synod, and other partners to bring aid and hope to the people affected by the many fires burning in California. Please consider helping with a donation.

Okay, Enough Cold and Snow! But 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!

2025-2026 Preschool Registration: Registration for the 2025-2026 school year began on **January 1st** for current students, families that have registered older children in the past, and members of St. Mark Church. Open registration to the public begins **February 1st**. Registration is based on a first-come-first-serve basis. Interested families can go to stmarkpreschoolhanover.weebly.com or stmarkhanover.org/st-mark-preschool for a registration form and more information.

Preschool Open House: If you'd like to learn more about the preschool program, they'll be holding an **Open House** on Monday, **February 3rd**, from 6:00pm to 8:00pm.

Altar Flowers: We have all of our January vases covered, but most of February is free. To dedicate a vase to a loved one or their memory before Lent begins, please fill out the altar flower book or contact the church office.

Annual Congregational Meeting & Reminder: Our annual Year-in-Review Congregational Meeting will be held on **February 2nd** (makeup date **February 9th**). The Annual Report booklets will be available before the meeting. Look for them in the narthex this weekend.

Directory Available: The January 2025 edition of the St. Mark Church Directory is available in the bell tower room. Please contact the church office if you'd like a copy sent to you via email.

Host a Fellowship Time: We're always looking for more hosts to keep our 1st Sunday Fellowship Time going. Hosting involves setting out our breakfast treats and coffee and straightening up after. Please sign up in the office hallway to host one of these monthly events in 2025.

Inspirational Back Issues: We now offer an order form for past issues of the monthly Inspiration envelopes. Choose from past topics like "Love" or "Hope." Order forms can be found in the narthex Inspirations box. If you'd like a copy of previous inspirations, just complete the form and submit it to the church office.

February Inspirations: A limited number of February inspirations are now available in the narthex. Please feel free to take one for yourself and some to share, if you wish.

Road Closures Around Church: Columbia Gas will be replacing gas lines in the vicinity of the church in January. Be sure to plan for delays when coming to services or just traveling through the area!

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.

Slagle Scholarship - \$1,000: The Slagle Scholarship Committee is awarding \$1,000 to a graduating senior of Hanover or South Western who plans to enter the nursing profession, the ministry or other religious work, or attend a vocational (technical) school. If you know anyone who fits the bill, please have them contact Martha Lippy at 717-637-8891 or pick up an application in the church office on weekdays between 9:00am and 12noon. **Completed applications must be received by the church office on or before noon on Friday, April 4, 2025.**

Souper Bowl of Caring: St. Mark is joining with over 300,000 churches to turn Super Bowl Sunday into the Souper Bowl of Caring. Please plan to bring non-perishable food donations and/or monetary donations to help us fight hunger in our community by stocking the HACC food bank with our contributions. We'll be collecting the weekend of **February 9th**, to help our local food bank meet the needs of our hungry neighbors.

St. Mark Eats: Join us **February 4th** at 1:00pm at **The Starlight Diner** – and bring family and friends! Then on **March 4th**, we'll have lunch at **Divino's** on Frederick Street. Please sign up on the narthex bulletin board so we can anticipate how many tables we may need.

The Epiphany Star: Jesus said, "I am the light of the world, whoever follows me will never walk in darkness." As we travel through the season of Epiphany, we look to the One who is the true light of the world. In that light we see the Christ, who calls all people to life with God. May we rejoice in worship, seeking to follow that light and walk in His gift of life everlasting.

Blood Drive: The next UPMC Blood Drive is at St. Mark from 7:00am to 7:00pm on Thursday, **February 13th**. To donate, go to donate.717giveblood.org, click on Donate Now at the top (ignore login box for now), then enter "17331" and look for UPMC Hanover on the list. Or call 717-771-0059.

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.

Emmanuel UCC Free Concert: Critically acclaimed trumpet and flugelhorn artist, John Maurer, will present a program of standards, jazz, and original compositions for trumpet and piano with pianist, Nate Petley on Sunday, **March 2nd**, 2025, at 3:00pm. For more information, call Emmanuel United Church of Christ on Broadway in Hanover at 717-632-8281 or go to emmanuelucc.org.

Hanover Library Events: In addition to their youth programs and events, Guthrie Memorial Library has some adult offerings. Coming up soon is Trivia Night on Tuesday, **January 28th**, at 6:00pm. To register, call 717-632-5183.

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

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>.