

**ST. MARK LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
**WEEKLY DEVOTIONAL AND REMINDERS/UPDATES**  
**February 19, 2025**

From *DAILY GUIDEPOSTS 2018*: Scott Walker

*For You formed my inward parts; You wove me in my mother's womb.  
I will give thanks to You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made... – PSALM 139:13-14*

My friend Mary Kay introduced me to the poetry of e.e. cummings forty-three years ago. Ever since, cummings's often simple but cryptic voice has spoken to me in important moments.

Recently, I was thumbing through a beautiful children's book. To my surprise, I read a quotation from cummings that resounded in my senior adult mind: "It takes courage to grow up and be who you really are." I may be nearing the age where I finally understand this.

All of my life I have attempted to be a lot of things I am not. As a child mesmerized by Hardy Boys mystery books, I wanted to be a detective. In high school, I longed to be an outstanding athlete. In college, I knew I would be a doctor until chemistry made a fool of me. As a young adult, I attempted to be the perfect parent until a three-year-old revealed the truth to me. In middle age, I longed to write the great book, preach the profound sermon, present a stellar lecture, but seldom felt "good enough." Now, on the fourth lap of a mile-long race, I think I am finally understanding that all God ever wanted me to be was just myself. This is both humbling and unfathomable; good news but hard to accept. God created me to *just be my best self!* And when this happens, God begins to really smile.

*Father, may I have the courage to love myself. To be myself.  
To believe that You made me just as I am for a purpose. Amen. – SCOTT WALKER*

**Prayer:** *Let us pray: Almighty Lord, in thanks I humbly pray, asking for Your continued wisdom and righteous Spirit to rest upon me and guide me in my life. In a continued search to please others and even convince myself, I have struggled so much trying to be someone I am not. Help me stop searching for someone else that I am not and allow me to find the wisdom to just be me, the one You have made and loved. Open my eyes and mind to accept that gift of grace and acknowledge that in You I am Your own child, saved and claimed by You through 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

<b>Thursday, February 20</b>	9:00am to 12noon – Quilting Group 6:00pm – Fellowship Committee Meeting at Starlight Diner
<b>Friday, February 21</b>	11:00am – Bible Study
<b>Saturday, February 22</b>	5:30pm – Spoken Worship – 7 <sup>th</sup> Weekend after Epiphany
<b>Sunday, February 23</b>	9:00am – Traditional Worship – 7 <sup>th</sup> Weekend after Epiphany Sunday School Following Worship Confirmation Class Following Worship PAL Team B Serves at HACC Bells Rehearsal
<b>Thursday, February 27</b>	9:00am to 12noon – Quilting Group
<b>Friday, February 28</b>	11:00am – Bible Study

## Sunday Worship Leaders

**CPIC:** Kathy Gates    **Lector:** Alex Spalding

**Communion Assistants:** Kathy Gates | Jeff Kindschuh

**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, Susan Bucher-Laughman, 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, Family & Friends of 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, Family & Friends of 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, Mary Riley, Wally Rodenhaver, Carl Sandruck, David Sandruck, Lucus Schneider, Jim Schuman, Bob and Cecelia Sell, Julie Sell-Smith, Bob Shue, Family & Friends of Dawn Slate, Luanne Slusser, Denise Smith, Pr. Jerry Smith, JoAnn Smith, Sarah Smith, Jody Spellman, Amanda Stuckey, Phyllis Tasto, Jennie Tome, George Tracy, Allison Trump, Ed Wagaman, Gloria Wagaman, Jody Walter, Naomi Warren, Barb Watson, Ron Wentz, 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 which are pre-determined by our council each year. February's offering benefits the **Hanover Area Council of Churches Changing Lives Shelter**—a year-round facility providing for the needs of singles and families in desperate need of housing. They provide housing, structure, life skills, case management, and other assistance in developing a successful productive transition into an independent lifestyle. To contribute to this month's designated need, please mail in your donations or place them in our collection plates, specifying "Changing Lives Shelter" or "February 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.

**2025-2026 Preschool Openings:** There are still some spots left in the T/TH 3-year-old class. Please go to [stmarkpreschoolhanover.weebly.com](http://stmarkpreschoolhanover.weebly.com) or [stmarkhanover.org/st-mark-preschool](http://stmarkhanover.org/st-mark-preschool) for more information.

**Acts of Glory Project:** We're looking to collect Acts of Glory through 2025. Please continue to share ways you have witnessed and/or performed acts of kindness, prayer, etc. Mark them on a card and share them.

**Altar Flowers:** We have one vase left before Lent on March 2<sup>nd</sup>. To dedicate it to a loved one or their memory, please contact the Church Office, or add your dedication to the Altar Flower Book.

**Cupcakes with Love Sunday:** Thank you to all who brought in cupcakes and to all who stayed to enjoy Cupcakes with Love Sunday. We all enjoyed sharing love, fellowship, and sweet treats.

**Don't Forget to Save Loose Change for the Piggy Banks!** We are collecting loose change 'til Easter Sunday. The Sunday School will then use the change to purchase farm equipment, animals, and other basic sustainable programs to help those in need.

**Thank You:** "We would like to thank everyone who has been donating sheets to our quilting project. They are greatly appreciated." – *The Sewing Group*

**Host a Fellowship Time:** We're always looking for more hosts to keep our 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday Fellowship Time going. Hosting involves setup and cleanup of church-provided treats. Please sign up to host!

**Greeting Cards:** We currently do not have a need for any more greeting cards but want to thank all who brought them in previously. We know Gary is hoping to plan another mission trip and when that happens we will put out a call for more. In the meantime, we appreciate all those who continue to save cards at home.

**Easter Flowers:** We are now taking orders for Easter dedications. You can submit a form (found on the narthex shelf) via offering envelope, mail, or the office door basket, call the office to place an order, or email Joni at [offcoor129@gmail.com](mailto:offcoor129@gmail.com). Tulips, hyacinths, and lilies are \$13.00 each, and World Hunger Doves are \$5.00. The deadline to order **flowers** is **March 16<sup>th</sup>**, and **dove** orders should be placed on or before **March 30<sup>th</sup>**.

**Grounds Assistance:** We give thanks for those who have helped around the church during the time Wally has been out on medical leave, including Bob Bish who cleaned up the churchyard this week after our recent windstorm. While Wally is out for a bit, please continue to help us keep our church grounds clear of debris by picking up larger sticks, trash, and other stray items when you see them and putting them in our dumpster.

**Honoring Our Heroes:** Your help is needed for this community event on **May 18<sup>th</sup>**. We will start with food trucks, activities, and displays at 5:00pm, followed by the program at 7:00pm, and then root beer floats. This is a free, family-friendly, community event. Please mark your calendars to attend and spread the word to organizations who may want to participate with a display and to anyone who would enjoy attending, and pray for another successful event.

**IMPORTANT - DO NOT RESPOND TO GIFT CARD EMAILS:** Pastor has been informed that scam emails are being received in his name asking for gift cards and/or a “discrete favor.” Nobody on staff at St. Mark, including Pastor, will **ever** ask you to provide us with gift cards. **Delete these immediately!**

**Lenten Soup Dinners:** As we prepare for Lent, we’ve posted signups for our weekly Soup & Study Dinners that start on **March 12<sup>th</sup>**. This year’s theme will be “The Stones of Lent.” Please sign up and join us!

**Upcoming Diaper Drive:** Just a note that our annual diaper/wipe collection will begin soon, following Ash Wednesday. If you plan to bring in diapers and/or wipes, this is a good time to start looking for coupons and deals!

**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.

**Scholarship:** The Slagle Scholarship Committee is awarding \$1,000 to a graduating senior of Hanover or SWHS who plans to enter the nursing profession, the ministry or other religious work, or attend a vocational (technical) school. Interested applicants should 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<sup>th</sup>, 2025.**

**St. Mark Eats:** We invite you to join us on **March 4<sup>th</sup>** for a **1:00pm** meal at **Divino’s** on Frederick Street. Then on **April 1<sup>st</sup>**, we’ll have lunch at Chili’s at 1:00pm. Please sign up on the narthex bulletin board.

**The Apocrypha: What Is It?** We just began a new Bible Study to discuss the times between the Testaments. These books, usually called “the Apocrypha,” are generally a mystery to most. But we will take the time to get an overview. Please join us Fridays at 11:00am, and, if you have a Bible with the Apocrypha included, please bring it along and join in our discovery together.

**Ugh – Snow & Ice!** If weather causes services to be canceled, we will get the word out via WGAL and WGAL.com. We’ll also get a message on the church website ([stmarkhanover.org](http://stmarkhanover.org)) and send emails if possible. If you’re worried at all about unsafe conditions, please stay home and stay safe!

**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.

**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 2<sup>nd</sup>**, 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](http://emmanuelucc.org).

**Free Grocery Kits:** St. Paul’s on York Street offers free groceries including fruit, potatoes, and pantry items, every Saturday from 10:00am to 11:00am. If you know of anyone who’s struggling right now with the cost of feeding themselves or their families, please share this information with them.