

ST. MARK LUTHERAN CHURCH
WEEKLY DEVOTIONAL AND REMINDERS/UPDATES
July 2, 2025

From DAILY GUIDEPOSTS 1988: Marilyn Morgan Helleberg

And Paul said, "But I was freeborn." – ACTS 22:28

Independence Day was my father-in-law's favorite holiday. He celebrated it with great festivity and joy, because freedom was among his highest values. Dad Helleberg came to this country from Denmark at the age of eighteen with fifty dollars in his pocket and only a few words of English in his vocabulary. "But if you have your freedom," he often said, "you have everything."

He had a long and successful career as an architect, but during his final years, he became confined to a wheelchair and finally to bed. It seemed to me that he had lost the thing he valued most – his freedom. Then one evening in late June, I sat by his hospital bed holding his frail white hand. "The Fourth of July will soon be here," I said, trying to make conversation.

"Oh yes!" he replied. Then, squeezing my hand ever so slightly, he said, "you know, there's one freedom no one can ever take from you. You always have the freedom to choose what your *attitude* will be!" My father-in-law died a free man, despite his very restricting circumstances.

This year, as you're celebrating America's freedom by hanging out the flag or watching a parade or fireworks display, take a few moments to remind yourself that no matter what the outer events of your life are, you always have that most precious of all freedoms – the freedom to choose your own *attitude*!

Let freedom ring, Lord, in my country and in my heart. – MARILYN MORGAN HELLEBERG

Prayer: *Let us pray: Almighty Father, by Your Son and his sacrifice we are made free from our sins and made a part of Your eternal family. I give thanks to You for that mercy that gives me freedom over all worldly concerns or problems, because I know in the end I am given the victory of Jesus Christ. Help me sustain that joy, sharing that freedom with others, especially in this holiday week where freedom is celebrated. Let me always remember the ultimate freedom comes from You, through Jesus Christ, my Savior and Lord, in whose name I pray. Amen.*

Weekly Schedule:

Office Hours: Mon-Fri 9:00am to 12:00noon

Preschool: On Summer Break

Thursday, July 3 9:00am to 12noon – Quilting Group

NO EVANGELISM MEETING

Friday, July 4 *Independence Day*

OFFICE CLOSED

Saturday, July 5 5:30pm – Spoken Worship – 4th Weekend after Pentecost

Sunday, July 6 9:00am – Traditional Worship – 4th Weekend after Pentecost

Fellowship Time Following Worship

Tuesday, July 8 10:00am to 11:30am – Coloring Book Group

Thursday, July 10 9:00am to 12noon – Quilting Group

1:00pm – Preschool Board Meeting

Friday, July 11 11:00am – Bible Study

Sunday Worship Leaders

CPIC: Alex Spalding

Lector: Karen Feeser

Communion Assistants: Alex Spalding | Karen Feeser

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 we're told 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, Katherine Borsella, Nancy Brady, Patrick Brady, Susan Bucher-Laughman, Lucas Cherry, Frances Claybaugh, Oscar Crow, Pastor David DeLong, Lisa Dickensheets, Diane Duffy, Robin Eline, Tarek Elnaggar, Jean Eshbach, Landon Evans, Dennis Fahey, Nancy Fridinger, Nancy Gill, Vickie Gouker, Dane Graham, Tom Greenholt, Bob Groft, John Hagerman, Sandy Hart, Chase Henry & Family, Carrie Hernden, Peg Hippensteel, Michael Humes, Martha Howells, Donna Jones, Pat Keefer, Debbie Kellenbenz, Craig King, Shawn Klunk, Kelly Koontz, Norma Kreidler, Winchester Kuhn, Allen Kuhns, Jo Kuhns, David Kunkel, Russell Laughman, Jean Lawrence, Tom Lawrence, Tim Leppo, Ronnie Lippy, Naura Luqman, Carol McDermitt-Humes, Merita Moore, Family & Friends of Ed Moran, Emily Moul, Leah Moul, Merle Mummert, Pam Mummert, Wayne Noel, Carolyn Neumyer, Marian Noble, Susan O'Brien, Kelly Perdue, Family & Friends of Barbara Rebling, Mary Riley, Carl Sandruck, David Sandruck, Lucus Schneider, Bob and Cecelia Sell, Bob Shue, Luanne Slusser, Denise Smith, Pr. Jerry Smith, JoAnn Smith, Sarah Smith, Jody Spellman, Amanda Stuckey, Phyllis Tasto, Jennie Tome, George Tracy, Allison Trump, Betty Tyson, Erin Viozzi, Ed Wagaman, Gloria Wagaman, Jody Walter, Naomi Warren, Barb Watson, Ron Wentz, Bill Whelan, Kathy Wildasin, Family & Friends of Edward Wiltrout, Rebecca Wisotzkey, MMI Dominican Republic Mission Team .*

St. Mark's Monthly Offering for Designated Needs gives us an opportunity as a congregation to support specific domestic and international needs. During July, we are given the opportunity to contribute to **Medical Ministry International (MMI)**, a group which organizes medical missions to all parts of the world. It is the group responsible for planning and organizing the mission trips taken by Gary Laabs. To contribute to this month's designated need, please mail in your donations or place them in our collection plates, specifying "MMI" or "July 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.

Congregational Meeting: On Sunday, **July 27th**, following morning worship there will be a specially-called Congregational meeting to decide on a proposal to replace the playground doors and to decide on certain tree trimming and or removal on church grounds. Please plan to attend this meeting.

God's Work Our Hands: We're once again filling backpacks with school supplies for those in need. We'll be packing the bags in September but are advertising the drive now since school supplies are on sale. The specific supplies needed are: spiral notebooks (70-sheet, wide- or college-ruled), rulers (12-inch with centimeter measurements included), erasers (2-1/2 inch), safety scissors, pencils (unsharpened #2 with erasers), crayons (box of 24), pens (black or blue ballpoint), and mini pencil sharpeners. If you're able to donate any of the above supplies, please bring them to the narthex or drop them off in the church office. This list is also in the latest newsletter and listed on the collection bins.

Preschool Classroom Supplies: St. Mark Preschool has placed a display in the narthex with pull-off tabs listing classroom supplies needed – everything from baby wipes to copy paper to paper streamers. If you can donate any of the supplies they're asking for, they appreciate the support. Please check the display or contact the preschool for more information.

Altar Vases: Thank you to everyone who responded to our request for altar flower sponsors – June is now full! We have **one vase open on July 27th, two each on August 3rd and 17th, and one on August 31st.** If you can dedicate a vase to a loved one or their memory, please contact the church office or add your dedication to the Altar Flower book.

Thank You: Thank you so much to all of you who took the time to send birthday and anniversary wishes to Mom & Dad!! They were surprised at how many cards they received!! Thanks again for bringing extra joy to their lives!!
– Hugs, Melanie Brady

July Church Directory: The latest contact list is available for pickup in the bell tower room. If you'd like a copy emailed to you, please let Joni know at offcoor129@gmail.com.

Next St. Mark Eats: We enjoyed our dinner last night at Starlight, and we invite you to join us Tuesday, **August 5th**, for dinner at 6:00pm at C&D Bar and Grill in New Oxford. Please join us for fun, food, and fellowship!

Reminder: The office will be closed this Friday, **July 4th**, for the Independence Day holiday.

2026 Heroes Chair Needed: After three successful years, I am stepping away from the role of “Honoring Our Heroes” Chairperson. **Do you want to see this event continue next year?** If this event is to continue, we need you to step up and do a part of the work needed to put this together. Melinda will continue to help with the concert, and I will share my resources, information, and ideas. Tell Pastor Kirk or myself what you are willing to do to keep “Honoring Our Heroes” at St. Mark. Thank you! – *Gary Laabs*

Coloring Group Here at St. Mark: If you’re an adult who enjoys coloring, either on paper or on your iPad, grab your supplies and join us for our new coloring group here in a St. Mark classroom. The group meets monthly, usually on the second Tuesday, from 10:00am to 11:30am. July’s meeting will be this coming Tuesday, **July 8th**. Call the church office or email offcoor129@gmail.com for the schedule or if you need more information. And if you know of anyone else who’d like to come, please let them know – flyers are on the office hallway table.

Glory & Inspirations: July inspiration packets are available in the narthex. Be sure to pick up one for yourself and one or more to share. **If you’d like a copy of the month’s inspirations emailed to you at the beginning of each month**, please let Joni know at offcoor129@gmail.com. Additionally, if you have had a Glory moment in your life, share that also on the colored pew card and place it in the offering plate. Posting these Acts of Glory will inspire others to witness God.

Help Us Buy Ingredients: HACC’s Provide-A-Lunch program makes sure there is a hot meal for anyone in the Hanover area who needs one. St. Mark’s two teams serve lunch each month and provide the ingredients for each meal. To help us continue this mission, please consider donating to our “PAL Supply” fund. To contribute **directly to St. Mark’s PAL efforts**, please note “PAL **SUPPLIES**” (be sure to specify “supplies” so that your donation is directed to the right place) on the *Other* line of your offering envelope. Thank you!

St. Mark Representative Needed: Are you able to attend HACC’s board meetings four times each year? We need a church member to represent St. Mark at meetings of the Hanover Area Council of Churches once per quarter, usually a Monday night from 7:00pm to 8:30pm. Our former representative is no longer able to attend. If you’re a member and able to take on this duty, please contact Pastor Kirk or the church office. Thank you for your help!

VBS: VBS will take place **July 28th through August 1st**. To register, go to stpaulsyorkst.org/vbs-registration. **We also still really need a couple more volunteers** – please sign up!

Volunteers Needed: And speaking of volunteers: St. Mark will once again participate in Hanover’s Snack Town Street Fair to spread the Word and invite fairgoers to St. Mark. We can use some help making this happen. This year’s fair is on Saturday, **July 12th**. Please sign up in the narthex – we appreciate anyone who can help out so we can continue this evangelizing effort!

Hanover Against Hunger: St. Matthew is hosting another packing event on **November 1st**. They hope to pack 100,000 meals for the hungry. Please save the date if you’d like to help pack, but in the meantime they have asked us to share their current needs for the project. Right now, they are collecting monetary donations and would like to borrow a small portable freezer for **July 12th** to support their ice cream fundraiser at Snack Town Street Fair. They’ve also asked for someone at St. Mark to take responsibility for marketing the project to our congregation – specifically by setting up a table before and after worship and telling people more. If you’re interested in taking this on for St. Matthew, call our church office at 717-637-8904, and we will give you contact information.

Free Weekly Outdoor Story Time: The Guthrie Memorial Library offers free story time with Miss Kelly in Penn Township Community Park (Kids' Kingdom) this summer on Tuesdays from 10:00am to 10:45am. The program runs from **June 10th through August 12th** and includes crafts, activities, and games. The park is located at 4601 Grandview Road in Hanover. Call the library at 717-632-5183 for more information.

RC’s Summer Movie Series: \$1 Movies from **June 17th through August 6th** every Tuesday & Wednesday at 10:00am, including sensory-friendly showings. For details visit: rctheatres.com/summermovies2025.

Rent-a-Kid: The York County Area Agency on aging once again offers a way to connect older adults with young people to help with yardwork, light household chores, etc. at affordable rates. Please contact YCAAA at 717-771-9103 or email Aging@YorkCountyPA.gov.

Summer Concert Series: The Historical Society is hosting free lawn concerts this summer on the first Wednesday of each month at 6:30pm. On **July 2nd**, HSO Brass will perform a patriotic concert: *A Salute to America*. The rest of the schedule can be found at hanoverpahistory.org.