

**ST. MARK LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
**WEEKLY DEVOTIONAL AND REMINDERS/UPDATES**  
**July 9, 2025**

From DAILY GUIDEPOSTS 2018: Marilyn Turk

*“The owner’s servants came to him and said, ‘Sir, didn’t you sow good seed in your field?  
Where then did the weeds come from?’” – MATTHEW 13:27*

We’d been away on vacation for several weeks, so I was anxious to see how our yard had fared in the hot Florida Sun. I strolled through the yard, inspecting the shrubs and flower beds for progress or damage.

I was happy to discover that we’d had a lot of rain, so all the plants were healthy and growing. The roses were blooming, as were the vincas and hibiscus, and the Mexican petunias had grown another foot. Everything was flourishing...even the weeds.

I grabbed my gardening gloves and pruning shears and headed out to get rid of the intruders.

“Can I help?” asked Logan, my young grandson.

As we set to work attacking the weeds, I was overwhelmed by the amount. How had so many unwanted plants appeared in so short a time? Where did they come from? As I tugged and jerked to remove them, I thought about weeds in my own life that needed pulling.

For example, I’d been too critical of others lately. *Tug!* Pull that weed out of my life. I hadn’t shown forgiveness to my family for little things. *Pull!* Get rid of that! I’d lost my temper with my son. *Snap!*

Once Logan and I had pulled out the weeds, I had room to plant more good plants. The same is true in my own life. Instead of bitterness, unforgiveness, and anger, I can plant mercy, kindness, and self-control.

*Lord, please point out the weeds in my life and remove them so only good will grow. – MARILYN TURK*

**Prayer:** *Let us pray: Merciful Lord, I give thanks to You for the beauty of Your creation and the love You have planted throughout my life. Continue to sow seeds of peace, mercy, and grace in my heart and throughout my life. May I pull the harmful weeds that choke and distract me from following in the path of Your Son, 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

<b>Thursday, July 10</b>	9:00am to 12noon – Quilting Group 1:00pm – Preschool Board Meeting
<b>Friday, July 11</b>	11:00am – Bible Study
<b>Saturday, July 12</b>	8:00am to 4:00pm – Snack Town Street Fair 5:30pm – Spoken Worship – 5 <sup>th</sup> Weekend after Pentecost
<b>Sunday, July 13</b>	9:00am – Traditional Worship – 5 <sup>th</sup> Weekend after Pentecost
<b>Wednesday, July 16</b>	1:00pm – Vacation Bible School Planning Meeting
<b>Thursday, July 17</b>	9:00am to 12noon – Quilting Group
<b>Friday, July 18</b>	11:00am – Bible Study

**Sunday Worship Leaders**

**CPIC:** Hollis Long

**Lector:** Kathy Gates

**Communion Assistants:** Hollis Long | *Need Volunteer*

**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, Emily Moul, Leah Moul, Merle Mummert, Pam Mummert, Wayne Noel, Carolyn Neumyer, Marian Noble, Susan O'Brien, Kelly Perdue, Family & Friends of Barbara Rebling, Melinda Repass, 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, Rebecca Wisotzkey, Texas Flooding Victims*

**Texas Flash Flooding:** From Lutheran Disaster Response: "You've likely seen the devastating news about the catastrophic flash floods in South Central Texas. Our hearts break as we learn of the damage, loss of life and ongoing search for survivors. We join the call of Bishop Sue Briner (ELCA Bishop of Southwest Texas) to 'pray, pray, pray for those who are still lost as well as the families of those who are lost, who have died, or who have experienced loss of home or property.' As ever and with your support, our church stands ready to walk with our neighbors in the Texas hill country as the floodwaters recede and rebuilding begins. Your gifts to Lutheran Disaster Response ensure that our neighbors are not alone on the long road to recovery after a disaster strikes...The flash flood warnings have expanded, and more rain is expected. [LDR] is coordinating with the Southwestern Texas Synod and will work with them and other partners to respond to urgent needs, provide emotional and spiritual care, and support cleanup and long-term recovery." – Reverent John Eggen, ELCA

If you would like to contribute to this effort, please mark your offering "LDR – Texas Flooding" on the *Other* line of your envelope.

**Altar Vases:** Thank you to everyone who responded to our request for altar flower sponsors! We now have **one vase open on July 27<sup>th</sup>, two each on August 3<sup>rd</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup>, and one on August 31<sup>st</sup>.** 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.

**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.

**Congregational Meeting:** On Sunday, **July 27<sup>th</sup>**, 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.

**VBS:** VBS will take place **July 28<sup>th</sup> through August 1<sup>st</sup>.** To register, go to [stpaulsyorkst.org/vbs-registration](http://stpaulsyorkst.org/vbs-registration). **We still need a few volunteers to help guide the groups of children through the stations– please sign up!**

**Volunteers Needed:** And speaking of volunteers: St. Mark will have a booth at Hanover's Snack Town Street Fair to spread the Word and invite fairgoers to St. Mark **this Saturday, July 12<sup>th</sup>.** Please call the church office if you are willing to man the booth for an hour or two this weekend! **We really need your help!**

**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](mailto:offcoor129@gmail.com).

**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. August's meeting takes place on **August 12<sup>th</sup>**. 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](mailto: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!

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

**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, we appreciate the support. Please check the display for more information.

**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*

**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!

**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 10<sup>th</sup> through August 12<sup>th</sup>** 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.

**Hanover Against Hunger:** St. Matthew is hosting another packing event on **November 1<sup>st</sup>**. 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 12<sup>th</sup>** 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.

**Summer Concert Series:** The Historical Society is hosting free lawn concerts this summer on the first Wednesday of each month at 6:30pm. On **August 6<sup>th</sup>**, the Jazzberries will perform the *ABCs of Jazz*. The rest of the schedule can be found at [hanoverpahistory.org](http://hanoverpahistory.org).

**RC's Summer Movie Series:** \$1 Movies from **June 17<sup>th</sup> through August 6<sup>th</sup>** every Tuesday & Wednesday at 10:00am, including sensory-friendly showings. For details visit: [rctheatres.com/summermovies2025](http://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](mailto:Aging@YorkCountyPA.gov).