

**ST. MARK LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
**WEEKLY DEVOTIONAL AND REMINDERS / UPDATES**  
**August 13, 2025**

From DAILY GUIDEPOSTS 2018: Julia Attaway

*The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. – JOHN 1:5*

Maggie was finally back in Connecticut for a third time, though the twenty-eight-day program was a bust. We had what appeared to be a viable plan for moving forward: she was going to a different therapeutic wilderness program, in Georgia. But she flat-out refused to go.

We were advised to hire a professional to transport her. Joe was our man. When he and his partner arrived at the hospital to pick up Maggie, she bellowed, howled, threatened, and ran around in a frenzy. After half an hour the nurse said, “We’ll have to sedate her.”

Joe frowned and shook his head. He believed his job consisted of more than just getting Maggie from Point A to Point B; he wanted to make her journey a positive one, a smooth transition. Force didn’t fit into that.

“No,” he said, “she can make the decision to come on her own.” He asked the staff to back off and give her space. Then he turned to my daughter. “Take your time, Maggie. I believe you can do this. I can wait.”

She stared, wild-eyed and trembling. Deep inside her terrified heart, she heard he’d stood up for her, trusted her.

A few moments passed. My fourteen-year-old finally took a deep breath and looked Joe in the eyes. Then she said, “I can do this. Let’s go.” And they did

*Father, You shine rays of light into even the deepest darkness.  
Help me recognize that light, treasure it, and be thankful for it. – JULIA ATTAWAY*

**Prayer:** *Let us pray: Heavenly Father, by Your Word, light began, giving order out of chaos. By Your Word, life began and all saw the light and knew the hope of Your glory. Radiate Your power into all the dark crevices of pain and sorrow, into all the dark pits of sin and despair, removing all fear and worry so that we may walk by Your light in joy and blessedness. Guide us to follow in the footsteps of the One who is the Light of the World, Jesus, the Christ and Savior, in whose name I pray. Amen.*

**Weekly Schedule:**

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

**Preschool:** On Summer Break

**Thursday, August 14** 9:00am to 12noon – Quilting Group

**Friday, August 15** 11:00am – Bible Study

**Saturday, August 16** 5:30pm – Spoken Worship – 10<sup>th</sup> Weekend after Pentecost

**Sunday, August 17** 9:00am – Traditional Worship – 10<sup>th</sup> Weekend after Pentecost

Bells Rehearsal

**Thursday, August 21** 7:00am to 7:00pm – UPMC Blood Drive

9:00am to 12noon – Quilting Group

**Friday, August 22** 11:00am – Bible Study

**Sunday Worship Leaders**

**CPIC:** Mike Merlo    **Lector:** Grace Graft

**Communion Assistants:** Mike Merlo | *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, Kathy 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, Ronnie Lippy, Naura Luqman, Carol McDermitt-Humes, Merita Moore, Leah Moul, Merle Mummert, Pam Mummert, Wayne Noel, Carolyn Neumyer, Marian Noble, Susan O'Brien, Kelly Perdue, Bill Reese, 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, Family & Friends of Francis Thrift, Sr., Jennie Tome, George Tracy, Allison Trump, Erin Viozzi, Ed Wagaman, Gloria Wagaman, Jody Walter, Naomi Warren, Barb Watson, Ron Wentz, Bill Whelan, Kathy Wildasin, Rebecca Wisotzkey, Texas Flooding Victims*

**St. Mark's Monthly Offering for Designated Needs** gives us an opportunity as a congregation to support specific domestic and international needs. During August, we are given the opportunity to contribute to **Hanover Area Council of Churches – Ruth's Harvest**, the program which makes sure the elementary school kids that rely on daily meals at school also have some meals for the weekends. To contribute to this month's designated need, please mail in your donations or place them in our collection plates, specifying "Ruth's Harvest" or "August 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.

**Altar Vases:** Thank you to everyone who is sponsoring vases to ensure we have fresh flowers every week. Most of August's vases have been filled – we just have one left on **August 31<sup>st</sup>**. We also have three vases available for September. If you'd like to dedicate a vase in September, be sure to fill out the book by **August 27<sup>th</sup>** so we can include your dedication in September's newsletter. Thank you!

**Blood Drive:** The next UPMC blood drive will be here at St. Mark from 7:00am to 7:00pm on Thursday, **August 21<sup>st</sup>**. To donate, go to [717giveblood.org](http://717giveblood.org), click Find a Blood Drive, and choose UPMC Hanover from the dropdown menu.

**Ruth's Harvest:** As mentioned above, 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.

**Glory & Inspirations:** August's 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.

**God's Work Our Hands:** We're once again filling backpacks with school supplies for those in need. We'll be packing the bags on Sunday, September 7<sup>th</sup> after worship. 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.

**St. Mark Adult Coloring Group:** Grab your supplies and join us for our coloring group here in a St. Mark classroom. The group meets monthly, usually on the second Tuesday, from 10:00am to 11:30am. The next meeting is **September 9<sup>th</sup>**. Please spread the word! Fliers are on the office hallway table.

**Help Us Buy Ingredients:** St. Mark's teams provide the ingredients for each monthly meal they serve at HACC. Please consider donating to our "PAL Supplies" fund to help us buy the food we need to continue this. To contribute **directly to St. Mark's PAL efforts**, please note "PAL **SUPPLIES**" (specify "supplies" so your donation is directed to the right place) on the *Other* line of your offering envelope. Thank you!

**Next St. Mark Eats:** We invite you to join us Tuesday, **September 2<sup>nd</sup>**, for dinner at 6:00pm at the Gateway Diner in Gettysburg. Please join us for a fun time!

**Save the Date:** We give thanks to Amy and Abby Shermeyer who have come forward to help coordinate the 2026 Heroes Event here at St. Mark on **May 17<sup>th</sup>** of next year. Mark your calendars now so you don't miss this wonderful experience of festivities offering thanks, music, and good eats. Look for opportunities to volunteer and help support the event as we begin planning for next year.

**St. Francis Worship Service:** St. Francis was known for his love of animals and stressing the importance of caring for all God's creation. His commemoration day will fall on a weekend this year so the Worship and Music Committee is proposing a special 9:00 am worship service on Sunday, **October 5<sup>th</sup>** to commemorate and give thanks for all creation, animals, and especially our pets. We invite members to bring in pictures of your past or present pets to display in the narthex as we lift them up in our worship. We will have our usual pet blessing service at 2:00pm on Saturday, **October 4<sup>th</sup>**, as well.

**St. Mark Representative Needed:** The next HACC board is meeting Monday, **August 24<sup>th</sup>**, at 7:00pm. St. Mark needs a delegate to represent us at the Board meeting. They generally meet 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!

**Texas Flooding:** Lutheran Disaster Response is coordinating with Southwestern Texas Synod to provide for urgent needs, emotional and spiritual care, and cleanup/long-term recovery for victims of the recent flash flooding in Texas. If you would like to contribute to this effort, please mark your offering "LDR – Texas Flooding" on the *Other* line of your envelope.

**Thank You:** Thank you to everyone who came out and supported the preschool at Big Dipper's last night at their Meet-the-Teacher fundraiser!

**Document Shredding and Damaged License Plate Replacement:** On Saturday, **September 27<sup>th</sup>**, from 9:00am to 12noon at Kate Klunk's office, 118 Carlisle Street. RSVPs are required for the license plate replacement. Call 717-630-8942 or go to [RepKlunk.com/Events](http://RepKlunk.com/Events).

**Free Concert:** As part of the summer's lawn concert series, on Wednesday, **September 3<sup>rd</sup>**, Generations Big Band will perform the *Singers and Swingers* at the Warehime-Myers mansion. Then on **October 1<sup>st</sup>**, there will be a Country Western Hoe Down and Line Dancing Event, *Bring It on Home*. For details, go to [hanoverpahistory.org](http://hanoverpahistory.org).

**Free Diapers:** Families in Bloom Diaper Bank at St. John's Lutheran on 100 E. Water Street in Abbottstown distributes diapers to those in need. The next distribution dates are Thursday, **September 4<sup>th</sup>**, from 2:30pm to 4:30pm, and Saturday, **September 20<sup>th</sup>**, from 9:30am to 11:30am.

**Getting Ready for Back-to-School:** On Tuesday, **August 19<sup>th</sup>**, from 5:30pm to 7:30pm at Utz Factory Outlet on Carlisle Street, backpacks will be distributed to kids from K-6 who need school supplies. There will also be a certified technician on hand to check child safety seat installation

**Summer Bash:** Sunday, **August 17<sup>th</sup>**, 11:00am to 2:00pm at the North Hanover YMCA. A free, fun-filled day of activities and games for families and children of all ages. Contact the YMCA at 717-632-8211 for more information.

**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).

**Hanover Against Hunger:** St. Matthew is hosting another food packing event on **November 1<sup>st</sup>**. They've asked for someone at St. Mark to set up a table before/after our worship to share details. If you're interested in taking this on for St. Matthew, call our church office at 717-637-8904 for contact info.