

**ST. MARK LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
**WEEKLY DEVOTIONAL AND REMINDERS / UPDATES**  
**December 31, 2025**

From *DAILY GUIDEPOSTS 2011*: Scott Walker

*So teach us to number our days, that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom.* – PSALM 90:12

Last night I stopped at a restaurant for dinner. I was alone and brought my datebook to plan for the next day. After ordering, I gazed at the datebook and realized that this year was almost over. I flipped slowly through the pages of past days and weeks and reviewed the last twelve months.

I was amazed to discover all that can happen in a year: I had accepted a new professional position and moved from Texas to Georgia. Beth and I had witnessed the wedding vows of our first child Drew and welcomed our daughter-in-law Katie Alice into our family. Our son Luke had entered the insurance industry, and our daughter Jodi had graduated from Furman University. Somewhere in the middle of all this, I counseled dozens of students, preached sermons, conducted funerals and wrote a book. These were just the major events; most of my hours were spent in the routines of living: sleeping, eating, exercise, repairing my car, mowing the lawn, preparing our income tax returns, going to movies, and all the other unremarkable events that fill everyone's days and nights.

As my food arrived, I realized that the real question confronting me wasn't, *How did I spend last year?* but *How will I spend the next? How will I use the most precious of God's gifts – life and time?*

I can make long lists of things to accomplish and commit myself to New Year's resolutions. But I really need to do only two things: Love God with all that I am and love my neighbor as much as I love myself. This is all that really matters.

*Lord, keep me from seeing my days as something I own  
but rather as a gift that comes from You.* – SCOTT WALKER

**Prayer:** *Let us pray: Almighty God, creator of all, by Your might and will, I have been given a life to live. Help me live toward You and in Your ways. Empower me to spend my days and hours filled with the love for You and for others following in Your Son's example, Jesus Christ in whose name I pray. Amen.*

**Weekly Schedule:**

**Office Hours:** Mon-Fri 9:00am to 12:00noon | **Preschool:** Mon-Fri 8:30am to 4:00pm

<b>Wednesday, December 31</b>	<i>New Year's Eve</i> Last Day for 2025 Tax Year Contributions
<b>Thursday, January 1</b>	<i>Happy New Year!</i> <b>-OFFICE CLOSED-</b>
<b>Friday, January 2</b>	<del>11:00am – Bible Study</del> <b>NO BIBLE STUDY</b>
<b>Saturday, January 3</b>	5:30pm – Spoken Worship – 2 <sup>nd</sup> Weekend After Christmas
<b>Sunday, January 4</b>	9:00am – Traditional Worship – 2 <sup>nd</sup> Weekend After Christmas Sunday School Following Worship Fellowship Time Following Worship Bells Rehearsal
<b>Tuesday, January 6</b>	<i>Epiphany of Our Lord</i> 9:30am – Volunteer Cleanup/Removing Christmas Decorations 1:00pm – St. Mark Eats @ Lu Hibachi
<b>Thursday, January 8</b>	9:00am to 12noon – Quilting Group 9:30am – Choir Practice 3:00pm – Evangelism Committee Meeting <b>NOTE: SPECIAL DATE</b>
<b>Friday, January 9</b>	11:00am – Bible Study

## Sunday Worship Leaders

**CPIC:** Kathy Gates

**Lector:** Kathy Gates

**Communion Assistants:** Kathy Gates | *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, Bryce Adamson, Daniel Ard, Becky Bingel, Robert Bingel, Katherine Borsella, Nancy Brady, Patrick Brady, Susan Bucher-Laughman, Lucas Cherry, Frances Claybaugh, Susan Coleman, Lois & George Cornell, Pastor David DeLong, Lisa Dickensheets, Diane Duffy, Robin Eline, Tarek Elnaggar, Jean Eshbach, Landon Evans, Dennis Fahey, Nancy Fahey, Don Feeser, Nancy Fridinger, Nancy Gill, Vickie Gouker, Dane Graham, Tom Greenholt, Bob Groft, Sandy Hart, Debby Hartlaub, Carrie Hernden, Peg Hippensteel, Blaise Humes, Michael Humes, Martha Howells, Donna Jones, Kathy Jones, Nathan Keefer, Debbie Kellenbenz, Craig King, Shawn Klunk, Kelly Koontz, Norma Kreidler, Winchester Kuhn, Allen Kuhns, Jo Kuhns, Russell Laughman, Jean Lawrence, Tom Lawrence, Ronnie Lippy, Naura Luqman, Carol McDermitt-Humes, Merita Moore, Leah Moul, Merle Mummert, Pam Mummert, James Murphy, Wayne Noel, Marian Noble, Susan O'Brien, Kelly Perdue, Jessica "Rose" Pulliano, Bill Reese, Mary Riley, Carl Sandruck, David Sandruck, Lucus Schneider, Cecelia Sell, Julie Sell-Smith, Bob Shue, Luanne Slusser, Denise Smith, Pr. Jerry Smith, JoAnn Smith, Joyce Smith, Ron Smith, Sarah Smith, Jody Spellman, Family & Friends of Earl Sterner, Phyllis Tasto, Dawn Tice, Jennie Tome, George Tracy, Allison Trump, Ed Wagaman, Gloria Wagaman, Jody Walter, Naomi Warren, Barb Watson, Ron Wentz, 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.

**Can You Sponsor This Weekend's Flowers?** We have a need for altar flower sponsors for this weekend, **January 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup>**. If you're able to dedicate one or both vases to the honor or memory of a loved one, please contact Joni in the office – 717-637-8904 or [offcoor129@gmail.com](mailto:offcoor129@gmail.com). If we receive your dedication before Friday morning at 9:00am, it will be included in both the January newsletter and handout for the weekend. Thank you for helping us keep fresh flowers on the altar!

**2026-2027 Preschool Registration:** Registration for the 2026-2027 school year will begin on **January 1<sup>st</sup>** for current students, families who have registered older children in the past, and members of St. Mark Church. Open registration to the public begins **February 1<sup>st</sup>**. Registration is based on a first-come-first-serve basis. Interested families can go to [stmarkpreschoolhanover.weebly.com](http://stmarkpreschoolhanover.weebly.com) or [stmarkhanover.org/st-mark-preschool](http://stmarkhanover.org/st-mark-preschool) for a registration form and more information.

**Bible Study Cancelled:** This Friday's Bible Study is cancelled. Our next study will be on Friday, **January 9<sup>th</sup>**.

**Thank You to All & Poinsettia Reminder:** Thank you to all who dedicated poinsettias to help decorate our Christmas Eve altar. We will leave the poinsettias on the altar until this Sunday, **January 4<sup>th</sup>**, at which time they will be moved to the church hallway. If you'd like to take yours home, please be sure to do it this weekend. If you didn't dedicate a poinsettia but would like to take one home, those left behind will be available to anyone for pickup next Monday and Tuesday, **January 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup>**, from 9:00am to 12noon in the church hallway

**Last Weekend for Advent Knit Tree:** We will continue to collect donations of socks, hats, gloves, scarves, etc. through the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Christmas. Please place donations on or under the Advent Knit Tree in the narthex by this Sunday, **January 4<sup>th</sup>**.

**Baby It's So Cold Outside!!!** Seriously – way too cold! It's that time again. If snow, ice, or other weather causes services to be cancelled, we will do our best to get the word out via WGAL and WGAL.com. We'll also put a message on the church website ([stmarkhanover.org](http://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!

**Eat Out and Enjoy Some Fellowship:** We enjoyed Perkins in December and want you to be a part of our next outing. We'll be going to Lu Hibachi on **January 6<sup>th</sup>** for lunch at 1:00pm. Start the new year with food, fun, and fellowship!

**Evangelism Meeting:** As the church will be closed this Thursday, the Evangelism Committee Meeting will be on the second Thursday this month – **January 8<sup>th</sup>**.

**Flat Sheets Needed:** The Sewing Group is in need of full-size new or like-new flat cotton sheets. If you're having trouble finding flat sheets that are sold individually outside of a set, Walmart on Eisenhower Drive has solid-color, full-size flat sheets in Aisle H25 for \$15.00.

**Help Needed – We Are Halfway Through the Twelve Day of Christmas:** The four weeks of Advent help prepare us for the season of Christmas, the coming of our Lord, Emmanuel, God with us. Now we are in that season of celebration, but it only lasts a short bit. On Tuesday, **January 6<sup>th</sup>**, Epiphany arrives, and all of the Christmas decorations need to be put away. If you can help in any way that week, please talk with Pastor or contact Wally, our Sexton.

**It's That Time Again:** Committee chairs and auxiliary groups are encouraged to get their year-in-review reports completed and turned in to the church office by Sunday, **January 18<sup>th</sup>**.

**New Year Fellowship Time!** We had such good cookies during Advent and last Sunday, but we still need more sugar and fellowship time. Join us this Sunday, **January 4<sup>th</sup>**, for a time of donuts, and goodies after worship!

**OFFICE and Church Entrances Closed:** Just a reminder – the church office (and, therefore, the church main doors) will be closed tomorrow, Thursday, **January 1<sup>st</sup>**. Happy New Year!

**New Church Directory:** An updated Church Directory will be available to pick up this weekend in the bell tower room. If you'd like a copy emailed to you next week, please contact Joni at [offcoor129@gmail.com](mailto:offcoor129@gmail.com).

**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.

**Serving Lunch: Help Us Buy Ingredients:** On the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of each month, one of our St. Mark PAL (Provide-A-Lunch) teams cooks and serves a hot lunch at the HACC dining room. Please consider donating to our "PAL Supplies" fund to help us buy the food we need. 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 your offering envelope.

**Share Some Inspiration:** January's inspiration packets are available in the narthex. These are great for your own spiritual meditation. Additionally, you can pick up an extra one to give to someone else and share your faith! And don't forget, you can order back issues – just look for the form in the Inspirations box.

**Thanks to All:** A warm thanks to all who participated during Advent and Christmas Eve. It takes so many people to bring such wonderful worship all together: singers, musicians, decorators, readers, bulletin makers, altar care helpers, and worshipers. Thanks to all for the time you put in and the gifts you shared to lead us in lifting up worship to our Lord and Savior.

**Stamp Donations:** This time of year, many of us get lots of cards with U.S. postal stamps. Don't forget you can donate those by placing them in the wooden box in the bell tower room. So save those stamps!