

ST. MARK LUTHERAN CHURCH
WEEKLY DEVOTIONAL AND REMINDERS / UPDATES
April 15, 2026

From DAILY GUIDEPOSTS 2018: *Jim Hinch*

*In his hand are the depths of the Earth; the heights of the mountains are his also.
The sea is his, for he made it, and the dry land, which his hands have formed. – PSALM 95:4-5*

We have waited all year for this – our West Coast trip, with visits to Kate's and my family's, and leading a family camp.

We set aside a few days just for us in our favorite place, the Sierra Nevada mountains. This year we're staying in Mammoth Lakes, a ski town on the steeper, more rugged eastern side of the range. Even in summer the topmost peaks are clad in snow. The air is clear and cool and smells of pine and sage.

Right now we're wending our way over the Sonora pass, a narrow cleft in the range with a ribbon of highway. We're less than a mile from the pass when suddenly the kids point out a stunningly beautiful meadow, bisected by a tumbling creek and backed by a steep slope. "Can we get out here?" they cry.

Kate and I shrug. *Why not?* We pull over into a turnout, pile out of the car, and trudge across the meadow to the creek.

We find a way across the water and climb part of the slope. The kids bend down to examine sage stems, taking in their smell. We are inside God's handiwork.

We pile back into the car, elated and ready to finish the drive. We'd love to stay, but we know we are only visitors here. God is at work in us, too, taking us toward destinations we know and have yet to discover.

Today, Lord, I will revel in the mystery of Your creation. – JIM HINCH

Prayer: *Let us pray: Almighty Lord Creator, by Your Word the worlds were formed. Branching trees and colorful flowers, majestic mountains, quiet valleys, wide oceans, and little babbling brooks all display Your beauty. Remind me, today, that I am just a passing part of this great wonderment of life. In You is my destination, in Your kingdom is my final home. Until I am called to Your paradise, let me grow in deeper appreciation of Your gifts and share Your Word that is found in Jesus Christ, Your Son, 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

Thursday, April 16 9:00am to 12noon – Quilting Group

9:30am – Choir Practice

Friday, April 17 11:00am – Bible Study

Saturday, April 18 5:30pm – Spoken Worship – 3rd Weekend of Easter

Sunday, April 19 9:00am – Traditional Worship – 3rd Weekend of Easter

Council Meeting

Bells Rehearsal

Wednesday, April 22 *Earth Day*

Thursday, April 23 9:00am to 12noon – Quilting Group

9:30am – ~~Choir Practice~~ **NO CHOIR PRACTICE**

Friday, April 24 *Arbor Day*

11:00am – Bible Study

Sunday Worship Leaders

CPIC: Martha Lippy **Lector:** Hollis Long

Communion Assistants: Martha Lippy | Hollis Long

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, Bryce Adamson, Shannon Allen, Family & Friends of Karen Amoss' Mother, Daniel Ard, Kim Bartell, Donna Bell, Becky Bingel, Robert Bingel, Judy Bolin, 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, James Farver, Don Feeser, Abigail Fett, Nancy Gill, Vickie Gouker, Dane Graham, Tom Greenholt, Bob Groft, Sandy Hart, Debby Hartlaub, Chase Henry & Family, Carrie Hernden, Peg Hippensteel, Blaise Humes, Michael Humes, Martha Howells, Donna Jones, Kathy Jones, David Kaufman, Debbie Kellenbenz, Craig King, Keith Klunk, Shawn Klunk, Kelly Koontz, Norma Kreidler, Winchester Kuhn, Allen Kuhns, Jo Kuhns, Russell Laughman, Jean Lawrence, Tom Lawrence, Laurie Leppo, Ronnie Lippy, Naura Luqman, Carol McDermitt-Humes, Merita Moore, Andrew Moul, Leah Moul, Linda Mummert, Merle Mummert, Nancy Mummert, Pam Mummert, James Murphy, Wayne Noel, Susan O'Brien, Kelly Perdue, Jessica "Rose" Pulliano, Bill Reese, Family & Friends of Betty, Danny, & Tina Rich, Mary Riley, Carl Sandruck, David Sandruck, Lucus Schneider, Cecelia Sell, Tim Sell, Sue 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 Jamie Stahl, Jamie Stalb, Dennis Staub, Monica Staub, Stephanie Stauffer, Phyllis Tasto, Matt Test, 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 which are pre-determined by our Council each year. April's offering benefits **Itete Hospital of the Konde Diocese**. Of the various partners who support Konde Diocese, through the work of our Konde Medical Needs Committee, we, as the Lower Susquehanna Synod, are the only partner providing ongoing support for the Itete Hospital. As the Itete Hospital in the Konde Diocese of Tanzania grows in its capacity to care for people as a District Designated Hospital, their needs grow. To contribute to this month's designated need, please mail in your donations or place them in our collection plates, specifying "Itete Hospital" or "April 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.

Eat Out and Enjoy Some Fellowship: We invite you to join us at Susie's Mexican Grill on **May 5th** at 1:00pm for lunch and a good time. Hope to see you there!

Preschool Sunday: Last Sunday, we enjoyed our special Preschool Sunday worship with many of St. Mark's own youth leading worship. The preschoolers sang two songs and joined us for a special fellowship time. Thank you to our preschool co-directors, Allison and Idonia, for attending and planning/rehearsing the preschool part of the service. And thank you to their families for joining us, as well. Thank you to the preschoolers and our youth for their part in the service, and to the preschool families for being part of this special event. And thank you to Karen Feeser and Shellene Griffin for providing decorations and fellowship treats, and to all of our Sunday attendees for welcoming the preschoolers and their families. This is a wonderful tradition we hope to continue for many years to come!

Blood Drive: Our next UPMC Blood Drive is **April 30th**. To register to donate blood and help save lives, go to 717giveblood.org and click on "Donate Now."

I Like Pie!! Calling all pie lovers. Please join us for "Pentecost Pie Sunday" where we'll share slices of pie we bring in (homemade or storebought) on **May 24th** following worship.

Readers, Wine Servers, Acolyte, Assisting Minister Needed: On **May 31st**, Holy Trinity Sunday, we are looking for an Assisting Minister and an Acolyte to help lead us in worship. We also need volunteers to serve wine or be lectors for several upcoming Sunday services. Please see the signup in the narthex to help out one weekend.

Pentecost Geraniums: Pentecost is coming, and once again we hope to beautify our church gardens while memorializing and honoring loved ones, past and present. To dedicate geraniums, please use the form found in April's newsletter, pick up one from the narthex shelf, or contact the office. Geraniums are \$6.50, and the deadline to submit dedications is **May 4th**. To volunteer to help with the planting, call the church office (717-637-8904).

2026-2027 Preschool Registration: The preschool has a few openings left in the **T/TH 3-year-old class** and in the **4-year-old afternoon class**. **The M/W 3-year-old class and 4-year-old AM class are both full.** Registration is first-come-first-serve. Go to stmarkpreschoolhanover.weebly.com or stmarkhanover.org/st-mark-preschool.

Sub Sale! The preschool is holding an R&K Sub Sale fundraiser. Order forms are on the church hallway table. Orders/payment are due next Monday, **April 20th**, with pickup between 11:00am and 1:00pm on **April 29th**.

Vacation Bible School: Our VBS theme this year will be *Camping with God* and is scheduled for **July 27th-31st** from 9:30am to 12noon each day. Please save the dates and help us please spread the word. We have room for 40 kids, ages 4-10, and will have crafts, games, snacks, stories, and music. Registration via St. Paul's website (stpaulsyorkst.org) will open **before May 26th** – watch our announcements for the exact date. If you'd like to help us plan, our next meeting to plan VBS will be Wednesday, **June 17th**, at 1:00pm. We'll also be looking for guides and helpers during the week of the events. If you can help, please talk to Karen Feeser or Pastor Kirk, or call the church office.

Altar Flowers: We have many vases available this spring and summer. If you can dedicate an open vase, please fill out the flower book in the narthex or contact Joni (717-637-8904 or offcoor129@gmail.com).

Fellowship Hosts Needed: We have been enjoying some great fellowship after worship this spring, but we need more volunteers to continue our monthly fellowship times on the first Sunday of each month. Treats, supplies, and coffee are provided by the church – we just need someone to set it all out and clean up after. Please help us keep this tradition going – sign up on the narthex bulletin board if you can help.

Flat Sheets Needed: The Sewing Group is in need of full-size new/like-new flat cotton sheets. If you're having trouble finding individual flat sheets, Walmart on Eisenhower Drive has them in Aisle H25 for \$15.00. They would like to thank those who've donated flat sheets in response to their need.

Honoring Our Heroes: This event is coming up soon! We hope and pray for another successful event on **May 17th**. Please join us for activities, fire trucks, police cars, displays, and music, beginning at 5:00pm. All St. Mark activities are free of charge, and food trucks will be present to sell refreshments. Please spread the word to anyone who may want to attend or have a table display – vendor applications are due **May 1st**. For more information, contact Amy or Abby Shermeyer at amyshermeyer@gmail.com | 717-630-9486.

From Heroes Committee: “Need people to assist in setting up the performance areas. We have chairs and tents to put up. Melinda will be grateful for any assistance and she will supervise. She can't hoist the tents, so you need to have a little strength. Chairs are a bit easier. I believe we have the Young Marines for setup as well but just covering our bases. See Melinda if you can assist in any way for the performances. It is a great musical program.” – *Melinda Elnaggar*

PAL Team Serves Lunch: The fourth Sunday of each month, members of St. Mark prepare a hot meal while we are in worship. Then they serve this lunch to our neighbors in need. Please consider if this is a ministry you would like to help with. Contact Shellene Griffin if interested.

PAL at St. Mark: Last month, our church's Provide-A-Lunch team served nearly 100 people a hot lunch at HACC. But it all starts with buying food. Please consider donating to our “PAL Supplies” fund to help us purchase the ingredients we need to serve lunch at HACC. 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.

Ruth's Harvest: Individual shelf-stable microwave meals, fruit, veggies, snacks, and tuna/chicken pouches to provide food for children in need on weekends can be placed in the floor bin next to the office. Donations to Ruth's Harvest provide food to school children in need on weekends when they may not otherwise eat.

Share Some Inspiration: April 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!

Free Concert: Emmanuel United Church of Christ on Broadway presents John Samuel on **April 19th** at 3:00pm. John is a 13-year-old pianist, organist, harpsichordist, and composer and a winner of the Rosalyn Tureck International Bach Competition. He will perform works by Mozart, Chopin, and Brahms. Call EUCC for tickets and more information – 717-632-8281.

Plant Sale at St. Mark: The Hanover Garden Club's sale is coming up on **May 2nd** 8:00am to 1:00pm. Garden Club members will be selling plants from their own gardens and will be on hand with valuable advice!

Scholarship Alert! HACC's Stolte Scholarship will award a \$1,000 grant to a high school senior, college, or seminary student pursuing a career in ministry, missions, or humanitarian service. The deadline is **April 20th**. Contact HACC at 717-633-6353 for more information.

Spring Plant Sale & Market: St. David's UCC on Hobart Road is holding a spring event on **April 24th and 25th**. In addition to spring plants, vendors will have pottery, linens, jewelry, and flea market items for sale, and there will be soup, baked goods, breakfast sandwiches, and hot dogs. Please contact St. David's for more information, including times – 717-637-2299.