

**ST. MARK LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
**WEEKLY DEVOTIONAL AND REMINDERS / UPDATES**

**April 29, 2026**

From DAILY GUIDEPOSTS 2018: Rick Hamlin

*Then the peace of God that exceeds all understanding  
will keep your hearts and minds safe in Christ Jesus. – PHILIPPIANS 4:7*

It's a little hard to describe what I actually do when I pray. I note with some relief the willingness of others to reach for metaphors to convey their process. "It's like I'm letting go of all these little pieces of paper with my anxious thoughts and putting them in God's hands," someone will say. Or another person will describe it: "I try to imagine I'm floating in a warm bath and being washed by God's love." "I picture myself being held like I hold my dog when he's scared during a thunderstorm," someone else offers.

How can I explain what happens when I sit on the sofa in the morning and close my eyes and pray? One day I was on the computer, organizing some files on the screen, dragging my mouse across my desk to put documents in one file and then that file into another file when it came to me: praying is like dragging and dropping. That was it.

In the morning I close my eyes and documents come up with different labels and varying degrees of urgency. "Get to this immediately!" "Worry about this now!" "Fret for unending hours about this remote possibility!" "Feel scared...or sad...or desperate about this news!" The process is to drag all those unnecessary mental distractions and put them into a big file that says, "God to handle", where they can stay. The idea is to drag and drop and then drop for good.

Until the next morning when somehow a whole new set of urgent documents – and even some of the same ones ("Didn't I put you in the God file?") – fills my head. It's just like work. I need to drag and drop every day.

*Lord, I am grateful to you for reordering the files of my mind. – RICK HAMLIN*

**Prayer:** *Let us pray: Heavenly Father, help me enter into prayer, intentionally and actively listening and speaking with You in relationship. Allow me to speak my thoughts and feelings, trusting that You hear and know all that I need. Likewise, teach me to hear Your Word of truth and wisdom that You speak every day. Living in this prayer life and spiritual journey, I seek always to follow in the ways of Your Son, 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

**Thursday, April 30**      7:00am to 7:00pm – UPMC Central Penn Blood Bank Blood Drive  
9:00am to 12noon – Quilting Group  
9:30am – Choir Practice

**Friday, May 1**      *May Day*

~~11:00am – Bible Study~~ **NO BIBLE STUDY**

**Saturday, May 2**      8:00am to 1:00pm – Garden Club Spring Plant Sale  
12:00pm to 4:00pm – Private Event in Parlor

5:30pm – Spoken Worship – *5<sup>th</sup> Weekend of Easter*

**Sunday, May 3**      9:00am – Traditional Worship – *5<sup>th</sup> Weekend of Easter*

*Music Sunday*

Fellowship Time Following Worship

Bells Rehearsal

**Monday, May 4**      **LAST DAY TO DEDICATE GERANIUMS**

**Tuesday, May 5**      *Cinco de Mayo*

1:00pm – St. Mark Eats @ Susie's Mexican Grill

**Thursday, May 7**      9:00am to 12noon – Quilting Group

9:30am – Choir Practice

**Friday, May 8**      ~~11:00am – Bible Study~~ **NO BIBLE STUDY**

## Sunday Worship Leaders

**CPIC:** Kate Klunk **Lector:** Kathy Gates

**Communion Assistants:** Kate Klunk | *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, 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, Family & Friends of Michael Carter, 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, Bob Groft, Sandy Hart, Debby Hartlaub, Chase Henry & Family, Carrie Hernden, Peg Hippensteel, Family & Friends of Catherine Hollingsworth, 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, 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, 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, Family & Friends of 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. During May we are given the opportunity to contribute to **HACC PAL (Provide-a-Lunch) Program** which serves a free hot, nutritious home-cooked lunch seven days a week, prepared by churches in the Hanover area. To contribute to this month's designated need, please mail in your donations or place them in our collection plates, specifying "PAL" or "May 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.

**Condolences:** We extend our deepest sympathy to the Carter family on the loss of Michael Carter. We give thanks that our Lord grants a place in his everlasting home for all his people and has received Michael into that eternal promise. Please keep the Carter family, his wife Jennifer and sons Zac and Gil, in your prayers.

**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](http://stmarkpreschoolhanover.weebly.com)

**Blood Drive:** Our next UPMC Blood Drive is tomorrow, Thursday, **April 30<sup>th</sup>**. To register to donate blood and help save lives, go to [717giveblood.org](http://717giveblood.org) and click on "Donate Now."

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

**Flat Sheets Needed:** The Sewing Group is in need of full-size new/like-new flat cotton sheets. They would like to thank those who've donated flat sheets in response to their need.

**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 24<sup>th</sup>** following worship.

**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. See Melinda if you can assist in any way for the performances. It is a great musical program." – *Melinda*

**Readers, Wine Servers, and Acolyte Needed:** On **May 31<sup>st</sup>**, Holy Trinity Sunday, we are looking for 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 signups in the narthex to help out one weekend.

**GERANIUM DEADLINE on Monday:** This weekend is the last weekend to dedicate 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 **Monday, May 4<sup>th</sup>**. To volunteer to help plant, call the church office (717-637-8904).

**Fellowship Hosts Needed:** We need more volunteers to continue our monthly fellowship times on the first Sunday of each month. Treats and coffee are provided by the church – we just need someone to set it all out and clean up after.

**Piggy Bank Results:** The Sunday School students met over the weekend to choose how to spend the \$920 raised through the ELCA God's Global Barnyard drive. Thanks to your generosity, the ELCA will be able to provide the following to families and communities in need: 20 chicks, 2 roosters, 2 goats, 3 piglets, 2 honeybee hives, 2 water filters, 2 clinic visits for a child, 3 school supply kits, 10 backpacks of food, 1 fruit tree orchard (15 saplings), 1 community vegetable garden, 2 blankets, and 5 copies of the Holy Bible. As you can see, your coins (and paper money) have been put to good use!

**Honoring Our Heroes:** This event is coming up soon! We hope and pray for another successful event on **May 17<sup>th</sup>**. 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 this Friday, **May 1<sup>st</sup>**. For more information, contact Amy or Abby Shermeyer at [amyshermeyer@gmail.com](mailto:amyshermeyer@gmail.com) | 717-630-9486.

**Mother's Day Worship:** Join us on **May 10<sup>th</sup>** as we celebrate our mothers, as well as those who mother us now and have mothered us in the past.

**Music Sunday May 3<sup>rd</sup>:** "Please help us celebrate music in our church and the choirs who lead the congregation each week in music, worship and fellowship... We are St. Mark's choirs and leaders. Thank you for the comments and smiles. We are blessed to be able to present this program and welcome anyone interested in joining us. TrebleBells and Trinity Choir are always looking to grow our ranks. If you are interested, please let any of us know. Bells meet Sundays after worship and choir meets on Thursday mornings during the choir season, but if you are not available in the morning we can talk. If you play an instrument, please let us know." – *Melinda*

**Music Tree:** Please enjoy the musical decorations on our narthex tree. Thank you to Pennie Highlands and Karen Feeser for giving us a glimpse of the tree decorated by Trinity Choir last Christmas at the Warehime-Myers Mansion by decorating our smaller version here at St. Mark. We're sharing the tree in honor of Music Sunday on **May 3<sup>rd</sup>**. It's a beautiful reminder for us to enjoy and appreciate music and our musicians who make our Sundays more joyful!

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

**PAL at St. Mark:** Last weekend, our church's Provide-A-Lunch team served approximately 85 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. If you'd like to help out with serving, contact Shellene Griffin.

**Preschool Sub Sale:** Thanks to all who ordered subs, the preschool saw a total profit of **\$744.75!** If you ordered a sub, you can pick it up in the fellowship hall between 11:00am and 1:00pm today, **April 29<sup>th</sup>**.

**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:** May 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!

**Vacation Bible School:** Our VBS theme this year will be *Camping with God* and is scheduled for **July 27<sup>th</sup>-31<sup>st</sup>** 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](http://stpaulsyorkst.org)) will open **before May 26<sup>th</sup>** – 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 17<sup>th</sup>**, 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.

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