ST. MARK LUTHERAN CHURCH
WEEKLY DEVOTIONAL AND REMINDERS / UPDATES
October 7, 2026

From *DAILY GUIDEPOSTS 2018*: *Stephanie Thompson*

Then as a widow to the age of eighty-four, she never left the temple
but worshiped there with fasting and prayer night and day. – LUKE 2:37

Every three months, my family made the two-and-a-half hour trek to visit my husband's grandparents in Marietta, Oklahoma. Nana was in the early stages of dementia, and Grandpa, a Navy veteran of two wars, was a two-time cancer survivor who was only able to breathe with the help of an oxygen tank.

Rocking in his recliner, Grandpa lamented their condition. "We're in overtime," he admitted. Nana nodded.

Then Grandpa died. Nana couldn't stay alone; she moved to an assisted living center in our town.

I monologued to her about the positives: now we could visit weekly instead of every three months. She'd also get to know our daughter, Micah, her only great-granddaughter, more intimately. Every Sunday my in-laws could take her to church and dinner. Still I worried: how did she feel now that her body and mind were betraying her?

Gently, I tried to persuade her to talk about her circumstances. Nana shook her head. "I'm in overtime" was all she said, as if to indicate she had nothing left to live for.

One Saturday, Nana came over to watch her beloved University of Oklahoma Sooners play football. At the end of the fourth quarter, the score was tied. We cheered as the Sooners prevailed and won in overtime.

"You know," said Nana with a gleam in her eye, "the best games always go into overtime."

I nodded and smiled. Nana was still in the game.

Lord, thank You for Nana's wisdom. Help me remember that we
all can serve You until our final minute. – STEPHANIE THOMPSON

Prayer: *Let us pray: Eternal and All-Knowing Lord, with thanks and joy in my heart, I find comfort in trusting in Your everlasting promise. That is the promise that has no limits, no final hour, no end, but is an infinite time of peace and joy. Allow me, while still yet in my mortal body, to know fully the glory and greatness of that unbroken promise so that I may live fully in that victory of peace. Lift me up to walk and witness as a child of Your kingdom following in the footsteps of Jesus Christ, Your Son, my Savior, 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, October 8	9:00am to 12:00pm – Quilting Group
	9:30am to 11:00am – Choir Practice
Friday, October 9	11:00am – Bible Study – Discussing the Book of Acts
Saturday, October 10	5:30pm – Spoken Worship – *20th Weekend after Pentecost*
Sunday, October 11	9:00am – Traditional Worship – *20th Weekend after Pentecost*
	Sunday School Following Worship
	Fellowship Committee Meeting
	Bells Rehearsal
	1:00pm CROP Walk
Monday, October 12	*Columbus Day*
Thursday, October 15	9:00am to 12:00pm – Quilting Group
Friday, October 16	11:00am – Bible Study – Discussing the Book of Acts

Sunday Worship Leaders

CPIC: Karen Feeser **Lector:** Gilbert Bishop

Communion Assistants: Karen Feeser | ***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, Al Allison, Daniel Ard, Teri Barnes, Sue Barrett, Kim Bartell, Family & Friends of Georgia Becker, Family & Friends of Nancy Bender, Donna Bell, Jennifer Bingel, Katherine Borsella, Steve Bortner, Nancy Brady, Patrick Brady, Susan Bucher-Laughman, Thomas Campbell, Lucas Cherry, Susan Coleman, Lois & George Cornell, Mary Cullison, Pastor David DeLong, Lisa Dickensheets, Diane Duffy, Robin Eline, Tarek Elnaggar, Jean Eshbach, Landon Evans, Dennis Fahey, Nancy Fahey, Tanya Fair, James Farver, Don Feeser, Abigail Fett, John Forry, Nancy Gill, Scott Gonzales, Vickie Gouker, Dane Graham, 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, Winchester Kuhn, Allen Kuhns, Jo Kuhns, Russell Laughman, Axel Leh, Laurie Leppo, John Lippy, Ronnie Lippy, Naura Luqman, Sharren Martin, Carol McDermitt-Humes, Jeannie Mehring, Merita Moore, Andrew Moul, Leah Moul, Merle Mummert, Nancy Mummert, Pam Mummert, James Murphy, Wayne Noel, Susan O'Brien, Kelly Perdue, Family & Friends of Ted Race, Jessica "Rose" Pulliano, Bill Reese, Barbara Reibling, Mary Riley, Carl Sandruck, David Sandruck, Lucus Schneider, Cecelia Sell, Anna Elizabeth Shellhaas, Bob Shue, Luanne Slusser, Denise Smith, Pr. Jerry Smith, JoAnn Smith, Sarah Smith, Jody Spellman, Sandy Spitz, Jamie Stalb, Dennis Staub, Monica Staub, Stephanie Stauffer, Kelly Steenstra, Dorothy Stringfellow, Matt Test, Dawn Tice, Jennie Tome, George Tracy, Allison Trump, Ed Wagaman, Gloria Wagaman, Jody Walter, Naomi Warren, Barb Watson, Ron Wentz*

Designated Needs: In October, we are given the opportunity to contribute to **YWCA Safe Home.** The foundation of the program is the strong belief that individuals have a right to control their lives and make decisions without fear of assault or degradation. To contribute to this month's need, please specify "YWCA" or "October Giving" on your check or the *Other* line of your offering envelope. Undesignated donations made on the *Other* line will automatically be given to that month's ministry fund. Thanks for your support.

Remembering Our Loved Ones: Join us on All Saints' Weekend, **October 31st and November 1st**, as we celebrate the lives of those of our members who have gone to their great reward this past year by displaying Saint banners and lighting candles. If you have lost a loved one this past year and would like him/her to be remembered at our All Saints' tribute, please contact the church office. We could also use a few volunteers to carry the banners in the Sunday processional.

Altar Flowers: Thank you to all who have sponsored flower vases this fall. Thanks to you, October is taken care of! Here are the vases available for the remainder of 2026: In **November**: **1st** (two vases), **8th** (one vase), **22nd** (one vase). December is almost full, with two vases left on **December 27th**. Vases are $17 each – if you'd like to sponsor one of these, add your dedication to the Altar Flower book or contact the office. Thank you again!

…and Speaking of Flowers…For you early birds, it's time to start thinking of poinsettia dedications. We've heard from our nursery vendor and we can once again offer poinsettias for $17. Orders will be due on Monday, **November 23rd**. Order forms are already in the narthex and will also be in the November St. Mark Bell newsletter on October 30th.

Seeking Nominations: We are looking for the following positions for next year: 4 Council Members, 1 Audit Committee Member, 2 Nominating Committee Members (Non-Council Members), and 2 Delegates to the 2027 Synod Assembly in June. If you can fill any of these positions, please talk with a member of the Nominating Committee (Hollis Long or Alex Spalding), or contact the church office.

Barking Good Time: We had a great blessing of the pet service outside last Saturday to mark St. Francis Day. All the dogs and humans had a wonderful time and didn't even bother the squirrel who ran by. Be sure to mark your calendars to be at next year's event on Saturday, **October 2nd**, at 2:00pm in 2027.

Donut Time Helpers: We could use a volunteer each month to sign up to set up/clean up for our 1st Sunday fellowship coffee & snack time. We have lots of openings coming up – check the narthex signup.

Festival Sunday Volunteers: In the weeks ahead we have a few Church Festival Sundays and need some worship help. If you are interested in being an Assisting Minister, Acolyte, or in a procession please sign up on the narthex bulletin board to help out on St. Luke Sunday, Reformation Sunday, All Saints' and Christ the King Sunday. Thank you for taking part in worship.

Eat Out with St. Mark: We all enjoyed yesterday's lunch at Divino's and hope you'll join us for our next outing. On **November 3rd**, we'll go to Chili's. And if you'd like to help us choose restaurant outings and plan other fun events, join us this Sunday, **October 11th**, for our Fellowship Committee Meeting, directly following worship.

Election Day Bake Sale: The preschool will hold a **Bake Sale** on **November 3rd (Election Day)** to raise money for the school. If you would like to help by donating homemade treats such as cookies, cupcakes, brownies, fudge, Rice Krispie treats, or other goodies, the preschool would greatly appreciate it! Please drop off individually-wrapped items on Monday, **November 2nd** to the Church Office by **noon** or the big kitchen by **3:30pm**.

The Fall Bazaar Is Sooner Than You Think! The Fall Bazaar is on **November 7th** in the Fellowship Hall from 8:00am to 2:00pm. Signup sheets are in the church hallway for cooks, bakers, crafters, and anyone else willing to lend a hand. Vendor applications are due very soon (**October 15th**), so if you'd like to be a vendor, applications can be found at stmarkhanover.org – just click on the Fall Bazaar flier to download one or contact the church office. We only have a limited number of spaces, so sign up soon! If you're able to post fliers or share a graphic on your social media, contact Joni at 637-8904 | offcoor129@gmail.com. **All proceeds from vendor fees, baked goods, the kitchen, and Granny's Attic will go to support local first responders.**

Granny's Attic : Any time you'd like to drop off your easily-transported odds and ends for the Fall Bazaar, contact the church office. Be sure to contact or stop by the office before leaving any rummage sale items – please don't leave sale items in the vestibule without notice. Thank you for your donations! **Proceeds will go to helping our local fire and police heroes.**

HACC Special Appeal: There is a need to replace the Changing Lives Shelter kitchen oven (all but $800 has been covered so far) and to purchase sleeping cots ($1,000) for the upcoming winter shelter. HACC is trying to reach a goal of $1,800 toward these needs to cover them both. To donate to HACC for these basic needs - please mark the *Other* line of your offering envelope "HACC SPECIAL APPEAL." Thank you to all who can help.

Help the Hungry: This Sunday, **October 11th**, Linda Bolin is participating in HACC's annual CROP Walk for Hunger. To walk or sponsor Linda, contact the church office at 637-8904 or contact her directly. Cash or checks made payable to "**Church World Service"** may be forwarded to St. Mark's office or given directly to Linda.

Inspirations: October's inspirations are in the narthex. Pick up one for yourself and some to share!

Help Feed Hungry Kids on Weekends: Ruth's Harvest provides food for school kids who may not otherwise eat on weekends. Individual shelf-stable microwave meals, fruit, veggies, snacks, and tuna/chicken pouches can be placed in the HACC floor bin next to the office.

Supporting Our PAL teams: We appreciate all who continue to donate to our "PAL Supplies" fund. With all your financial support and the work of our PAL teams, we have been able to feed our community neighbors. If you would like to donate to our "PAL Supplies" fund to help us purchase the ingredients needed to serve lunch at HACC, please note "**PAL SUPPLIES**" on your offering envelope. To help with serving, contact Shellene Griffin.

Talking About Faith: Acts is about people learning how to be a church together. Come be together with us most Friday mornings at 11:00am. Sit and talk with us as we look back on these people of faith together in fellowship.

Two Free Concerts: Atlantic Guitar, **October 10th**, 7:00pm, at Emmanuel UCC on Broadway, call 717-632-8281 for more info. **The Baltimore Consort**, *Crossing to the New World – Early and Traditional Music in the British Isles, France, and North America,* **October 25th**, 3:00pm, presented by First Evangelical Lutheran of Carlisle. Call 717-249-3310 for more info.

Lighted Lantern Festival: On **October 11th**, lanterns in memory of lost loved ones and beloved pets will be launched at sunset at Pappus House's Annual Lanterns of Light. The festival is held at Cousler Park, 1060 Church Road in York. To sponsor a lantern, contact Pappus at 717-893-5310 or 717-800-8570 or info@pappushouse.org.

Tea Party at the Library: Guthrie Memorial Library is hosting a Jane Austen Tea Party **October 10th**, 12:00pm to 2:00pm. Ages 16+. Tickets: $15

Trick-or-Treat Trail: Hanover Borough is hosting a trick-or-treat trail on the Rail Trail portion between Moul Field and Cherry Tree on **October 31st** from 4:00pm to 7:00pm. For more information, call 717-637-3877 ext. 1029.