

ST. MARK LUTHERAN CHURCH
WEEKLY DEVOTIONAL AND REMINDERS/UPDATES
May 15, 2024

From *DAILY GUIDEPOSTS 2018*: John Sweeney

This is the day that the Lord has made. – PSALM 118:24

Anyone who knows me well knows that I don't always have the most loving relationship with my dog, Max. He frustrates me as often as he delights me. And I suspect that he feels the same way about me, the guy holding his leash.

I want to run more! I want to eat more! I want to play more! If dogs think these things, and I imagine they do, then Max thinks them when he looks at me throughout the day, most every day.

But the other day I woke up after sleeping very little. I was worrying about some project that was still undone when Max stuck his muzzle in my hand as if to say, "take me outside." So I did. It was just after dawn, and the sun was coming up. There I stood, watching Max in the morning light, but my mind was still at my computer. *Do your business and let's get back inside* was all I was thinking.

Max wanted to linger. He walked over to the hedge and smelled it. Then he paused to look up at the bird feeder as if to acknowledge the chickadees that were already chattering away there. Then he sat down in the grass and just looked around, seemingly taking it all in for the first time.

"Come on," I said. *It isn't as if we don't do this every single morning.* And, instead of following me inside, Max, who is usually obedient, as dogs are, turned his head and looked at me. It was like a tap on the shoulder.

Stop, look, smell, listen.

May I live for You in the present today, Lord.

Oh, and I look forward to tomorrow too! – JOHN SWEENEY

Prayer: *Let us pray, Gracious Lord, You have placed all of humanity with such grandeur of creation. I thank You for the beauty of the skies and the land, the forests and the fields, the flowers and the animals. Fill me with Your Spirit, and guide me in stopping to cherish and acknowledge the blessings that surround me each day. Help me be rejuvenated and inspired to lift up that goodness and share it with others, in the same way Your Son, Jesus Christ, did for the world. In His name I pray, Amen.*

Weekly Schedule:

Office Hours: Monday through Friday 9:00am-12:00noon

Preschool: Preschool on Summer Break Beginning May 18th

Wednesday, May 15 Last Day for 3-Year-Old Preschool M/W Class

Thursday, May 16 9:00am to 12noon – Quilters Group

10:30am – VBS Planning Meeting

Last Day for 3-Year-Old Preschool Tu/Th Class

Friday, May 17 10:30am/2:00pm – Preschool Graduation Ceremony

11:00am to 12noon – Bible Study NEW STUDY BOOK OF JUDGES

7:30pm – East Berlin Community Singers Perform in St.

Mark's Sanctuary – Please Attend and Bring a Friend!

Saturday, May 18 5:30pm – Spoken Worship – *The Day of Pentecost Weekend*

Sunday, May 19 9:00am – Traditional Worship – *The Day of Pentecost* **WEAR RED**

Celebration as Josie Wildasin Is Received in the Sacrament of Baptism

End-of-the-Year Celebration and Fellowship Following Worship

Perfectly Pleasing Pie Pentecost Sunday Fellowship – Bring Pie to Share!

No Bells Rehearsal

Tuesday, May 21 4:00pm – Future Task Force Group

Thursday, May 23 9:00am to 12noon – Quilters Group

Friday, May 24 11:00am to 12noon – Bible Study

Sunday Worship Leaders:

CPIC: Alex Spalding **Assisting Minister:** Hollis Long
Lector: Hollis Long **Communion Assistants:** Hollis Long | Alex Spalding
Acolytes: Marcus Lobaugh | Morgana Lobaugh
Greeter: Bill Leppo **Altar Care:** *Need Volunteer(s)*



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 hearing 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: *Alvan Allison, Donald Becker, Nancy Bender, Larry Bolin, Jessica (Feeser) Boone, Katherine Borsella, Allen Bowersox, Frances Claybaugh, Ann Clingan, Family & Friends of Eric Coleman, Pr. David DeLong, Lisa Dickensheets, Gail Dorsey, Diane Duffy, Robin Eline, Tarek Elnaggar, Jean Eshbach, Dennis Fahey, Betty Fury, Nancy Fridinger, Nancy Gill, Vickie Gouker, Dane Graham, Tom Greenholt, Carol Ann Haines, Sandy Haymaker, Carrie Hernden, Shirley Hippensteel, Martha Howells, Jean Huskin, Don Jamison, Donna Jones, Pat Keefer, Craig King, Kelly Koontz, Norma Kreidler, Mary Lou Krummeck, Allen Kuhns, David Kunkel, Susie Laughman, Jean Lawrence, Tom Lawrence, Ronnie Lippy, Naura Luqman, Dave & Denise Martin, Carol McDermitt-Humes, Mary Ellen Melhorn, Carol Miller, Sandy Miller, Merita Moore, Leah Moul, Merle Mummert, Pam Mummert, Carolyn Neumyer, Shirley Noel, Marian Noble, Kelly Perdue, Mary Riley, Lucus Schneider, Bob and Cecelia Sell, Bob Shue, Luanne Slusser, Denise Smith, Pr. Jerry Smith, JoAnn Smith, Beverly Snyder, Phyllis Tasto, Jennie Tome, George Tracy, Allison Trump, Lois VandenHeuvel, Daniel & Gloria Wagaman, Jody Walter, Naomi Warren, Barb Watson, Diana Weaver, Ron Wentz, Kathy Wildasin, Edward Wiltrout, Scott Wisner, 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.

New Bible Study Session Just Started: We will walk through the book of JUDGES. Join us as we discover the stories of Ehud, Deborah, Gideon, Jephthah, and others who God raised up to judge over Israel as leaders in times of need. It is a great time to begin a new study with us – no experience or biblical knowledge needed. Join us as we learn together! We meet most Friday mornings from 11:00am to 12:00noon.

Vacation Bible School – Save the Date: St. Mark's and St. Paul's co-hosted Vacation Bible School has been set for **July 29th through August 2nd**. The theme is "The Bible Olympics," and registration info will be announced later this summer.

We're Proud of Our Grads! Parents and grandparents, this is your time to share the wonderful news of upcoming graduates in your family. As you know, we have a Sunday in June to congratulate our graduates from high school, college, graduate school, and trade school, so we want to make sure we don't miss anyone! Please contact the church office with names of any and all students we have graduating this year.

St. Mark Eats: We enjoyed our latest dinner at the Starlight Diner. We'd love to invite you to the C&D Grill in New Oxford for dinner at 6:00pm on Tuesday, **June 4th** and/or Dutch Country on **Thursday, July 11th**! Sign up on the narthex bulletin board.

Thank You: The Evangelism Committee would like to thank everyone for recent donations of supplies.

Snack Town Street Fair: The annual fair in downtown Hanover will be held on **July 13th** this year. Martha Lippy has requested help manning the booth in two-hour shifts. A signup will be posted in June, but please mark your calendar if you think you can help out the Evangelism Committee.

Address Changes: We've been notified of several changes of address lately. Look for an updated directory to be released in July. Meanwhile, if you're planning to send mail to a fellow church member, be sure to check with the church office to confirm you have the right address.

Pie Sunday: This weekend, on Pentecost Sunday, we're holding our first Perfectly Pleasing Pentecost Pie Sunday Fellowship. Please plan to stay after service to share pie with our fellow St. Markians.

If You Can't Go to the Beach... you can at least paint a picture of it! Our Fellowship Committee is hosting our first ever **Paint Event** on Sunday, **August 4th**. We'll have an instructor lead us step-by-step to create a 16x20 version of "A Beach Day in August." Fellowship and snacks begin at noon, with the painting commencing at 12:30pm. Registration is required, and the cost of \$35.00 (supplies included) is payable in advance so that we can book the instructor and she can bring the correct amount of supplies. Sign up at: <https://www.thecolormixer.com/product-page/stmarks>

Altar Flower Dedications: Thank you to all those who responded to the request for sponsoring vases. May is now fully dedicated, but **two weeks in June** are still open, as well as the remainder of the summer. If you'd like to honor someone or their memory this spring and/or summer, please fill out the altar flower book or contact Joni in the church office. Thank you for helping us keep fresh flowers on the altar!

Celebrating Community Heroes: Our second Honoring Our Heroes event is coming up this summer. It begins at 5:00pm on **July 14th**, with fire trucks, ambulances, police cars, a tour of the nurses' garden at UPMC, military and veteran support groups, face painting, stickers, ice cream, and root beer floats! Stay for the concert at 7:00pm, featuring a color guard as well as The Barbershoppers, LAMB, readings, and a sing-a-long. Be sure to share the word!

Concert Event at St. Mark: Please join us **this Friday, May 17th**, at 7:30pm for a charity concert here at St. Mark. The East Berlin Community Singers are performing and ask only that you bring one non-perishable food item to attend. Please spread the word and feel free to bring friends, family, and neighbors. Help fight hunger while enjoying beautiful music from this very talented group in our very own sanctuary!

Fellowship Hosts Needed: If you're willing and able to set up church-provided donuts and coffee following worship on the first Sunday of any of our upcoming summer months, please sign up!

Flat Sheets Needed: The Sewing Ladies are thankful for all previous donations and now have a need for more full or queen flat sheets in new condition. They appreciate any colors but specifically request white, pastel colors, or even subtle prints. They use the sheets for the backing of the quilts they produce for the hospital and local nursing homes. Thank you for your support of their mission!

Free Sheetz Gift Card: The next blood drive will be on **June 13th** and all donors will receive Bruster's ice cream vouchers and \$5 gift cards to Sheetz! To donate, go to 717giveblood.org and look for "UPMC" in the Donate Now dropdown menu.

Bouncy House! On **May 24th**, New Hope Faith Community Church on Sunday Drive is holding a carnival and food truck event. For more information, contact New Hope at 632-4008.

Hanover Area Historical Society Events: HAHS presents "What in the World? Where's NATO?" by John Ricca, a retired Pentagon Tech Analyst, on Thursday, **May 16th** at 7:00pm. Other upcoming events include a trip to the Hillwood Estate on **May 17th**, and Master Gardener, Maryann Mawhinney, sharing gardening tips with "Gardening with Seniority: Easy Gardening for Seniors" on **May 21st** at 7:00pm.

National Night Out in Hanover: The Hanover Area Night Out is Tuesday, **August 6th**, from 6:00pm to 8:00pm at Emory H. Markle Middle School. Bring the family out for free hot dogs and giveaways, and children can register for a bike raffle. Contact Officer Bryan Wheeler at bwheeler@pennpolice.com if you're interested in participating as a vendor or sponsor.

Seminar for Caregivers: The Church of the Open Door in West York is hosting a free seminar for family caregivers of dementia patients on **June 20th** from 8:00am to 1:30pm. Meet local resources and learn practical tips for supporting loved ones living with dementia. For more information, call 717-843-1504 or email makingadifferenceindementia@gmail.com. Questions are welcome!

Upcoming Community Concert: On **May 24th** at 7:00pm, First Church of Hanover on Frederick Street is hosting a concert to honor America featuring "The Gettysburg Address" and "Taps," joined by legendary bugler, Jari Villanueva. The concert is presented by the Gettysburg Choral Society.

Free Lift Chairs: St. David's UCC has several lift chairs free of charge (must pick up). Contact Wendy Noel at St. David's for more information – 717-637-2299.

Butterflies! The VNA of Hanover & Spring Grove is holding their 16th annual Butterfly Release, rain or shine, on Sunday, **June 9th**, at 3:00pm at their facility in Hanover, 440 N. Madison Street.