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EPIPHANY AT ST. MARK





To Contact
Pastor Mary:

email:
mimarobinson@aol.com

Pastoral Emergencies:
860-326-1031

If you would like
to make an appointment
with Pastor Mary,
please call
the St. Mark office at
860-887-6826.

Morning Prayer

**by phone or
Internet Zoom
860-326-1031**

**Mondays and Fridays
at 9:00 a.m.**

To join the Morning
Prayer worship service
use the pastor's phone
number 860-326-1031
or ask for a Zoom
invitation.

Pastor Mary's Thoughts

Now that the gifts have been opened and the cards read it is time to say thank you. I looked all over my desk at home in my library for "thank you stationary". I did not find any. Must be that I wrote lots of thank you letters in the past year. Here is another place for me to write thank you. Thank you to members of the altar guild. You have prepared the altar and surrounding areas in beauty. The bare branches placed behind the altar to call us to repentance during Lent. Thank you to Sandy Neuendorf who provided creative displays when we had to worship virtually. Thank you those who arranged for outdoor worship beginning in June. Shrubs were removed, kindness gardens developed, sod placed over stumps from the shrubs, blue markers to guide worshippers to be social distanced, many workers making worship in person possible. Thank you to Ian, Chris, Dan, Eric and Mark for the ensemble making music each Sunday and broadcasting it in the neighborhood. Thank you to the sound technicians putting up the speakers and letting everyone within the hearing area know we were praising God. Thank you to Brian Armstrong the camera person who broadcast our worship services. Thank you to those who faithfully entered into prayer each Monday and Friday. Thank you to the property committee who worked with the roofing company to repair the constant leaks. Thank you to Linda and Sabrina who did all the work in the church office. Thank you to Linda Andrews who sang into the microphone and lead us in the Kyrie. Thank you to the many who gave out food at the community luncheon especially Ines. Thank you to those who taught Sunday school and those who served as substitutes. Thank you to those who have made the internet work here at the church building. Thank you to those who put up the new fence and painted the hand railing. Thank you to the many who have given money this past year and the finance committee who keeps it all straight. Thank you to those who filled out all the forms so that we could receive the federal grant, PPP loan. Thank you to the council members who met monthly and made decisions about all our many activities as we live out our mission as St. Mark Lutheran Church, Norwich. CT. Thank you to Sandy Quarto who was always available to listen to my wondering about what will happen next.

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to be your Pastor.

Epiphany Worship



Join us on Epiphany, January 6, at 4:30 p.m. or any time after that on Facebook or YouTube for Epiphany worship. *Watch the Midweek Memo for the link to this event.*



A note from the office

Currently, both the church office and the Pastor's office are open and functioning. Although indoor Sunday services have not resumed, we are conducting virtual worship every Sunday morning at 9:30.

For office questions you can reach Linda at st.marklutheran248@gmail.com or 860-887-6826.

For the Pastor please call Pastor Mary Robinson at 860-326-1031.

Worship Schedule

Sundays - 9:30 a.m.

Worship on Facebook / YouTube

Mondays & Fridays - 9:00 a.m.

Morning Prayer

You can conference call or Internet Zoom with

Pastor Mary and others.

Just call her number 860-326-1031 or ask for a Zoom invitation.

Martin Luther King, Jr. Day



Martin Luther King, Jr. Day is an American federal holiday marking the birthday of King. It is observed on the third Monday of January each year. King's birthday is January 15. King was the chief spokesperson for nonviolent activism in the Civil Rights Movement, which protested racial discrimination. The day has been observed by March and Service. Because of the restrictions put on us by the COVID this year the March and Worship service will be virtual. Pastor Mary Robinson will be one of the spokespersons. This will be held on January 18 at 2:00 p.m. This year's theme is: 'When we Dare to Dream - We Strive to Build'.

Watch the Midweek Memo for the link to this event.

Christmas Concert

Second in our concert series, St. Mark is proud to present a virtual Christmas Concert arranged by our music director Ian Frenkel, who is joined by Mark McCormick on bass and Chris Odell on drums. To listen go to our website norwichlutherans.org. All donations and tips will be divided among our musicians. Donations can be sent to St. Mark or made on our website.



Congregation Council Members:

Sandy Quarto, President	860-608-4298	sandyquarto@gmail.com
Brian Armstrong, Vice President	860-464-8338	bsa5870@gmail.com
Lili Rafeldt, Secretary	860-376-4833	lrafeldt@comcast.net
Joe Churney	860-884-6582	jchurney@snet.net
Joan Seidel	860-642-6316	seideljoan@yahoo.com
Sabrina Tolppi	860-444-6044	swtolppi@yahoo.com
Tom Tolppi	860-444-6044	tomtolppi@yahoo.com
Joy Bachand	860-564-7333	joybachand@yahoo.com
Pastor Mary Robinson	860-326-1031	mimarobinson@aol.com

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Please join us for the Annual Congregational Meeting of St. Mark on Sunday, January 24th at 11:00 a.m. via Zoom.

Copies of the annual report will be emailed to everyone. If you would like to pick up a hard copy let Linda Mandel know. For the persons who do not receive email and want to attend the meetings please use your phone to call Pastor Mary to attend the meeting on your phone.

At the annual meeting we will be electing our council members.

An invitation is given to any confirmed member who would like to run for election. If you would like more information on how you can run please ask Sandy Quarto, president of the congregation. **Annual Meeting: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86972168516?>**

See zoom instructions on page 5.

Congregation Council

There are 4 council seats available. If you are interested or would like more information please contact Pastor Mary or Sandy Quarto.

Approved Budget for 2021

The St. Mark Lutheran Church budget was approved at the Congregational Meeting on December 13. The meeting was held virtually. A special thank you to Sabrina Tolppi for being the Zoom host and to President, Sandy Quarto for conducting the meeting. Thank you to all who attended. Our budget for 2021 has an operating expense of \$145,691.



Annual Committee Reports

Committee reports need to be in the church office now.

Thank you.

How to download Zoom on your PC

1. Open your computer's internet browser and navigate to the Zoom website at <https://zoom.us/>
2. Scroll down to the bottom of the page and click "Download" in the web page's footer.
3. On the Download Center page, click "Download" under the "Zoom Client for Meetings" section.
4. Save Zoom on your computer and double click on zoom app to begin installing
5. The Zoom app will then begin downloading.
6. When it is time for your Zoom Meeting, Morning Prayer, or Worship service; find the invitation in either your email or online at Facebook (@Norwichlutherans), click on that link and Zoom will automatically open for you when the meeting is available by the hostess, or host.

Tutoring

Tutoring students to achieve success during distance learning has become a need during this time of COVID. One to one teaching gives a positive result. To provide in-person one teacher one student is the goal of a new ministry of St. Mark. We are in conversation with a retired public school teacher who would like to begin a one student at a time instruction. The private instruction will be by appointment and there will be a fee charged for each four session learning.

Contact Information for Pat: getatutor2getbetter@gmail.com 860-859-2181

Outdoor Worship

Outdoor worship is suspended until the warmer weather comes.

**Please join us live
on Facebook Sunday mornings at 9:30,
feel free to type 'hello' to people as you see them during the service.
If you cannot make it online at 9:30,
we save the recording for you to watch whenever you would like.
Worship will be available on YouTube after 11:30.**



YouTube channel: [ThePlace.stmark](https://www.youtube.com/ThePlace.stmark)

<https://www.facebook.com/NorwichLutherans/posts/4728598127211906>



The following gifts to our Memorial & Congregational Funds have been gratefully received and acknowledged with thanks

In Loving Memory of Robert Eliasson by Shirley Eliasson

Christmas Wreaths



Thank you to all who bought Christmas wreaths to support the Youth Group. They were able to raise \$375 towards the Youth Fund.



The Giving Tree - Adopt-a-Family

Thank you to everyone who donated gifts to our adopted families.

The gifts were greatly appreciated.

Special thanks to Sandy Neuendorf making the lists

Book Club - Tuesdays

The Book Club will get together by Zoom on Tuesday mornings at 10:00 a.m. Use your tablet, phone, or computer. You can also conference call with Pastor Mary at 860-326-1031.

The Book Club is currently reading *The First Christmas* by Marcus Borg & John Dominic Crossan. In *The First Christmas*, top Jesus scholars Marcus J. Borg and John Dominic Crossan join forces to show how history has biased our reading of the Nativity story as it appears in the Bible. Basing their interpretations on the Gospels of Matthew and Luke, Borg and Crossan focus on the inner truth rather than historical facts, and offer a clear and uplifting message of hope and peace. *The First Christmas* gives readers a fresh, deep, and new understanding of the Nativity story, enabling us to better appreciate the powerful message of the Gospels.



Poinsettias for Christmas were Donated in Loving Memory of:

Mike Gladue

by Barbara Gladue

Ruth & Leonard Clapp

by Virginia Maloney

Erik Embacher

by Linda Mandel

Jean & Bill Embacher

by Linda Mandel

Antoinette & Arthur Grodotzke, Sr.

Lois & Arthur Grodotzke, Jr.

by Virginia Maloney

Agnes & Arnold Lotring

Grandson, Sean Lotring

by Virginia Maloney

Elaine & Pete McDonough

by Linda Mandel

Agnes & Ernest Nyquist

by Linda Mandel



CAROL SING



Birthdays



Happy Birthday!
To those celebrating their
Birthday in January



- 2 - Ines Kallmeyer 6 - Milli Chankar
- 4 - Aaron Gooden 8 - Richard Russ
- 5 - Laura Moreno 21 - Brooklyn Houk

If you are celebrating your birthday, and you don't see your name here - please call the church office at 860-887-6826 so we can add it to our records.

Community Luncheon

St. Mark will be providing the food for the luncheon being held on January 10.

There will be roast turkey and the trimmings.

If you want to help prepare the meal please talk to Sue Underhill or Pastor Mary.



February Monthly Memo News Articles

Please send your articles for the **February Monthly Memo** to st.marklutheran248@gmail.com by Thursday, **January 21st**. Thank you.

Community Luncheon Grab and Go

The Community Luncheon Grab and Go is being held at St. Mark. This will take place by people entering the handicap door on the side of the building. There will be tables set up with food for them to take with them. They will go straight out the Memorial Hall Door to the parking lot.

The Community Luncheon supported by the Norwich Area Clergy Association provides a take-out lunch each Sunday. There is a free breakfast and lunch, Monday through Saturday given by St. Vincent de Paul but Sunday had no opportunity for those in need to have food. Many years ago the NACA began the practice of giving the meal on Sunday to those who live on the streets and those who have no other means of securing food. St. Mark has been involved with this important ministry from the beginning so many years ago. Lately the meals have been distributed from the parking lot of St. Vincent de Paul. St. Mark has joined with other congregations here in Norwich in providing for the needy. If you would like to be involved please talk to Ines Kallmeyer, Pastor Mary or call the church office.

Cereal Ministry

We'll continue to feed the people for St. Vincent de Paul Place: During the COVID pandemic it has become more difficult to shop for groceries. To simplify giving to St. Vincent de Paul Place you can drop off your cereal at St. Mark or send a check (or drop it in our mail slot) with St. Vincent de Paul in the memo section. We will send the money and cereal to them once a month.

Alternatively, you can call Pastor Mary at 860-326-1031 or Linda Mandel at 860-887-6826 to arrange for drop off at St. Mark.

If you would like to give to this ministry, any donation would be appreciated. This is our opportunity to still safely support an outreach ministry.



Prayer List

We include in our prayers:

Homebound members: Betty & Bob Schmidt, Bruce Ashline, Hazel Lotring, Laura Nagel, Shirley Eliasson, Martha Johnson, Irene Signorino.

Clergy: For Elizabeth and Jim, our Bishops; for Mary, our Pastor.

We pray for the sick especially: Edith Stankiewicz, Jim Quarto, Kathy Yarger, Charlene Seltz, Dan Tracy, Mary Elizabeth Lang, Clarice Martin, Don Paulison, Rob Peterson, Frank Socha, James Signorino, Christina McCann, Lina McCann, Hope McCann, Yvonne Scott, Sarah Sullivan, Parker Churney, Jennifer Bedell, Charles Peters, Jennifer Stark, Janet Hatch, Gary Ogren, Betty & Bob Schmidt, Bruce Ashline, Hazel Lotring, Laura Nagel, Shirley Eliasson, Martha Johnson, Irene Signorino.

We pray especially for: Those with addictions, their families & friends. Children being sexually abused, adults healing from abuse, the homeless, all persons living with HIV/AIDS, those who have been affected by COVID-19. Those who are out of work or looking for work; those with a mental illness, the families and friends who support them.



Prayers Needed:

We have received a letter from Mission of the Good Shepherd Church in Belize, Central America asking only for prayers for special children in need especially Susie Westby, Myrtle Tracey, Ashanti Obrien, Orlando Jackson and Stephanie Logan. We will be including all children at this church in our prayers at St. Mark at morning prayer on Monday and Friday and at our church services on Saturday and Sunday. We ask you to include these children in your daily prayers as well. These children have very immediate needs that only God can help with.

If You or a Loved One Go to the Hospital

- * Call the church office as soon as you know you will be admitted.
- * When asked if you are part of a local faith community answer YES, and tell them where you are a member. ***If you are not asked tell them.***
- * When asked if you want your name released to representatives of your church say YES. If you say no, or if you do not give our church's name the hospital will not be able to release your name to us.

Note: L & M Hospital is the only hospital that notifies us when our parishioners are hospitalized.

Facebook Page

We have increased our social media presence with an additional FB page:

ThePlace.StMark

This page is intended to share with the community the number of ways they can be fed at The Place, a place we all lovingly refer to as St. Mark Lutheran Church. A place for people to be enriched by diversity of religious traditions, to be in community, to be fed, to find music for all, to find peace, to find worship, to find book clubs, to be welcomed.



St. Mark is on Instagram

Check us out on Instagram - @ThePlace.StMark

NEWSLETTER OF
ST. MARK LUTHERAN
CHURCH

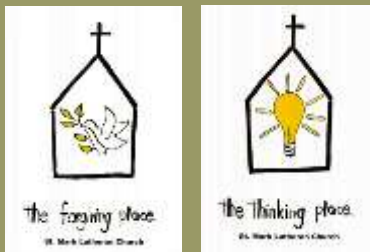


St. Mark Lutheran
Church
248 Broadway
Norwich CT 06360

860-887-6826

st.marklutheran248@
gmail.com

Facebook:
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January 2020 Newsletter



EPIPHANY



**Evangelical Lutheran
Church in America**
God's work. Our hands.