



March 2023 Newsletter



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Lent at St. Mark Lutheran Church



Lent is a time for self examination, for repentance and for preparing to share in the joy of the Resurrection. Our worship space will reflect repentance.



To Contact
Pastor Eric:

email:
revonbroadway@gmail.com

cell:
860-371-5969

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

Morning Prayer

Mondays and
Thursdays
at 9:00 a.m.

Morning Prayer meets
in the chapel.

Phone or Zoom
860-371-5969
Contact
the church office
for Zoom link.

Pastor Eric's Thoughts

CREATING A RELATIONAL COMMUNITY (at St. Mark and beyond)

*For where two or three come together in my name,
I am there with them.*

Matthew 18:20

This passage from Matthew is one that I think we at St. Mark need to focus upon. As most of you know I have been engaged with other clergy in the southeastern part of the state. We are working to organize for the purpose of engaging in action to do justice. Justice is different from charity because it requires understanding of persons, people, and systems. Currently a big part of the work of faith leaders in southeastern CT is getting to know and understand each other. **We are building a relational community.** I have been meeting other members of the group for one to one meetings as a way to do this. The process of this work could mean it is two to three years before we tackle our first action for justice.

As St. Mark moves forward I think it is important that we work to build a relational community. I know many of the folks at St. Mark know each other and may have a long history. I also believe there is an opportunity for all of us to get to know each other better. It is important to recognize that St. Mark has evolved, and even in my short time at St. Mark, both as Vicar and as Pastor I have seen new folks join the church.

I think we can best move forward in doing God's work with our hands by building a relational community. Jesus tells us when we do that, Jesus is present. That is what we need to keep in mind in order to live as Christians.

My plan is to begin building a relational community now by me having one to one meetings with each of you. These meetings will not be me interviewing you, but will be dialogue between us. You will learn as much from me as I will from you. These meetings can happen at a coffee shop, at a restaurant, at your home, at church, or anywhere you would be comfortable. They will be scheduled to be an hour in length with a plan of having meaningful conversation that goes deeper than talking about things like hobbies and favorite vacations.

The more time we gather in the name of Christ, the better we will be at spreading his message to all of God's children. Getting to know each other more deeply will also aid St. Mark as we navigate the future of the church.

When I meet with each of you, Christ will be present. Learning and building a relational community will happen naturally.

I bid you peace, Pastor Eric

LOOKING FORWARD

At the last council meeting the finance team discussed the church's budget. The council listened carefully and spent a significant amount of time looking at expenses and investments. Careful deliberation resulted in a decision to change how some of our funds are invested. While we are spending more than we have coming in, this situation is not a surprise.

The council came to a unanimous decision that we should explore the possibility of finding a new worship space, because maintaining the building consumes resources of funds and time. The council is in the exploratory process right now. It was decided that we would confer with realtors who could give us an idea of what the value of our building is in the current market. We are also going to investigate what it would cost to rent another space. It might mean renting space at a neighbor church or some other space.

It is important to understand that for us to move forward with ministry we need to address our budget now, rather than wait for our funds to be depleted. I know that we love our building and many of you had significant milestones in your life happen here. We need to remember that our purpose as Christians is to be good stewards of our resources and spread Christ's message. A quote from one of our council members was, "The church is not the building". I agree and could not have said it better.

Please remember no decisions have been made. We need to think creatively, and we need input from everyone. If someone has a creative way to stay in our building please share that with a council member. Our building does have a lot to offer including location, parking, handicap accessibility, and a beautiful sanctuary. What is most important is that we continue ministry and that we find a way to do it without being held back by finances.

Please pray about this and support your council who is working hard and carefully.

I bid you peace.

Pastor Eric





Lent begins with a solemn call to fasting and repentance as we begin our weeks of remembering our baptisms. In baptism we were buried with Christ in death to sin and raised with Christ to life eternal. During the Lenten days we will be careful not to speak the word "Alleluia".

Lenten Conversations with Pastor Eric and Pastor Heidi

In the spirit of deepening our spirituality in relationship with one another, Pr. Eric and Pr. Heidi pose some questions to one another in a video series for the 5 weeks of Lent. Each Tuesday evening in Lent, a video link will be released on Facebook. The very short videos are meant to foster thought and maybe even some conversations of your own. Links will be provided through St. Mark's mid-week memos which are emailed on Wednesdays.



Mid-week Lenten Worship Services



As we have done in years long ago we are going to have Wednesday Evening Lenten Worship services. We will be joining with area congregations and have the opportunity to worship at each one's locations. Each Wednesday at 7:00 pm there will be worship. The schedule is:

March 1	First Congregational 81 E. Town St., Norwichtown
March 8	St. Mark
March 15	TBD
March 22	TBD
March 29	TBD

Palm Sunday - April 2

Those that are able will gather at 9:00 a.m. at Chelsea parade for blessing of the palms and then continue by walking or driving to St. Mark for Palm Sunday worship at 9:30.



ST. MARK WELCOMES NEW MEMBER

On February 19, St. Mark received Victor Butsch into membership by affirmation of baptism.



I was born in Mishawaka and raised in South Bend, Indiana, not far from the campus of Notre Dame. In fact, the ticket manager for the college lived next door and every once in a while, he would give my father a call and he would have two tickets that nobody claimed and we would quickly drive out and see three quarters of the game. Besides my wonderful Mother and Father, I have two sisters and two brothers who are all younger than me, and are unfortunately spread throughout the country, about as far apart as possible. I have always been very involved in sports and played football and baseball throughout High School and college.

I graduated from Augustana College in Rock Island Ill., where I majored in History. I was married, joined the Army Reserves, and took basic training all in 1969. Over the next many years, I worked at EB and lived in East Lyme, we had three sons and one daughter. We all attended the Lutheran Church in East Lyme. Currently two sons are in the FBI – one in California and one out of New Haven. My other son is self employed as a gardener and my daughter is a medical supervisor in Madison, CT. All are married and I have five fabulous grandchildren, 3 girls and 2 boys

I was re-married to Gail Vitagliano in 2000 here in Norwich. I have now been retired for 8 years. I am most interested in American history and especially the Civil War period. I taught Civil War classes in adult education in Norwich for several years, and was a board member of the Norwich Historical Society. I was also one of the originators of the Norwich Civil War Round Table. Currently, I still keep my hands in the local Civil War history as I give Civil War tours of Yantic Cemetery and have co-written a well-received book about a man from Norwich who greatly impacted our nations' history. He was one of the three leaders of the John Brown raid which led directly into the Civil War and freedom for over four million black Americans, Aaron Dwight Stevens, is a most important person in our nation's history, but little known, even here in Norwich.

Thank You, Vic Butsch

Congregation Council Members

James Quarto, president	860-608-1085	jsquarto@hotmail.com
Sue Underhill, vice-president	860-701-8763	jsunderhill@comcast.net
Dale Eichholz, secretary	860-859-0401	eichholzdale@gmail.com
Joy Bachand	860-564-7333	joybachand@yahoo.com
Joe Churney	860-884-6582	jchurney@snet.net
Barbara Gladue	860-334-7291	mickeybonnie@comcast.net
Tom Seidel	860-642-6316	jtseidel@comcast.net
Linda Stewart	860-367-3410	
Tim Trudeau	920-243-8707	trudeautn@outlook.com
Pastor Eric Heinrich	860-371-5969	revonbroadway@gmail.com

Other Officers: Treasurer, Tom Tolppi
Financial Secretary, Kurt Kallmeyer



**St. Mark
Lutheran Church**
Norwich, CT



Job Opening!

Administrative Assistant

Part time: 15 hours a week \$18-20/ hour. Necessary skills: ability to communicate well with a diverse range of people, keyboard/typing, computer knowledge (Microsoft Word, Publisher, internet skills & ability to preserve confidentiality and learn management system). If interested call, 860-887-6826 or email, st.marklutheran248@gmail.com



Daylight Saving Time

Don't forget! Put your clocks ahead one hour before you go to sleep on Saturday night, March 11th. Daylight Saving Time begins at 2:00 a.m. on Sunday, March 12th.

Lenten Bible Study

Bible study takes place on Thursdays at 10:00 a.m. During Lent our Bible Study time is going to have a specific focus. We are going to use a curriculum provided by the ELCA. We will examine how to connect our faith with our civic life.

The following paragraph comes from the curriculum:

How are we as Lutheran Christians called to civic engagement, including in the arenas of government and political life? What is the proper relationship of the church with government, and what is not? What does religious liberty actually include? What are our scriptural and confessional resources for probing such questions about civic life?

Come at 10:00 or remain following Morning Prayer. Coffee will be ready for you to pour yourself a cup. Come once or come often.



A note from the office

The office is open 9-Noon
Monday-Thursday

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

For the Pastor please call Pastor Eric Heinrich at 860-371-5969.

Worship Schedule

Sundays - 9:30 a.m.

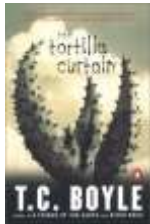
Worship on Facebook / YouTube
YouTube channel: ThePlace.stmark
Links found on Facebook: NorwichLutherans

*You have a choice:
Worship in person or virtual*

Morning Prayer

Mondays and Thursdays at 9:00 a.m.

This worship follows the Service of Morning Prayer in the red book.



Book Club

The Tortilla Curtain is a 1995 novel by American author T.C. Boyle. It is about middle-class values, illegal immigration, xenophobia, poverty, and environmental destruction. Book Club gets together on Mondays at 10 a.m. in the Gathering Room.

Easter Flowers

If you would like to buy flowers in honor or memory of someone, or simply for yourself, call or email the church office or mail this form to St. Mark. The price is \$16.00 each and the last day to sign up is Palm Sunday, April 2nd.
You can pick up your plants after worship on Easter Sunday.



Name: _____

In Memory/Honor of: _____

Plants ordering: _____

Shrove "Fat" Tuesday

Many thanks to the Armstrong family and friends for all of their hard work.



Ash Wednesday Worship



Eucharistic Visitors

The very vital ministry of bringing communion to homebound members and friends of St. Mark Church continues. If you would like to join this team of people, please speak to Pastor Eric or call the church office. Our Eucharistic Visitors are Joy Bachand, Linda James, Dale Eichholz, Lili Rafeldt, Sandy & Rick Neuendorf.

Souperbowl Sunday
We collected 75 cans of soup
for St. Vincent de Paul Place.



March Volunteer Schedule

*These assignments are made based on past willingness to serve.
If this is a problem please contact the church office. Thank you.*

Date:	March 5	March 12	March 19	March 26
Assisting Minister	Robin Slane	Dale Eichholz	Christine Kuzmenko	Virginia Maloney
Lector	Dale Eichholz	Megan Armstrong	Sue Underhill	Helen Weeks
Ushers	Richard Russ Joan Seidel	Linda Stewart Sue Underhill	Robin Slane Richard Russ	Sandy & Chuck Anadore
Eucharistic Minister	Joy Bachand	Lili Rafeldt	Dale Eichholz	Linda James
Altar Guild	Sandy Neuendorf Virginia Maloney C. Schanandoah	Sandy Neuendorf Linda Stewart	Sandy Neuendorf C. Kuzmenko C. Schanandoah	Sandy Neuendorf Sandy Anadore

If you are unable to serve on your assigned dates, please let Linda Mandel in the office know who your replacement will be by Wednesday evening so that the changes can be put into the Sunday bulletin.

Coffee Hour

We will have coffee hour each Sunday following worship in Memorial Hall. Join us for a mug of Joe or a cup of tea. Conversations over a cup of coffee or tea will encourage development of new friends even as we reconnect with long time friends.



Prayer Chain



A prayer Chain is a group of persons linked together who take up their responsibility to pray, in their own time and place, for certain persons or concerns made known to them by the prayer chain leader who receives the prayer requests.

The prayer chain here at St. Mark is a means by which we live out our God-given mandate “to pray for one another”. It lets immediate confidential prayer support begin at the time it is needed. Those who have been identified as links in the chain are linked together by phone or email. Joy Bachand is the Prayer Leader and can be reached at joybachand@yahoo.com or 860-564-7333. She will make sure prayer needs are sent out to those who chose to be a link in the chain. If you want to become one of the links contact Joy.

Old Batteries?

If you have batteries that need recycling bring them to church. There is a pail in Memorial Hall for you to recycle your old batteries.

2023 Flower Chart



The Flower Chart for 2023 is posted in the Narthex
Reminder:
The cost is \$30.00 per Sunday.



Calendar of Events - March

* Each Sunday there is coffee hour after worship

Wednesday, March 1

7:00 p.m. Lenten Worship - First Congregational

Thursday, March 2

9:00 a.m. Morning Prayer

10:00 a.m. Bible Study

7:00 p.m. AA Meeting - Gathering Room

Friday, March 3

8:30 - 2:30 Homeschoolers

8:00 p.m. AA Meeting - Memorial Hall

Saturday, March 4**Sunday, March 5, Lent 2**

9:30 a.m. Worship

11:00 a.m. Cornerstone

1:00 p.m. Community Luncheon - Memorial Hall

Monday, March 6

9:00 a.m. Morning Prayer

10:00 a.m. Book Club

Tuesday, March 7

6:30 p.m. Cornerstone - Gathering Room

Wednesday, March 8

7:00 p.m. Lenten Worship - St. Mark

Thursday, March 9

9:00 a.m. Morning Prayer

10:00 a.m. Bible Study

5:30 p.m. Finance Committee

7:00 p.m. AA Meeting - Gathering Room

Friday, March 10

8:00 p.m. AA Meeting - Memorial Hall

Saturday, March 11**Sunday, March 12, Lent 3**

9:30 a.m. Worship

11:00 a.m. Cornerstone

1:00 p.m. Community Luncheon - Memorial Hall

Monday, March 13

9:00 a.m. Morning Prayer

10:00 a.m. Book Club

6:00 p.m. Helping Parents Heal - Gathering Room

Tuesday, March 14

6:30 p.m. Cornerstone - Gathering Room

Wednesday, March 15

7:00 p.m. Lenten Worship - TBD

Thursday, March 16

9:00 a.m. Morning Prayer

10:00 a.m. Bible Study

7:00 p.m. AA Meeting - Gathering Room

Friday, March 17

8:30 - 2:30 Homeschoolers

8:00 p.m. AA Meeting - Memorial Hall

Saturday, March 18**Sunday, March 19, Lent 4**

9:30 a.m. Worship

11:00 a.m. Cornerstone

1:00 p.m. Community Luncheon

Monday, March 20

9:00 a.m. Morning Prayer

10:00 a.m. Book Club

Tuesday, March 21

Congregation Council

6:30 p.m. Cornerstone - Gathering Room

Wednesday, March 22

7:00 p.m. Lenten Worship - TBD

Thursday, March 23

9:00 a.m. Morning Prayer

10:00 a.m. Bible Study

7:00 p.m. AA Meeting - Gathering Room

Friday, March 24

8:00 p.m. AA Meeting - Memorial Hall

Saturday, March 25**Sunday, March 26, Lent 5**

9:30 a.m. Worship

11:00 a.m. Cornerstone

1:00 p.m. Community Luncheon - Memorial Hall

Monday, March 27

9:00 a.m. Morning Prayer

10:00 a.m. Book Club

Tuesday, March 28

6:30 p.m. Cornerstone - Gathering Room

Wednesday, March 29

7:00 p.m. Lenten Worship - TBD

Thursday, March 30

9:00 a.m. Morning Prayer

10:00 a.m. Bible Study

7:00 p.m. AA Meeting - Gathering Room

Friday, March 31

8:30 - 2:30 Homeschoolers

8:00 p.m. AA Meeting - Memorial Hall

Birthdays



Happy Birthday!
To those celebrating their
Birthday in March



- | | |
|-----------------------|---------------------|
| 5 - Dale Eichholz | 18 - Sabrina Tolppi |
| 11 - Tom Seidel | 26 - Lars Rafeldt |
| 15 - Carly Briggs | 29 - Tara Armstrong |
| 18 - Virginia Maloney | 30 - Joe Churney |
| 19 - Glenn McCallum | |

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.



April Rose Pictures and Articles

Please send your articles
for **April's Rose** to
st.marklutheran248@gmail.com
by **Monday, March 20, 2023**
Thank you.

Community Luncheon

St. Mark will be providing food for the luncheon being held on March 12.
If you want to help prepare the meal please talk to Sue Underhill or Sandy Neuendorf.

Homeschoolers



The Thames Valley 4-H Homeschooling group will be meeting at St. Mark on select Fridays through May 26. They are here 8:30-2:30. We welcome them and look forward to continuing our relationship with this group of leaders and children. It's always nice to hear children's voices at St. Mark!

Taking Part in Worship

There are many opportunities for individuals to get involved in worship at St. Mark. Each Sunday, we need volunteers to be assisting ministers, readers, kyrie singers, ushers, altar guild members, cameramen, and audio techs. These roles are vital to our worship, and it is easy to join the volunteers. If you are interested in helping with any of these roles, please call the office or speak with Linda Mandel. Pastor Eric, along with our audio-visual personnel, are happy to train new volunteers.



Event Cancellation / Snow Policy for St. Mark



Winter weather in New England can be unpredictable. Because of that, there may come a time when events at church may need to be cancelled out of concern for the safety of our members.
The process for the cancellation of activities due to inclement weather or other emergencies is as follows: Cancellations will be listed in several different places:
1) On TV. Check WFSB, channel 3 for most of the Norwich Area. 2) On the church website and facebook pages.

St. Mark is on Instagram
Check us out on Instagram -
@ThePlace.StMark

Midweek Messages

There is an opportunity to share your thoughts about your spiritual life. You are invited to write one or more of these midweek messages. Call or email the church office for more information.

Prayer List

We include in our prayers:

Homebound members: Betty S., Lorraine F., Lucille S., Irene T., Bruce A., Hazel L., Martha J. and Debbie A.



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

We pray for the sick especially: Barbara D., Elmer D., Linda J., Ariann G., Lydia T., Rita L., Henry W., Laura Jo S., Mary Elizabeth L., Tate C., Sarah S., Charlene S., Christina M., Lina M., Hope M., Yvonne S., Parker C., Charles P., Jennifer S., Janet H.

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.

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.

Cereal Ministry



We continue to feed people: To simplify giving to St. Vincent de Paul Place you can drop off your cereal at St. Mark or send a check with St. Vincent de Paul in the memo section. They are accepting other non-perishable food items as well. We will send the money and cereal to them once a month.

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.

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.



NEWSLETTER OF
ST. MARK LUTHERAN
CHURCH



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March 2023 Newsletter



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