



## HOLY WEEK & EASTER AT ST. MARK!

### Maundy Thursday, April 1

6:00 p.m.

Worship will be held at St. Mark outside on the front lawn.

### Good Friday, Way of the Cross, April 2

6:00 p.m.

Worship will be held at Chelsea Parade.

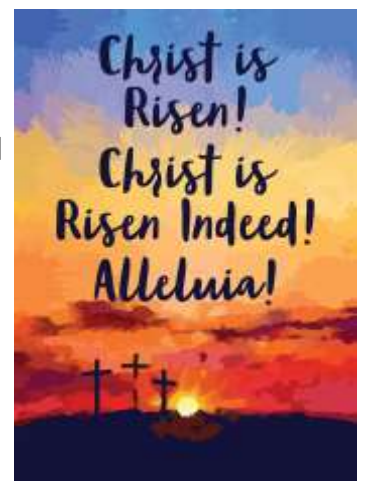
### Easter Sunday, The Resurrection of our Lord, April 4

9:30 a.m.

Worship will be held at St. Mark outside on the front lawn.

### Easter Sunday Worship

Easter, Resurrection Sunday will be celebrated on April 4th at our 9:30 a.m. worship service. Easter commemorates the resurrection of Jesus from the dead as described in the New Testament as having occurred on the third day after his burial following his crucifixion. The worship service will include the bread and wine of Holy Communion. To assure that we do not spread the COVID virus we ask that each person brings their own bread and juice or wine. Because the worship will be outside on our front lawn you are invited to bring your own chair. Each person or family is to social distance from others leaving a 6 foot separation. We anticipate a warm sunny day but even if it is not we will continue. There will be a live stream to Facebook and later posted on YouTube.



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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

Surprise. I was certainly surprised by the gift that you gave to me on my birthday. I kind of knew I would receive a birthday card from the congregation but a gift along with it was a surprise. And such a generous surprise. Having been a pastor for so many years I have enjoyed the relationship I have had with a number of congregations but St. Mark is sure full of surprises.

In the past year when we have been sheltering at home to avoid physical contact with other humans, this congregation of St. Mark has been full of surprises. Brian Armstrong has provided ways for us to continue to worship like live streaming to Facebook, prerecording and posting on YouTube. He has not missed a week except for one when he arranged for a substitute. The weather last summer was favorable each Sunday for on the lawn worship. There has been the surprise of continuing to have the financial support needed to pay salaries, the natural gas bill and other expenses. As a congregation, some areas of the life of St. Mark were able to go on. Yet I need you to know that I have been surprised that all has been so meaningful. I expected that closing the building and putting worship into the virtual arena would harm the congregation but I have been surprised. As the Transitional Pastor I was emotionally preparing for the closing of St. Mark. Surprise, that is not happening but instead new ministries are taking place. There is the Community Luncheon serving food in takeout bags each Sunday. St. Mark will be the teaching congregation for an intern beginning in August. Virtual concerts have been broadcast and musicians were able to receive some tip money. Four youth stood on the front steps of our building and made affirmation of their baptism. Prayer meetings have continued and the book club stimulates conversations.

This past year of learning new ways to spread the gospel of Jesus Christ has challenged and moved me in my faith. The precious joy of reading scripture and explaining its message for the week has drawn me further into trust in the Spirit's gifts. Yes, I have been surprised in the past year and I have become thankful.

Help Needed: On April 5 the city of Norwich will remove large items that have been placed by the street.

We have some branches that have fallen during the winter and some branches we moved to our compost area during the past year. If we were to have those branches moved to Broad Street the city would help us by taking them away.

### 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. ***Beginning March 28th worship will also be in person on the front lawn.***

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

### Worship Schedule

**Sundays - 9:30 a.m. & after**

**Worship on Facebook / YouTube**

**YouTube channel: ThePlace.stmark**

**Links found on Facebook: NorwichLutherans**

***Beginning March 28th you will have a choice - worship will also be in person on the front lawn.***

**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.

### For us, every day is Earth Day.

For God so loved the earth that he gave his only Son so everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life. Therefore on April 22 we will gather in the court yard for our opening prayer at 9:00 a.m. singing *For the Beauty of the Earth*.

We will make confession using the prayer of Archbishop Desmond Tutu: *Creator God, you have called us to be keepers of your earth. Through greed we have established an economy that destroys the web of life. We have changed our climate and we drown in despair. Let oceans of justice flow. May we learn to sustain and renew the life of our Mother Earth. We stand with indigenous people worldwide who are demanding restoration of their ancestral lands. We pray for our leaders, custodians of Mother Earth, that they may negotiate with wisdom and fairness. May they act with compassion and courage, and lead us into the path of justice for the sake of our children and our children's children.*

Our worship on April 22 will be physical and full of labor. Each person who comes will be given gloves and spades to attack weeds. There will be cleaning of our lawns and planting of flowers. Some will be sitting work, some kneeling work and some just cheering each other on.

Restoring Creation Earth Day April 22. The Earth Day is an annual event celebrated around the world on April 22 to demonstrate support for environmental protection. Many important environmental events have happened on Earth Day since 1970, including the recent signing of the Paris Agreement. Earth Day continues to be a reminder that we are called to restore our earth.

Members and friends are invited to come any time on April 22 to worship and work together. Our worship will conclude with Holy Communion at 7:00 p.m.



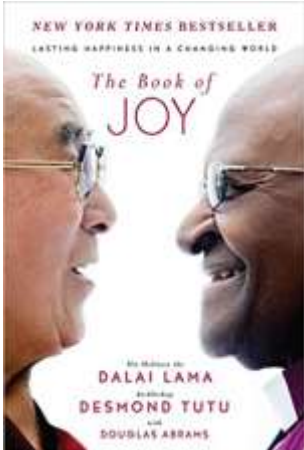
Congregation Council Members:

Tom Tolppi, President	860-389-6818	tomtolppi@yahoo.com
Lily Armstrong, Vice President	860-334-7376	joydog38@gmail.com
Lili Rafeldt, Secretary	860-376-4833	lrafeldt@comcast.net
Sabrina Tolppi	860-444-6044	swtolppi@yahoo.com
Joy Bachand	860-564-7333	joybachand@yahoo.com
Tom Seidel	860-642-6316	jtseidel@comcast.net
Linda Andrews	860-230-7837	linda245@peoplepc.com
Pastor Mary Robinson	860-326-1031	mimarobinson@aol.com

Other Officers: Financial Secretary, Rick Neuendorf

*Dearest Pastor Mary —  
 In Honor and Celebration  
 Your St. Mark Family and Friends  
 have donated \$1200 to your  
 Discretionary Fund.  
 Please use it as it pleases you.  
 With prayers and best wishes  
 for a most blessed 80th birthday*

*Dear St. Mark Family and Friends,  
 Thank you again and again for the  
 surprise birthday gift that you gave to  
 me. Your kindness blessed me and I  
 trust that the money you placed in  
**the Pastor's Discretionary will turn**  
 into blessings for others. Double is  
 the joy you created.  
 Pastor Mary*



Book Club - Mondays

The Book Club will get together by Zoom on Monday 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's book is *The Book of Joy: Lasting Happiness in a Changing World* by Dalai Lama and Desmond Tutu. *The Book of Joy* captures a seven-day conversation between the **Dalai Lama** and Archbishop Desmond Tutu. Two of the world's most influential spiritual leaders, come together to share their accumulated wisdom and discuss one of life's most important questions: how do we find **joy** despite suffering?

Confirmation Classes



Confirmation classes will begin virtually. Those who want to be enrolled should contact Pastor Mary for time and Zoom information. One does not need to be confirmation age to come to the classes. The beginning student work will be to digest Old Testament stories. The age requirement for confirmation class is 12 years and older.



### Palm Sunday



### Easter Bonnets and Eggs



Easter is right around the corner (April 4). Let's bring back an old tradition - Easter bonnets - decorated with anything that suggests spring. Get crafty, wear it on Easter Sunday and we will see who has the most outrageous hat!

Our annual Easter Egg Hunt will take place in the church immediately after the 9:30 service. Children should wear a mask to go indoors. We have plenty of baskets to fill!



## Youth Get Together

All teenager members and friends are invited to come to Memorial Hall on April 17 beginning at 7:00 p.m. for an evening of Table Tennis, silly games and plenty of time to just hangout with each other and friends.



## Outreach Ideas from your Council President

*Greetings in Christ Saint Mark! One of the ideas that I have been pushing with the council is to organize how we perform outreach as a congregation. All projects have a beginning with an idea. So the council came up with a bunch of ideas that we may be interested in pursuing. We would love to hear more ideas from all of you! If you are not an idea person but a doer, sign up to take over a project or volunteer for an idea and maybe someone will take the lead role if there is support for it. If you are a Thrivent member and the project is eligible, sign up to provide Thrivent funds. If you think the idea has merit and you want to support it financially, sign up as well.*

*On the next page is a spreadsheet that I developed. The first column is the general idea to pursue, The second column is the project lead; this person will take "the bull by its horns" and lead the project. The volunteers are those willing to work with the leader to get the job done. The start and end dates are actually beginning and ending of the project - some may just start and become a continuous project, others may be just a one day event, etc. The next two columns are regarding funds for the project - Thrivent members can direct funds to eligible projects; church funds refer to either individual support funds, pastor discretionary funds (in case she loves the idea), Memorial Funds, or direct appeal to the Council. Detailed description provides a framework to focus the project - this will change as the project develops. And "Whose Idea"? - The person inspired to put the idea out there for consideration. This column can say "anonymous".*

*I do want to make this clear: We as a congregation will not pursue all ideas. This list is potential. If the list inspires us to only complete one project, then it has value to us. Even if we do not pursue any of these - that is fine, we learn and move on. Let's try this and see how the ideas progress!*

*Email me at [tomtolppi@yahoo.com](mailto:tomtolppi@yahoo.com) for updates in ideas, leaders, volunteers, funding, etc. If you do not have email, have a friend email me or call the church.*

*Go in Christ!*

*Tom Tolppi  
Council President*



**Saint Mark Outreach Ideas**

Idea	Project Leader	Volunteers	Start Date & End Date	Thrivent elig?	Church Funds?	Whose idea
Praise bags						Joy B.
Diaper Drive						Joy B.
Knitting Yarn/prayer shawl						Joy B.
Gas/Gift cards						Joy B.
Filler for Quilts						Mary R.
Used Casserole Dishes						Mary R.
Used Vases						Mary R.
MOP's group						Mary R.
Easter Candy						Mary R.
Fast Food						Lily A.
Game Nights						Lily A.
Pancake Dinners						Lily A.
Teen Book Club						Lily A.
Sock Collection						Lily A.
Bath Supplies						Tom Talippi
Forest Bathing						Tom Talippi
Walk Through Norwich Religious History						Tom Talippi
Clean the Street						Lili R.
Pet Food						Lili R.
Hair Cuts						Lili R.
Phone Cards						Lili R.
Flower and Vegetable Plants						Lili R.
Coloring Books						Lili R.

**Detail Description**  
 Praise bags: small essentials, ex: t. paste, t. brush, deodorant, soap, energy bar, raisins, plus possibly a \$5.00 gift card for McDonalds  
 Diapers for the women's shelter for women who have babies.  
 Knitting yarn for prayer shawls for people who are sick or need comforting  
 Gift cards or gas cards kept at church for needy people who may come to receive any help.  
 Buy filler for making quilts to be given to Lutheran Season of Hope: Lent 2021 | Lutheran World Relief (lwr.org)  
 Buy used casserole dishes at thrift stores to be used to bake meals for those who need a dinner delivered. Such times might be after a baby is born or when the cook has been taken off to the hospital or if a person's home was burned.  
 Buy used vases at thrift stores to be used to deliver the altar flowers to our shut-ins.  
 Seed money to begin a MOP's group. MOPs is a club for mothers of preschool children.  
 Candy for an Easter Egg Hunt.  
 Gift cards, to different fast food places to give to those who need hot food  
 Monthly family game nights, to bring in some younger kids and families  
 Meals like the pancake dinner every other month, all and any are be invited/ welcome  
 Book club for teens  
 Sock collection, create packages with socks and some healthy snacks to give to those in need, socks are important and not always thought of and a healthy snack can help them in the moment  
 Provide bath linens and supplies for shelters/temporary housing  
 No water involved - immersion into connecting with nature via forest walks  
 Norwich Religious History walks - different religions of Norwich from Native American traditions to present  
 Pick a street in Norwich and clean up litter and garbage  
 Collect pet food for those in need.  
 Hair cut vouchers is someone was willing to partner for a reduce rate hair cut  
 reduced rate phone card--(may not work these days)  
 Flower or vegetable plants to care for with instructions and a caring note  
 Simple toys or coloring books with pencils/crayons for children



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

In Loving Memory of  
Shirley Eliasson  
by

Nancy & Kevin Babcock

Bob & Cindy Eliasson

Rich & Carlene Eliasson

Dianne & Carl Dobratz

Mike & Joyce Gresh, AYCO Charitable Foundation

### 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 know to them by the prayer chain leader who receives the prayer requests. The prayer chain being established here at St. Mark as 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 e mail. Joy Bachand is the Prayer Leader and can be reached at 860 564 7333 or joybachand@yahoo.com. 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.

### Quilts



Lutheran World Relief is grounded in thankfulness for God's gracious, self-giving love for all humankind, we love, because God first loved us. And we serve others because we are loved. Years ago, in 1945 the war left an estimated one-fifth of the world's Lutherans homeless. In the United States, Lutheran churches mobilized to help in Europe through a new agency called Lutheran World Relief. Much has changed in nearly 75 years but in thousands of congregations in millions of offerings and in uncounted prayers, U.S. Lutherans continue to support Lutheran World Relief's work. One of the many ways to be part of the loving care Lutheran World Relief gives is by sewing quilts. On Wednesday April 21 at 1:00 p.m. those who want to sew a quilt will gather in Memorial Hall. As LWR has said, "Mission Quilts a tangible lasting bond between the people who lovingly assemble them, and our neighbors around the world, who receive quilts in their greatest times of need."



### Get a Tutor to Get Better!

As a recently retired teacher I am excited to continue to use my skills to help students. During this time of COVID-19 instability, many students may be falling through the proverbial cracks. With potentially abundant student need and my broad and varied teaching experience I feel this is the perfect time to offer students and their parents support through my tutoring services.

My plan is for perspective students (elementary through middle school) to be pre-assessed and prescribed an academic action plan for success. My goal would be to help students and their parents to manage academic expectations and to support students who have or who may have fallen by the wayside.

As a fledgling fee-based enterprise it would be appreciated that anyone who is reading this message would spread the word about this new ministry at Saint Mark.

If anyone should have any questions or leads please contact me at

[getatutor2getbetter@gmail.com](mailto:getatutor2getbetter@gmail.com) or 860-859-2181

Gratefully, Pat Hogg





## Calendar of Events - April

### **Maundy Thursday, April 1**

6:00 p.m. Worship on the front lawn

### **Good Friday, April 2**

9:00 a.m. Morning Prayer - virtual

6:00 p.m. *Way of the Cross*

At Chelsea Parade

8:00 p.m. AA Meeting (Memorial Hall)

### **Saturday, April 3**

### **Sunday, April 4, *Easter Sunday***

9:30 a.m. Worship on the front lawn

11:00 a.m. Cornerstone

1:00 p.m. Interfaith Luncheon

### **Monday, April 5**

9:00 a.m. Morning Prayer - virtual

10:00 a.m. Book Club - virtual

### **Tuesday, April 6**

6:30 p.m. Cornerstone - Gathering Room

### **Wednesday, April 7**

### **Thursday, April 8**

5:30 p.m. Finance Committee – virtual

### **Friday, April 9**

9:00 a.m. Morning Prayer - virtual

8:00 p.m. AA Meeting (Memorial Hall)

### **Saturday, April 10**

10:00 a.m. Prepare food for Interfaith Luncheon

### **Sunday, April 11, *Easter 2***

9:30 a.m. Worship on the front lawn

11:00 a.m. Cornerstone

1:00 p.m. Interfaith Luncheon –

St. Mark provides

### **Monday, April 12**

9:00 a.m. Morning Prayer - virtual

10:00 a.m. Book Club – virtual

### **Tuesday, April 13**

6:30 p.m. Cornerstone - Gathering Room

6:30 p.m. Congregation Council - virtual

### **Wednesday, April 14**

### **Thursday, April 15**

### **Friday, April 16**

9:00 a.m. Morning Prayer - virtual

8:00 p.m. AA Meeting (Memorial Hall)

### **Saturday, April 17**

7:00 p.m. Youth Get Together

### **Sunday, April 18, *Easter 3***

9:30 a.m. Worship on the front lawn

11:00 a.m. Cornerstone

1:00 p.m. Interfaith Luncheon

### **Monday, April 19**

9:00 a.m. Morning Prayer - virtual

10:00 a.m. Book Club - virtual

### **Tuesday, April 20**

6:30 p.m. Cornerstone - Gathering Room

### **Wednesday, April 21**

1:00 p.m. Quilting—Memorial Hall

### **Thursday, April 22**

9:00 a.m. - Earth Day Worship

### **Friday, April 23**

9:00 a.m. Morning Prayer - virtual

8:00 p.m. AA Meeting (Memorial Hall)

### **Saturday, April 24**

### **Sunday, April 25, *Easter 4***

9:30 a.m. Worship on the front lawn

11:00 a.m. Cornerstone

1:00 p.m. Interfaith Luncheon

### **Monday, April 26**

9:00 a.m. Morning Prayer - virtual

10:00 a.m. Book Club - virtual

1:30 p.m. Worship Committee

### **Tuesday, April 27**

6:30 p.m. Cornerstone - Gathering Room

### **Wednesday, April 28**

### **Thursday, April 29**

### **Friday, April 30**

9:00 a.m. Morning Prayer - virtual

8:00 p.m. AA Meeting (Memorial Hall)

## Birthdays



Happy Birthday!  
To those celebrating their  
Birthday in April



- |                  |                       |
|------------------|-----------------------|
| 2 - Joshua Rix   | 19 - Aubrey Woods     |
| 4 - Robin Slane  | 21 - Herb Zickwolf    |
| 6 - Chris Fowler | 21 - Emily Lighthouse |

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 pasta salad with meat and cheese for the luncheon being held on April 11. If you want to help prepare the meal please talk to Sue Underhill or Pastor Mary.**

Don't Miss the



### May Monthly Memo News Articles

Please send your articles for the **May Monthly Memo** to [st.marklutheran248@gmail.com](mailto:st.marklutheran248@gmail.com) by Tuesday, **April 20th**. 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 Memorial Hall. 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, Martha Johnson, Irene Signorino.

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

**We pray for the sick especially:** Tom Seidel, Joe Churney, Jim Quarto, Sandy Neuendorf, Edith Stankiewicz, Geri Evert, Carolyn Melvin, Jane, Mary, David Kuzmenko, Luis, Bob Weaver, Kathy Yarger, Charlene Seltz, Mary Elizabeth Lang, Clarice Martin, Don Paulison, Rob Peterson, James Signorino, Christina McCann, Lina McCann, Hope McCann, Yvonne Scott, Sarah Sullivan, Parker Churney, Jennifer Bedell, Charles Peters, Jennifer Stark, Janet Hatch.

**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



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norwichlutherans.org  
ThePlace.StMark



April 2021 Newsletter



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