



Inside this issue:

Pastor Mary's Thoughts	2
Worship	2
Tutoring	3
Annual Congregational Meeting	4
Meet the Council	5
Book Club	6
Community Luncheon	6
Epiphany	7
Thank yous	8
Calendar	9
Birthdays	10
Food Ministries	10
Prayer List	11



Ash Wednesday - February 17th

Our worship services for this day when we begin Lent will be virtual. At any time during the day, you will be able to go to YouTube and find our Ash Wednesday worship. In preparation for the worship please stop by the church building and pick up an Ash Wednesday Worship Kit. If you do not already have an Evangelical Lutheran Worship book (the cranberry-colored book, we provide in the pews for in-person worship) you should also pick up the ELW. The worship kit will contain a small packet of ashes, a pre filled communion cup and wafer and folder of prayers for your Lenten discipline. Watching and listening to the virtual service will begin our repentance in Lent.





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

In the month of February, we enter the season of Lent. For many years I have struggled to know about "Lent". My childhood did not contain a season of Lent. When I became a Lutheran, I was faced with the liturgical church year and before Easter there is Lent. My questions were many. Why Pastor Frick was talking about Lent? Why the altar guild was concerned in having no flowers decorating the worship space? Why all the hymns were in a minor key? Why there was a worship service on Wednesdays to pray and take up an additional offering of money? I just could not appreciate how observing lent could enrich my life. It seemed to shrink it does not expand it. Perhaps some of you have also questioned the expansion of your spiritual life during Lent.

Lent means to lengthen. The day light is much increased in the northern latitudes. More daylight until the day when spring begins, and night and day are equal. Lent to lengthen I get it and rejoice because I like daylight. There are forty days in the season, not counting Sundays; the number forty was determined by the length of time Jesus fasted in the wilderness.

Lent is the 40 weekdays before Easter beginning on Ash Wednesday to be observed as a season of penitence. The forty weekdays of Lent, beginning with Ash Wednesday, stretch before us like the empty road. This solemn season invites us to journey to a place where we grasp the meaning of God's covenant promise with all of creation, to a place where a deeper relationship with God is known.

From its beginnings, Lent focused on faith formation; it was a time to instruct candidates for baptism and to renew vows made by baptized members; to ponder Christ's journey to the cross and what it meant; to seek God's presence through the practice of spiritual disciplines such as prayer, reading Scripture, and fasting; and to seek pardon and healing for those things that were barriers to a relationship with God and other.

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. & after

Worship on Facebook / YouTube

YouTube channel: ThePlace.stmark

Links found on Facebook: NorwichLutherans

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

Conversation after Worship - Zoom

<https://zoom.us/j/85438793938>

Passcode: 850579

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.

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:

Tom Tolppi, President	860-444-6044	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

Annual Congregational Meeting

The business and details about the year of 2020 were reviewed at our meeting which was held on January 24 as a virtual Zoom and call in by phone meeting. President Sandy Quarto officiated, and Sabrina Tolppi managed the technical internet details. There were over 25 people in attendance and each one was able to be heard. The review of activities of St. Mark Lutheran congregation showed forth the difficulties of a year of sheltering at home and necessity of closing our building during the pandemic of the COVID virus. Moving beyond the restrictions the virus made many ministries difficult to continue yet feeding of those who are struggling with food insecurities, repairs and new landscaping of our building, worship on the front lawn each Sunday from June to November, virtual concerts and outdoor carol singing were all mentioned. A review of the spending and proposed budget noted that for the first time in many years we experienced a surplus in money rather than a deficit. The nomination and election of members to the congregation council was completed. Elected were Tom Seidel, Lily Armstrong, Sabrina Tolppi and Linda Andrews. Staying on council are Tom Tolppi, Lili Rafeldt and Joy Bachand. A thank you to outgoing council members who have served the maximum of six years was expressed to Joe Churney, Sandy Quarto, Brian Armstrong, and Joan Seidel.

New Executive Board of the St. Mark Congregation Council

Following the Annual Congregational Meeting the newly formed council met to elect the officers of the congregation. Tom Tolppi is president, Lily Armstrong is vice president, and Lillian Rafeldt is secretary.



Daylight Saving Time

Don't forget! Put your clocks ahead one hour before you go to sleep
On Saturday night, March 13th.
Daylight Saving Time begins at 2:00 a.m. on Sunday, March 14th.

Congregation Council Members

Tom Tolppi, Council President: I was originally drafted by my daughter Sabrina to join the council a few years back. I am a 52 year old Naval Architect that works for the Department of the Navy. My wife Robin, daughter Sabrina, son Robert are all members of St. Mark. We have one dog Molly and three cats Leo, Otis, and Bree. I am looking forward to working with the congregation in performing God's work.

Lily Armstrong, Council Vice President: Tom Tolppi asked me to join the council this year after I went through confirmation with Pastor Mary. I am 16 and a culinary student at Norwich Technical High School. At home I have my bunny Agnes, along with our wonderful dogs, Journey and Joy. I am excited to help bring some new perspective and hopefully some good ideas to the council.

Lillian Rafeldt, Council Secretary: As a longtime member of the council, I continue to serve as a secretary. I promote the health of family, friends, and the vulnerable as a nurse and nurse educator. Although our sons have moved from the area, they learned about God's love at St. Mark's. I look forward to the joy we create for members and others.

Sabrina Tolppi: Hi everyone! My name is Sabrina Tolppi, and I am currently a senior at Waterford High School. I will be attending college next year for Biomedical Engineering and hope to eventually pursue a career in medicine. After being on the council and briefly working as St. Mark's administrative assistant, I'm excited to see what is in store for our congregation's future!

Joy Bachand: I am an octogenarian and was widowed after 46 years of marriage. I have a son and two daughters; and seven grandchildren. My parents immigrated from Finland, so the Lutheran faith is in my Genes. I garden and am an avid reader. I volunteer at the Veteran's Coffee House on Thursday for which I bake refreshments and serve them coffee, etc. Family and my faith means the most to me.

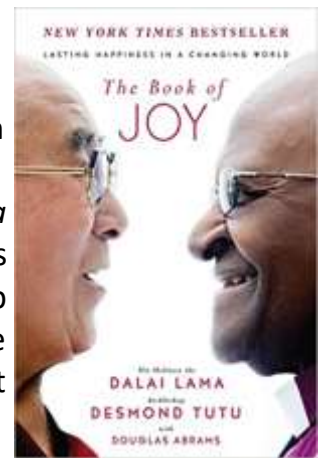
Linda Andrews: Single, 66-year-old animal lover.
Live a quiet life in Canterbury with my cat, Gracie.
Joined St. Mark in 2007.

Tom Seidel: I am a retired regional land use planner from the Southeastern Connecticut Council of Governments. My wife Joan and I reside in Franklin and we are long time members of St. Mark. We have two grown children- Heather and her family reside in northern Virginia, and Thomas and his family reside in northern New Hampshire. I look forward to working with the members of St. Mark during these challenging times.

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 new 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?



Community Luncheon Prep

Thank you to all those who helped with the community luncheon on January 10th. Special thanks to Sandy & Rick Neuendorf for roasting and deboning 5 turkeys. We couldn't have done it without them.



Epiphany





Thank you!!
 Thank you for your wonderful gifts I really appreciate them, I hope you have a amazing day and continue to make people's days! :)



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CITY OF NORWICH
 CONNECTICUT

NORWICH HUMAN SERVICES
 Adult & Family Services—Youth & Family Services—Rosa City Senior Center
 (860) 823-3778

100 Broadway
 Norwich, CT 06360
 Fax (860) 823-3793

December 27 2020

Dear Sponsor:

Thank you for your participation in the 2020 Adopt A Family for the Holidays program. As in the past years, all of our sponsors were very generous. With your help, we were able to provide gifts for 120 families that included so many more children! We could not have met this need without your generous contributions.

We extend our sincerest gratitude to each and every one of you who made a difference in the lives of so many families. Your kindness will be remembered throughout the year!

Wishing you a healthy and safe 2021!

Thank you for your generosity during the holiday season and for helping us put a smile on a child's face.

"Kindness is the language, which the deaf can hear and the blind can see" Mark Twain.

THANK YOU
 Norwich Human Services



To whom it may concern,
 this year has been a tough year ~~for~~ me and my family I would like to thank you for your support and care its truly a blessing and we are grateful. Have a wonderful Blessed Holiday Love

me & my family
 ♥

I would like to express my genuine gratitude for your decision to adopt my children this Christmas. Your kindness and generosity is sure to bring smiles to their faces and joy to their hearts. My heart is filled with gratitude. Happy Holidays to you and your family. Wishing many blessings for you, thank you for blessing my children and, an extremely grateful single mom.

Sincerely,
 Lisa

Calendar of Events - February

Monday, February 1

9:00 a.m. Morning Prayer - virtual
10:00 a.m. Book Club - virtual

Tuesday, February 2

6:30 p.m. Cornerstone - Gathering Room

Wednesday, February 3

Thursday, February 4

Friday, February 5

9:00 a.m. Morning Prayer - virtual
8:00 p.m. AA Meeting (Memorial Hall)

Saturday, February 6

10:00 a.m. Worship taping

Sunday, February 7, *Epiphany 5*

9:30 a.m. Worship - virtual
11:00 a.m. Cornerstone
1:00 p.m. Interfaith Luncheon

Monday, February 8

9:00 a.m. Morning Prayer - virtual
10:00 a.m. Book Club - virtual

Tuesday, February 9

6:30 p.m. Cornerstone - Gathering Room

Wednesday, February 10

Thursday, February 11

5:30 p.m. Finance Committee – virtual

Friday, February 12

9:00 a.m. Morning Prayer - virtual
8:00 p.m. AA Meeting (Memorial Hall)

Saturday, February 13

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

Sunday, February 14, *Transfiguration of Our Lord*

9:30 a.m. Worship - virtual
11:00 a.m. Cornerstone
1:00 p.m. Interfaith Luncheon – St. Mark provides

Monday, February 15

9:00 a.m. Morning Prayer - virtual
10:00 a.m. Book Club – virtual

Tuesday, February 16

6:30 p.m. Cornerstone - Gathering Room
6:30 p.m. Congregation Council - virtual

Wednesday, February 17, *Ash Wednesday*

Worship - virtual

Thursday, February 18

Friday, February 19

9:00 a.m. Morning Prayer - virtual
8:00 p.m. AA Meeting (Memorial Hall)

Saturday, February 20

10:00 a.m. Worship taping

Sunday, February 21, *Lent 1*

9:30 a.m. Worship - virtual
11:00 a.m. Cornerstone
1:00 p.m. Interfaith Luncheon

Monday, February 22

9:00 a.m. Morning Prayer - virtual
10:00 a.m. Book Club - virtual

Tuesday, February 23

6:30 p.m. Cornerstone - Gathering Room

Wednesday, February 24

Thursday, February 25

Friday, February 26

9:00 a.m. Morning Prayer - virtual
8:00 p.m. AA Meeting (Memorial Hall)

Saturday, February 27

10:00 a.m. Worship taping

Sunday, February 28, *Lent 2*

9:30 a.m. Worship - virtual
11:00 a.m. Cornerstone
1:00 p.m. Interfaith Luncheon

Birthdays



Happy Birthday!
To those celebrating their
Birthday in February



- | | |
|---------------------|------------------------|
| 1 - Jackson Houk | 9 - Sandy Neuendorf |
| 1 - Josie Withbroe | 13 - Martha Johnson |
| 7 - Sandy Vanase | 13 - Madison Houk |
| 8 - Ursula Chartier | 26 - Gretchen McVicker |

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 February 14.

There will be pulled pork sandwiches. If you want to help prepare the meal please talk to Sue Underhill or Pastor Mary.



March Monthly Memo News Articles

Please send your articles for the **March Monthly Memo** to st.marklutheran248@gmail.com by Thursday, **February 18th**. 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, Shirley Eliasson, Martha Johnson, Irene Signorino.

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

We pray for the sick especially: Jim Quarto, Sandy Neuendorf, Edith Stankiewicz, Jane, Mary, David Kuzmenko, Luis, Ann Neuendorf, Karen, Lois, Bob Weaver, Althea Kammer, 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, Gary Ogren.

Homebound members: 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

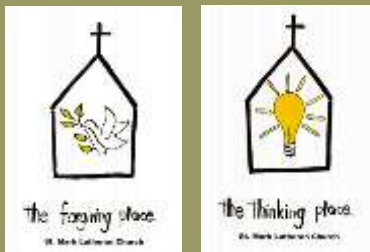


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Norwich Lutherans
norwichlutherans.org
ThePlace.StMark



February 2021 Newsletter



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