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OUTDOOR WORSHIP IS BACK!



Guest Preacher on May 9th

The New England Synod is truly us and many other congregations in the New England area. The New England Synod is truly the Evangelical Lutheran Church. If you want to understand how we fit into the ELCA please go to the web site and see lots of pictures and places we are Church. On May 9 at the 9:30 worship service there will be a preacher who represents this wider understanding of us. Mr. Mark Winzler, who is Associate to the Bishop for Candidacy and Mobility, Rostered Leader profiles, coordinating contact for pastors and deacons interested in serving in New England will be our guest preacher. He is very interested in St. Mark members and the ministry that we are responsible for here in Norwich. He is excited that we will be providing the site for an intern, Eric Heinrich. Come on May 9 and provide a huge welcome to Mr. Mark Winzler.





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



May Day, the first day of the month is a time to create a basket from construction paper, fill the basket with mints and flowers, **take the basket to a neighbor's** door, knock on the door and then run away before the owner of the house can open the door and find the gift of the May basket. Simple fun for a spring day. I cannot make enough baskets or have the time to deliver them to each individual who is reading this message so I ask you to check your doorstep just in case I was able to get

to your house. Connections with many are again being possible as we move away from the isolation that was necessary to stop or slow down the spread of the COVID virus. The possibility is there for us to again drive across the state border and enter Massachusetts and I plan to do so May 1 because my son invited me to tea.

How good it is to be together. We have had a great time at worship together. Each Sunday morning there is a place on the lawn for you. **We "share the peace" by waving at each one** who comes. The music gets our feet tapping and prayers are read, prayers are given from the center of our hearts, prayers are sung. God is good all the time, God is good. The Bible is read and I preach. Our spiritual lives have been attacked and we suffer from hunger but something wonderful happens when we get together. We have much more than a May basket on our doorstep. We have much more than the greeting in the hand wave from our brothers and sisters. We have the flowers and mints of love from each other. We have the very love of God showered upon us. April showers brought May flowers. **April's worship together brought us the spirit of love** of God raining down upon us. May is the month of May baskets. May is the month of love for one another in being together in worship.

A note from the office

Currently, both the church office and the Pastor's office are open and functioning.

In person Sunday worship has resumed. Normally we will meet on the front lawn but in case of bad weather we will meet inside socially distanced.

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

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](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC6t8t8t8t8t8t8t8t8t8t8t)

Links found on Facebook: [NorwichLutherans](https://www.facebook.com/NorwichLutherans)

You have a choice:

Worship will be in person on the front lawn
(indoors and socially distanced if bad weather)

Virtual

Mondays & Fridays - 9:00 a.m.

Morning Prayer

You can conference call or Internet Zoom with Pastor Mary and others.



THE PLACE IS BACK - Beginning June 5!

Saturday Worship at the Place will begin again on June 6 at 5:30 p.m. There is an eagerness to again be able to gather for spiritual nurture in the causal nature of The Place. Face masks and social distancing is expected by all who come. No food will be offered as we want to be careful not to spread COVID virus. June 6 is the first gathering and each Saturday there after the doors will be open to welcome anyone who wishes to praise God and pray with others.

Cathedrals - Visual Essence of Faith Seminar

To step inside a Gothic cathedral is to step inside the visual essence of the Christian faith. Since the Christianization of Europe in the 4th century, cathedrals have served as centers of ecclesiastical authority; marvels of architectural genius and innovation; places to instruct communities about cherished Christian values and lessons, and sites of political, cultural, intellectual, and economic importance. Bring these captivating buildings right into your own home in this course, taught by noted medieval historian and award-winning Professor William R. Cook of SUNY Geneseo. These 24 lavishly illustrated lectures make use of high-definition 3-D modeling and imagery to not just show you the world's great Gothic cathedrals, but to take you around and inside them. Seminar will begin at 4:30 p.m. on Saturdays in the Gathering Room.

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

Sad News

It is with great sadness that we report to you of the deaths of two long time members.

Irene Cosentino died on March 24 and Inge Barber died on April 6.

Please keep Irene and Inge and their families in your prayers.

Internship

St. Mark will be the site of an internship for a seminary student from United Lutheran Seminary. In preparation for that year of instruction Pastor Mary Robinson and Eric Henrich (the intern) and the Seminary will be spending May 19 on a “zoom” workshop. The areas of instruction and expectations of learning will be outlined. Eric will join the staff of St. Mark on August 8th to begin the internship.

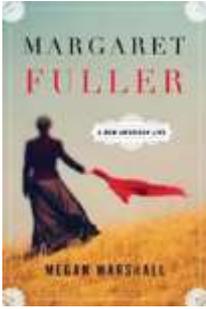
Roof Repairs

The Turkey Vultures have again found a place on our roof that is desirable for their eating. They have pecked roof sealer from the edge of the roof near the courtyard on Memorial Hall. The April rains have given found their way into Memorial Hall and we have had to have many buckets to catch the water. There will be a repair of that roof area done during the month of May.

Sunday School Thank You!

In anticipation of Sunday school for the very young members of St. Mark, the Caulifield family would like to donate a “Nugget Fort”. It is a soft play area for toddlers to exercise the muscles and wiggles that God has placed in their bodies. You will find the fort in the toy area where St. Mark and Cornerstone children are able to play during worship. Just sit with your family in a pew near the play area and enjoy. Thank you to the Caulifield family for this welcome gift.





Margaret Fuller: A New American Life, by Megan Marshall (Houghton Mifflin Harcourt). A richly researched book that tells the remarkable story of a 19th century American author, Sarah Margaret Fuller Ossoli. She was the first female war correspondent, critic, full-time book reviewer in journalism, translator and women's rights advocate who died at a young age in a shipwreck off Fire Island.

Book Club - Mondays

Directory

We are working on a new directory for St. Mark.

Please send your current emails and phone numbers to the church office.



Midweek Messages

There is an opportunity to share your thoughts about your spiritual life as Tom Tibbals has been sharing in the Mid-week Memo.

You are invited to write one or more of these midweek messages. Call or email the church office for more information.

Thank you!

Thank you to the many people who carried brush to the street!

Thank you to Lily Armstrong for finding the table tennis table!

Thank you to Jim Quarto for driving to fetch the table tennis table!

Thank you to the many willing hands who carried the Easter flowers in and out!



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 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.

Concert Series to Benefit Musicians

We are proud to present a virtual concert arranged by our music director, Ian Frenkel and recorded by Brian Armstrong. All donations or tips will be divided among Chris Odell on drums, Eric Yanaway on bass and Nolan Slate on saxophone. Show them your appreciation through tips and donations. This is part of our concert series to benefit musicians who Ian has enlisted because they were unable to work during the pandemic. Go to our website norwichlutherans.org and click on the concert series link. Donations can be sent to St. Mark or made on the website.



Outreach Ideas from your Council President

Greetings in Christ Saint Mark!

Last month the council put a list of suggested outreach ideas for St. Mark.

I am glad to say that we of St. Mark are reaching out. Three projects have started with one being completed. Lily Armstrong has started with a youth game night - rough start, but a start with good learning experiences. Pastor Mary at the time of writing this was organizing a quilting event. Rick Neuendorf with the help of Sue Underhill, Sandy Neuendorf, Linda Mandel and all the congregation members who brought cereal completed assembling more than 500 food items for Saint Vincent DePaul.

Please consider the working with ideas in the list, put your own ideas on the list, or do your own thing and reach out! Provide updates for the outreach ideas to Tom Tolppi via email at tomtolppi@yahoo.com.

God's grace be on you,

*Tom Tolppi
Congregation Council President*

St. Mark Outreach Ideas

Idea	Project Leader	Volunteers	Start Date & End Date	Thrivent elig?	Church Funds?	Detail Description	Whose idea
Praise bags						Praise bags: small essentials, ex: t. paste, t. brush, deodorant, soap, energy bar, raisins, plus possibly a \$5.00 gift card for McDonalds	Joy B.
Diaper Drive						Diapers for the women's shelter for women who have babies.	Joy B.
Knitting Yarn/prayer shawl						Knitting yarn for prayer shawls for people who are sick or need comforting	Joy B.
Gas/Gift cards						Gift cards or gas cards kept at church for needy people who may come to receive any help.	Joy B.
Filler for Quilts	Pastor Mary		4-21-2021 / one quilt completed			Buy filler for making quilts to be given to Lutheran Season of Hope: Lent 2021 Lutheran World Relief (lwr.org)	Mary R.
Used Casserole Dishes						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.	Mary R.
Used Vases						Buy used vases at thrift stores to be used to deliver the altar flowers to our shut-ins.	Mary R.
MOPs group						Seed money to begin a MOPs group. MOPS is a club for mothers of preschool children.	Mary R.
Easter Candy	Sandy Quarto		3-21-2021 / 4-4/2021			Candy for an Easter Egg Hunt.	Mary R.
Fast Food						Gift cards, to different fast food places to give to those who need hot food	Lily A.
Game Nights	Lily Armstrong		4/17/2021 Start			Monthly family game nights, to bring in some younger kids and families	Lily A.
Pancake Dinners						Meals like the pancake dinner every other month, all and any are be invited/ welcome	Lily A.
Teen Book Club						Book club for teens	Lily A.
Sock Collection						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	Lily A.
Bath Supplies						Provide bath linens and supplies for shelters/temporary housing	Tom Tolppi
Forest Bathing						No water involved - immersion into connecting with nature via forest walks	Tom Tolppi
Walk Through Norwich Religious History						Norwich Religious History walks - different religions of Norwich from Native American traditions to present	Tom Tolppi
Clean the Street						Pick a street in Norwich and clean up litter and garbage	Tom Tolppi
Pet Food						Collect pet food for those in need.	Lili R.
Hair Cuts						Hair cut vouchers is someone was willing to partner for a reduce rate hair cut	Lili R.
Phone Cards						reduced rate phone card--(may not work these days)	Lili R.
Flower and Vegetable Plants	Beryl Fishbone		4-14-2021			Flower or vegetable plants to care for with instructions and a caring note	Lili R.
Coloring Books						Simple toys or coloring books with pencils/crayons for children	Lili R.
Collect 500 + food items	Rick Neuendorf	Sue Underhill, Sandy Neuendorf, Rick Neuendorf, all the congregation members who brought cereal, Linda Mandel	3/5/21 End Date 4/3/21	Yes	\$250 Requested	Collect food items for SVDP in our church, community, workplace and from churches in our community and compete for the additional \$500 for the food kitchen.	Rick N.




ALLELUIA!
CHRIST IS ALIVE!





Easter - April 4, 2021



Graduation

Do you know anyone from our congregational family who is graduating this year? We would like to recognize all of our graduates in our June memo. Please call the church office at 887-6826 or put a note in the offering plate with their name, when and where they are graduating from and their plans for the future. Please let us know before May 16th.



Geraniums for Pentecost

One of our traditions in worship is to have lots of geraniums at Pentecost symbolic of the red flames and the gifts of the Spirit. Pentecost is May 23rd. If you would like to buy a geranium in honor or memory of someone, or simply for yourself, fill out the form below and mail it or bring it to church. Cost is \$11.95. The deadline to sign up is Sunday, May 16.

.....
Name: _____

In Memory/Honor of: _____

Plants ordering: _____



Homebound Ministry

The very vital ministry of connecting with our homebound members and friends of St. Mark Church who are not able to come to worship will continue in the months ahead. No instruction is necessary on how to visit. If you would like to join this team of people, please speak to Pastor Mary Robinson or call the church office.

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.

May 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:	May 2	May 9	May 16	May 23	May 30
Assisting Minister	Aiden McVicker	Sabrina Tolppi	Christine Kuzmenko	Linda Andrews	Virginia Maloney
Lector	Tom Tolppi	Megan Armstrong	Virginia Maloney	Christine Kuzmenko	Sue Underhill
Ushers	Richard Russ Joan Seidel	Tom Tolppi Robin Slane	Richard Russ Sandy Quarto	Lily & Megan Armstrong	Richard Russ Sandy Vanase
Altar Guild	Sandy Neuendorf Ursula Chartier	—	—	—	—

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.

st.marklutheran248@gmail.com or 860-887-6826 Thank you!

Youth Get Together



Calendar of Events - May

Saturday, May 1

11:00 a.m. Baptism
12:00 p.m. Reception - Memorial Hall

Sunday, May 2, *Easter 5*

9:30 a.m. Worship on the front lawn
11:00 a.m. Cornerstone
1:00 p.m. Interfaith Luncheon - Memorial Hall

Monday, May 3

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

Tuesday, May 4

6:30 p.m. Cornerstone - Gathering Room

Wednesday, May 5

Thursday, May 6

Friday, May 7

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

Saturday, May 8

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

Sunday, May 9, *Easter 6*

9:30 a.m. Worship on the front lawn
11:00 a.m. Cornerstone
1:00 p.m. Interfaith Luncheon - Memorial Hall
St. Mark provides

Monday, May 10

9:00 a.m. Morning Prayer - virtual
10:00 a.m. Book Club – virtual
6:00 p.m. Helping Parents Heal Group

Tuesday, May 11

6:30 p.m. Cornerstone - Gathering Room

Wednesday, May 12

Thursday, May 13

5:30 p.m. Finance Committee – virtual

Friday, May 14

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

Saturday, May 15

11:00 a.m. Baptism

Sunday, May 16, *Easter 7*

9:30 a.m. Worship on the front lawn
11:00 a.m. Cornerstone
1:00 p.m. Interfaith Luncheon - Memorial Hall

Monday, May 17

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

Tuesday, May 18

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

Wednesday, May 19

Thursday, May 20

Friday, May 21

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

Saturday, May 22

Sunday, May 23, *Pentecost*

9:30 a.m. Worship on the front lawn
11:00 a.m. Cornerstone
1:00 p.m. Interfaith Luncheon - Memorial Hall

Monday, May 24

9:00 a.m. Morning Prayer - virtual
10:00 a.m. Book Club - virtual
2:30 p.m. Worship Committee

Tuesday, May 25

6:30 p.m. Cornerstone - Gathering Room

Wednesday, May 26

Thursday, May 27

Friday, May 28

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

Saturday, May 29

Sunday, May 30, *Holy Trinity*

9:30 a.m. Worship on the front lawn
11:00 a.m. Cornerstone
1:00 p.m. Interfaith Luncheon - Memorial Hall

Monday, May 31

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

Birthdays



Happy Birthday!
To those celebrating their
Birthday in May



- | | |
|-------------------------|--------------------------|
| 2 - Nancy Babcock | 20 - Christopher Maloney |
| 5 - Irene Toscano | 21 - Tyler Rafeldt |
| 8 - Brian Armstrong | 22 - John Blackburn |
| 10 - Hal Oberg | 22 - Liam Garcia |
| 15 - Dan Smith | 24 - Tom Tolppi |
| 19 - Matthew Maloney | 30 - Rick Neuendorf |
| 19 - Kimberly Gonsalves | 30 - Lily Armstrong |

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 food for the luncheon being held on May 9. If you want to help prepare the meal please talk to Sue Underhill or Sandy Neuendorf.



June Monthly Memo News Articles

Please send your articles for the **June Monthly Memo** to st.marklutheran248@gmail.com by Monday, **May 17th**. 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, Jim Quarto, Sandy Neuendorf, Edith Stankiewicz, Dale Ann Beebe, 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.

For those who have died: Irene Cosentino, Inge Barber



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

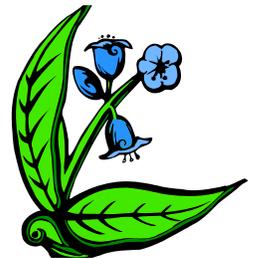
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May 2021 Newsletter



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