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Confirmation
Congratulations
to
Lily
Megan
Josie
Jackson





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 or
Linda at 860-334-1260

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

St. Mark is a spiritual life center. The place on Broadway is where we gather to renew our spiritual lives. We named ourselves the welcome place, the thinking place, the renewing place, the forgiving place, the caring place and the music place. St. Mark, the place gives us a location in which to seek God.

The vision was that many would flock to 248 Broadway to find a place of solitary quiet where a person could pray. Every Monday and Friday at 8:30 the open front doors could invite NFA staff, and Backus Hospital medical workers to come to morning prayer. NFA teachers could stop before starting their classroom work just to be in prayer. Many did not know about the gift of St. Mark as their the spiritual life center.

Perhaps if we had a sign out on the sidewalk saying open for prayer. But then last March we needed to close the building and put a sign on those front doors. The building is closed due to the fear of spreading the COVID virus. Yet there is a spirit here at the place. It doesn't have to do with the building because people of St. Mark are servants, lovers and disciples of Jesus Christ. We are passionately personal practitioners of religion. Our chosen instrument is prayer. Our lifelong quest is to experience the living God. We regard our search for God as the expression of what is most authentic within ourselves, as well as the greatest service we could pay to our fellow humans. If the greatest part of humanity is blind, is it not the truest form of love to show humanity a glimpse of light?

These past months have taught us that the spiritual life center is not connected just to the building at 248 Broadway. Prayer has become the main expression of our unity together. It is true that we continue to hold committee meetings using the phone or computers to let our voices be heard. It is true that we long for opportunity to sit in the pews to sing together. But our spiritual life is real and we have not missed praying together. When prayer is read or spoken in Preston, Franklin, Bozrah, Waterford or Norwich we are together in our spiritual life center. Prayer is holding us together. Prayer is moving us



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 outdoor worship and 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.

Midweek Bible Study

There will be a mid week bible study group on Wednesdays at 5:00 pm.

Jeune Jhony, is inviting each of you from St. Mark to a "Zoom" Bible Study Wednesdays at 5:00 p.m. He has chosen Matthew as his beginning place for this study group.

Each and everyone who wants to learn about what Matthew wrote just Zoom in on Wednesdays at 5:00.

Talk to Pastor Mary for more information.

November Worship Schedule

Sundays - 9:30 a.m.

Worship outdoors on the front lawn

Bring a chair and wear a mask.

Or if you find this too cold you can

Worship on Facebook / YouTube

Mondays & Fridays - 9:00 a.m. - Morning Prayer

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

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

All Saints Sunday



All Saints Sunday is November 1st. Please give us the names of persons you would like remembered in the listing of the saints in the prayers on that day. We will be reading the names of those members who died during the past year as well as those you ask to be included. You can call the church office or Pastor Mary before November 1.

Christ the King Sunday

November 22 the final Sunday of the church year brings us to its end and we will hear the story of judgment. In the end, the faithful are those who served Christ by ministering to those who are poor, hungry, naked, sick, or estranged. We will celebrate the reign of Christ and his victory over death, even while we await the consummation of all things yet to come. Our celebration as a congregation will be virtual on Facebook and YouTube.



Congregation Council Members:

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

CALLING A CONGREGATIONAL BUDGET MEETING

In order to approve the budget for 2021 before that year begins, we are calling a Congregational Meeting to be held solely for the purpose of approving the proposed budget on **Sunday, December 20th** at 11:00 a.m. via Zoom or phone. Copies of the proposed budget for 2021 will be made available by mail or email prior to and at the meeting so that you will have a chance to look it over and respond. Don't miss this important opportunity to share your ideas about our ministry as we plan for the next year.

Annual Committee Reports

In order to have the committee reports ready well in advance of the annual meeting meeting, they need to be in the church office before December 13, 2020. Please email, mail or leave these in the church office. Thank you!

Congregation Council

There are 2 council seats available If you are interested or would like more information please contact Pastor Mary or Sandy Quarto.



Thank you to Joan and Brian!

Many thanks to Brian Armstrong and Joan Seidel for their faithful devotion to St. Mark over the past 6 years. We know they will continue to support and encourage the ministry of St. Mark as new people become a part of the Congregation Council.



December Monthly Memo News Articles
Please send your articles for the **December Monthly Memo** to
st.marklutheran248@gmail.com
by Thursday, **November 19th.** Thank you.

Advent

Advent begins November 29 and the season offers us twenty six (24 hour) days to honestly acknowledge our human condition of longing waiting and restlessness. Some of us have observed Advent for over 50 or 60 or 80 years and used the time to countdown to Christmas and opening our presents. We have come to the worship space expecting to light candle after candle until all four candles on the Advent wreath are in flame. But this year is different. We expect that St. Mark Worship will be virtual on Facebook and YouTube. The candles must be on our Advent wreaths on our dining room tables. Our Advent prayers will be spoken with our children or on zoom. St. Mark will provide a devotional reading sent to you by email. There are meaningful ways available to quiet our hearts and minds during Advent this year.



Our Building and Property Need Your Help



For the first 3 months of the pandemic our building was closed and we didn't have an opportunity to tackle the spring cleaning and outdoor maintenance we typically do. In June, the property committee created a list of jobs that needed to be done. Many have been completed by volunteers but there are more to go. Please look over the following list. If you see a job that you're capable of doing, please take it on. You can work at your own pace when it is convenient for you. Some can be done alone. Others would be better as family projects. You can even team up with fellow church members and work as a team. Just be sure to wear masks and maintain social distancing when working with people other than your own family. Many needs have been completed. Please get in touch with Joe Churney if you want to take on a job or if you have any questions. Thank you.

1. Leaves in the parking lot need to be removed. **Need a volunteer.**
2. Before winter The Garland Company are arranging for the contractor who will recoat and repair the areas of the domed roof section including the tower. Work will begin in the beginning of November.
3. Repair and repaint the exterior of the chapel cross-shaped window area. Not started. **Need a volunteer.**
4. Install carpet nosing where pews were removed from sanctuary to prevent a trip hazard. Not started. **Need a volunteer.**

Lili Rafeldt Graduation

One of the quiet disciples of Jesus Christ here at St. Mark is Lillian Rafeldt. Over a number of years she has been a student at Yale University and Grand Canyon University working toward a Doctor of Clinical Nursing Practice degree. Having completed the studies most of which were completed on line she has received notification that the degree has been bestowed on her. There will not be a Grand Canyon University graduating ceremony due to COVID. To recognize this great accomplishment our congregation will honor her on November 1. Come to worship on All Saints Sunday and give your applause to Lillian.



Concert Series

We are proud to present a virtual concert arranged by our music director, Ian Frenkel, who will be joined by our own Mark McCormick on bass and Chris Odell on drums. Special guest Robert Tolppi will also perform on the piano. Go to our website norwichlutherans.org and click on the concert series link.

Outdoor Worship

We are adhering to both the State and the CDC guidelines for in person worship. We so want to be together and also take precautions to avoid the spread of the coronavirus, therefore we will worship outside. Find us on the front lawn with the music leaders social distanced from each other. The music and speaking parts are being amplified from speakers set up near the front steps. Everyone is welcome to bring their own lawn chair to sit on the front lawn or sidewalk. Some also choose to sit in their car. Face masks and social distancing are expected. If it's chilly bring a blanket and dress accordingly. Feel free to drive your car up the driveway if it's cold.




Community Luncheon Grab and Go

Beginning December 1st the Community Luncheon Grab and Go will be held at St. Mark. This will take place by people entering the handicap door on the side of the building. There will be tables set up with food for them to take with them. They will go straight out the Memorial Hall Door to the parking lot.

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

Stewardship

Our stewardship campaign for 2021 has the congregation council acting as the committee. They have composed a letter laying out the desire and need to have all those who care about St. Mark fill out a pledge card. If for some reason you did not receive the letter intended for you please call the church office. This is what the pledge card looks like.

 <p style="text-align: center;">Annual Stewardship Appeal 2021 Pledge Form</p> <p style="text-align: center;">In gratitude, I/we intend to give to God's work in and through St. Mark Lutheran Church.</p> <p>My/our estimate of giving will be:</p> <p>Weekly: \$ _____</p> <p>Monthly: \$ _____</p> <p>Total Annually \$ _____</p> <p style="text-align: center; font-size: small;"><i>Please keep this portion for your records</i></p>	<p>_____ Name (Please Print)</p> <p>_____ Street Address</p> <p>_____ City State Zip</p> <p>_____ Phone Email</p> <p>____ I would like to receive donation envelopes</p> <p>My/our estimate of giving for 2021 is:</p> <p>\$ _____ weekly</p> <p>\$ _____ monthly</p> <p>\$ _____ total annually</p>
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Thank you from St. Vincent de Paul Place

St. Mark has received thanks from St. Vincent de Paul Place for our support and donations which stock the shelves of their food pantry and help to serve breakfast and lunch. Donations benefit thousands of men, women and children who are having difficult times.

St. Mark will be *The Voting Place* on November 3

Christmas Thoughts



November 29th marks the first Sunday in Advent. The family of St. Mark is adopting four children. We will be sending more information as soon as we can about how we will do this. We're asking that you bring your **unwrapped** gift along **with a note specifying the child's number** and drop it at St. Mark before December 10. If you would rather donate money towards a gift put it in the mail, make a donation on our website, or drop it in the mail slot here at St. Mark,. If you write a check please make it out to St. Mark and note adopt a family in the memo line. Thank you!!

Pastor Appreciation Day



*You are blessed of the LORD
which made heaven and earth.
Psalm 115:15*

Dear Pastor Mary,

*Thank you for expressing
God's love
in such a beautiful way.
You have blessed all of us.*

*Thank you for all the
ways you lead and guide our
church. You are a blessing to all
of us.*

*Love,
Your St. Mark Flick*

A Note of Thanks

Thank you to St. Mark for the beautiful flowers and card that I received on Pastor Appreciation Day. My gratitude goes to you for honoring me with the position of being your pastor.

*In the love of Christ,
Pastor Mary Robinson*

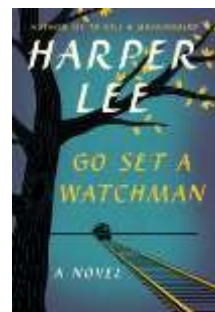
Thanksgiving Baskets

Thanksgiving is just around the corner and of course that means that St. Mark will once again be providing food baskets for families in need. Sue Underhill is coordinating Thanksgiving baskets this year. If you would like to make a donation or write a check to St. Mark Lutheran Church or go to the St. Mark website and donate electronically, it would be much appreciated (please note Thanksgiving Baskets on your check). Sue and other volunteers will be shopping for the necessary items. If you would like to help out or have any questions? Call Sue at 860-642-7699. **THANK YOU!**



Book Club - Tuesdays

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



Blessing of the Animals



The blessing of animals has returned a significant blessing to our congregation as we saw the love and devotion that people give to their pets.

November Volunteer Schedule

Date:	November 1	November 8	November 15	November 22	November 29
Reader	Sabrina Tolppi	Joy Bachand	Sandy Neuendorf	Robin Slane	Tom Tolppi
Usher	Joan Seidel Sandy Vanase	Richard Russ Tom Tolppi	Robin Slane Sabrina Tolppi	Sue Underhill Peter Armstrong	Megan Armstrong Lily Armstrong

If you are unable to serve on your assigned dates, please let Linda Mandel in the office know who your replacement will be at st.marklutheran248@gmail.com or 860-887-6826 Thank you!

Birthdays

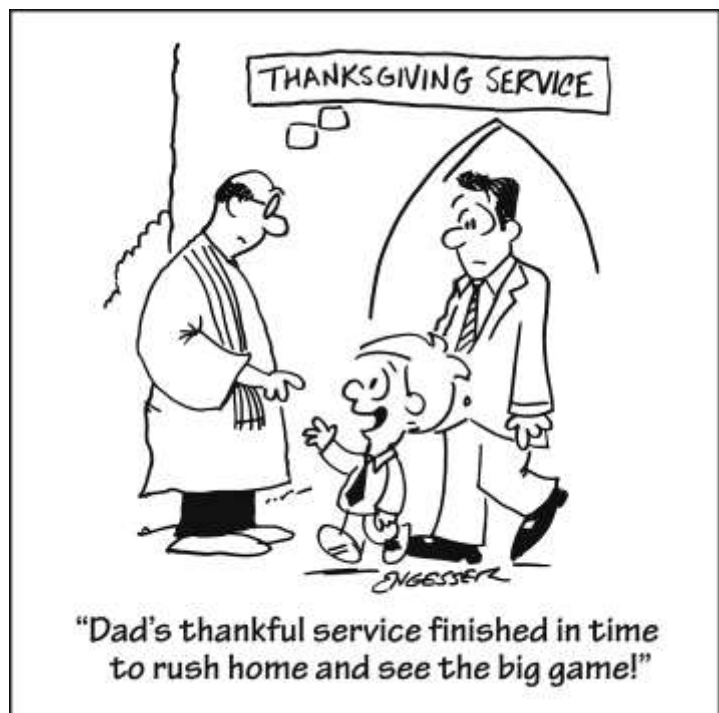


Happy Birthday!
To those celebrating their
Birthday in November



- 17 - Marilyn Williams
- 18 - Jo Glover
- 19 - Gabriella Gooden

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.



Cereal Ministry

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

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

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



Prayer List

We include in our prayers:

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

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

We pray for the sick especially: Edith Stankiewicz, Jim Quarto, Dan Tracy, Mary Elizabeth Lang, Clarice Martin, Don Paulison, Gary Ogren, Rob Peterson, Frank Socha, James Signorino, Christina McCann, Lina McCann, Hope McCann, Yvonne Scott, Sarah Sullivan, Parker Churney, Jennifer Bedell, Charles Peters, Jennifer Stark, Janet Hatch.

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

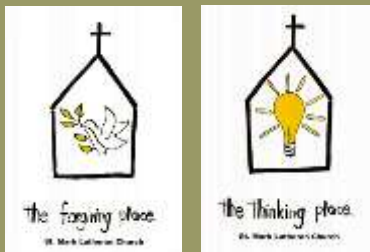


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Norwich Lutherans
norwichlutherans.org
ThePlace.StMark



November 2020 Newsletter



Thankful



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