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Sunday of the Passion/Palm Sunday, March 28

9:30 a.m.



Meeting at Chelsea Parade for blessing of the Palms

Worship back at 248 Broadway on the front lawn



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

St. Mark has the opportunity to be the teaching congregation for student pastor. I had some help but much of the responsibility writing the application and sending it to the seminary has been mine. Shortly after sending it in I received an email from the seminary saying that they wanted to explore the possibility of Eric Heinrich serving as intern/vicar here in Norwich. Eric and I have been able to talk over Zoom. I am happy to report that the Vicar Eric Heinrich will begin his ministry with us on August 8th.

Filling out the application got me into an intentional thought process about being a pastor. Since I have been a pastor for 37 years I assumed I am an expert. It was my good fortune that a month ago I picked up a book from a used book table. The sign said **Free** so I took the book home. And read it more than once. The author, Eugene Peterson wrote to pastors. I certainly will be sharing the content of the book with Eric.

In the book, Working the Angles, The Shape of Pastoral Integrity, Eugene Peterson wrote:

“The biblical fact is that there are no successful churches. There are, instead, communities of sinners, gathered before God week after week in towns and villages all over the world. The Holy Spirit gathers them and does his work in them. In these communities of sinners, one of the sinners is called pastor and given a designated responsibility in the community. The pastor’s responsibility is to keep the community attentive to God.”

I need to tell you that yes, that is my desire and goal. Reading this book has made me face the challenges of being true to the congregations I have served, being true to myself in my labors and up most being true to my God, staying true to what I have been called to. I have been called to prayer, reading the scripture and giving spiritual direction. Of course there are many activities, joys and obstacles in each congregation but everywhere I have been has required me to speak of God. Thank you to each of you who have listened and challenged me in prayer, scripture reading and spiritual direction.

### 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.

### Palm Sunday

The Sunday that I have been really waiting for for so many months will arrive on March 28. We are again going to gather in person to worship. First there will be a parade down Broadway from Chelsea Parade. The Holy Scripture will be read from Mark 11. A real live donkey is going to attend and parade with us. Palm branches are going to be blessed with all the children singing Hosanna. The general public and especially those from other congregation will be there to witness to our testimony to the son of David our Lord. You may bring banners or balloons to add to the color of the parade. There will be the parade as we walk or drive to our building 248 Broadway. Come expecting to sing and shout Hosanna. Our congregation will then gather on the front lawn to hear the passion story read from Mark 15:1-39.



### Easter

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

**9:30 a.m.**

**Outside at St. Mark on the front lawn**

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



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.

Intern

St. Mark is getting an intern for a year. Eric Heinrich is a life-long Lutheran. The Lutheran liturgy is very important to him. He, his wife and two children worship at Emanuel Lutheran Church in Manchester, CT. near their home. Eric was asked to become a lay preacher. Several people commented on his involvement at church and preaching and suggested that he would make a good pastor. United Lutheran Seminary offered the Distributed Learning pathway to complete the MDiv degree program by enabling students to remain where they live and complete course requirements without having to relocate to the Philadelphia or Gettysburg campus. One-third of required coursework is completed through on-campus, week-long intensives, at various times throughout the year. "The remaining coursework is completed on-line. Internship is arranged to be fulfilled near a student's home. The program has worked well for Eric.



Eric, his wife and two boys who are now twenty and seventeen reside in Manchester. Eric enjoys spending time with his family and vacationing on the coast of Maine and camping at Camp Calumet Lutheran in New Hampshire. He enjoys spending time outdoors especially around lakes. He is a long-distance runner and likes bicycling as well. Anything with wheels makes his heart go pitter-pat. He has always been a car and motorcycle enthusiast, although the only cars he owns are basic transportation. He goes to car shows to admire cars from the 1960's-1980's. He last had a motorcycle about twenty years ago and hopes to have one again someday.



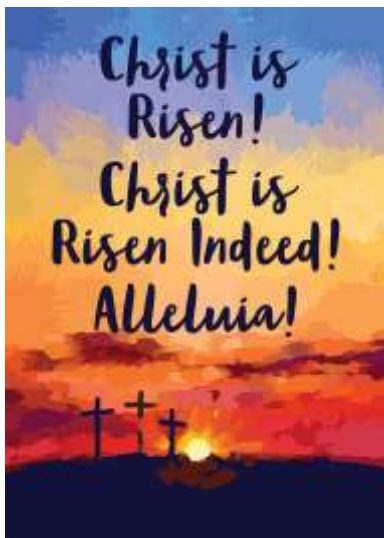
Daylight Saving Time

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





## 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.

## Easter Flowers

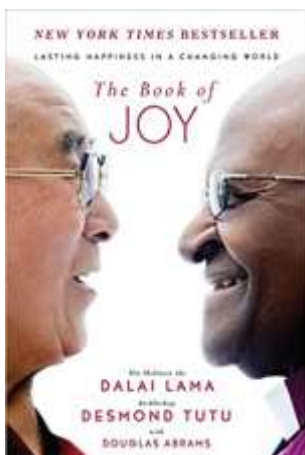
If you would like to buy flowers in honor or memory of someone, or simply for yourself, call or email the church office or mail this form to St. Mark. The price is \$16.00 each and the last day to sign up is Palm Sunday, March 28th. *You can pick up your plants after worship on Easter Sunday.*



**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**In Memory/Honor of:** \_\_\_\_\_

**# Plants ordering:** \_\_\_\_\_



## 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?



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

In Loving Memory of Shirley Eliasson

by

Sandy & Rick Neuendorf

Irene Toscano

Bob & Betty Schmidt

Walter & Christine Lamb

Robert & Cynthia Eliasson

Gail M. Vitagliano

Gail & Joe Churney

Linda Mandel

Richard Eliasson

Tom & Lydia Tibbals

Westminster Tool Inc., The Coombs Family

Congratulations to Aubrey Woods on the birth of her baby boy Hayden on January 9.



### Get a Tutor to Get Better!

I am grateful for the opportunity to begin a tutoring service as part of the outreach ministry of Saint Marks! 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 pre-scribed 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. Additionally, students' social/emotional perspectives will be respected and taken into account.

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)  
860-859-2181

References and testimonials may be provided upon request.

Gratefully,  
Pat Hogg



## Calendar of Events - March

### **Monday, March 1**

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

### **Tuesday, March 2**

6:30 p.m. Cornerstone - Gathering Room

### **Wednesday, March 3**

### **Thursday, March 4**

### **Friday, March 5**

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

### **Saturday, March 6**

10:00 a.m. Worship taping

### **Sunday, March 7, Lent 3**

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

### **Monday, March 8**

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

### **Tuesday, March 9**

6:30 p.m. Cornerstone - Gathering Room

### **Wednesday, March 10**

### **Thursday, March 11**

5:30 p.m. Finance Committee – virtual

### **Friday, March 12**

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

### **Saturday, March 13**

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

### **Sunday, March 14, Lent 4**

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

### **Monday, March 15**

9:00 a.m. Morning Prayer - virtual  
10:00 a.m. Book Club – virtual  
3:00 p.m. Worship Committee

### **Tuesday, March 16**

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

### **Wednesday, March 17**

### **Thursday, March 18**

### **Friday, March 19**

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

### **Saturday, March 20**

10:00 a.m. Worship taping

### **Sunday, March 21, Lent 5**

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

### **Monday, March 22**

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

### **Tuesday, March 23**

6:30 p.m. Cornerstone - Gathering Room

### **Wednesday, March 24**

### **Thursday, March 25**

### **Friday, March 26**

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

### **Saturday, March 27**

### **Sunday, March 28, Palm Sunday**

9:30 a.m. Worship  
*Meet at Chelsea Parade continue to St. Mark front lawn*

11:00 a.m. Cornerstone

1:00 p.m. Interfaith Luncheon

### **Monday, March 29**

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

### **Tuesday, March 30**

6:30 p.m. Cornerstone - Gathering Room

### **Wednesday, March 31**

## Birthdays



Happy Birthday!  
To those celebrating their  
Birthday in March



- |                           |                     |
|---------------------------|---------------------|
| 11 - Pastor Mary Robinson | 26 - Lars Rafeldt   |
| 11 - Tom Seidel           | 20 - Forrest Rix    |
| 16 - Virginia Maloney     | 29 - Tara Armstrong |
| 18 - Sabrina Tolppi       | 30 - Joe Churney    |

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 March 14.**

**If you want to help prepare the meal please talk to Sue Underhill or Pastor Mary.**

Don't Miss the



### April Monthly Memo News Articles

Please send your articles for the **April Monthly Memo** to [st.marklutheran248@gmail.com](mailto:st.marklutheran248@gmail.com) by Thursday, **March 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, 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, 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, Gary Ogren.

**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

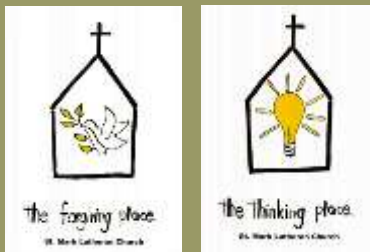


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Norwich Lutherans  
norwichlutherans.org  
ThePlace.StMark



March 2021 Newsletter



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