



Inside this issue:

Pastor Mary's Thoughts	2
Worship	3
New Seminar	3
Council	4
Bible Study	4
Discipleship Class	4
Homebound Ministry	4
Memorials	5
Book Club	5
Underwear & Socks	6
Clothing Shed	6
Bully Busters	7
Youth Gathering	7
Volunteer Schedule	8
Prayer Chain	8
Calendar	9
Birthdays	10
Food Ministries	10
Prayer List	11



Mid-Summer Music



Sunday, August 8th

3 PM

Upper lot in back of
St. Mark Lutheran Church



♪ St. Mark Jazz Ensemble ♪

Greg Perry's Drumming Circle

And other talented musicians!

**Bring your own chair to enjoy the music
in the upper lot in back of the church
(Inside in case of rain)**

Donations and Tips for Musicians Appreciated



St. Mark Lutheran Church
248 Broadway, Norwich



Pastor Mary's Thoughts



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.

Gifts often come wrapped in paper and tied with ribbons. There is the special moment when the ribbon releases the paper and the gift is revealed but sometimes tape is holding the paper around the gift and the tape needs to be removed also. All that untying and cutting of tape is worth it when the gift is revealed. Gifts received **from God the creator don't come tied and taped in paper.** God gives us all that we have to use. Be reminded of all the gifts received from God the creator. Just watching the joy of others can be such a reminder. Using the gift is also necessary. I have known of those who are so excited about the gift that they save it for some time in the future and never enjoy the gift.

Use and reuse is guidance for just about everything. I do not save my good dishes just for special occasions. My mother carefully saved the dark blue wool mittens with the cable stitch running down the top of the hand that her sister had knit for her. I inherited those mittens and do wear them. I take nails out of boards and put the lumber away for the next project. I took apart the tiny bridge that was across my tiny stream and saved all the pieces. Only the pieces which were rotten were thrown away. Someday those pieces will be the pattern for a new bridge. I already have the lumber needed because I saved it when I took apart a bench which could no longer be repaired. Use and reuse because everything has value. Weeds are pulled and placed on a compost pile. Next year all of them will be reused as soil. Each day God has provided me with the time to enjoy life. I intend to use the day to worship God. I will take in the air and even without my thinking about the air it will fill my lungs and give me life. I will use all that God provides and be thankful for blessings all around me.

AUGUST WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Sundays - 9:30 a.m. - Worship
Mondays & Fridays - 9:00 a.m. - Morning Prayer
Saturdays - 5:30 p.m. - Worship at the Place on Broadway

***Saturday & Sunday Worship will observe the Lord's Supper
on the first Saturday & Sunday of each month.***

A note from the office

Summer office hours:

Monday 10-12

Thursday 10-12

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

For the Pastor please call Pastor Mary Robinson at 860-326-1031.

Worship Schedule

Saturdays - 5:30 p.m.

Sundays - 9:30 a.m.

Worship on Facebook / YouTube

YouTube channel: [ThePlace.stmark](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCThePlace.stmark)

Links found on Facebook: NorwichLutherans

You have a choice:

Worshipping in person or virtual

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



Saturday Worship at the Place

Saturday Worship at the Place is 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. Each Saturday the doors are 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. The 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	860-235-5740	swtolppi@yahoo.com
Joy Bachand	860-564-7333	joybachand@yahoo.com
Tom Seidel	860-642-6316	jtseidel@comcast.net
Pastor Mary Robinson	860-326-1031	mimarobinson@aol.com

Other Officers: Financial Secretary, Rick Neuendorf

Bible Study

Bible study is offered on Fridays at 10:00 am. Pastor Mary guides the members in reading and interpreting the texts from the Bible which will be read at the Saturday and Sunday worship that week. Come at 10:00 or remain following Morning Prayer. We meet in the air conditioned **“Gathering Room”**. Coffee will be ready for you to pour yourself a cup. The conversation includes a reading from the Bible and our understanding of just what was intended for our sense of purpose. Come once or come often. Bring your favorite translation or use one of the Bibles already here at the church.

Directory



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

Please send your current emails and phone numbers to the church office. Sabrina may contact you at some point to get your picture or updated information.

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.

Lutheran Discipleship Class

A number of individuals who have been worshipping with us have begun to ask questions about Lutherans and about our congregation of St. Mark. Just what is it about being Lutheran that brings joy to worship and to life? **Pastor Mary will conduct a “discussion kind” of class on six Sundays to answer questions and explore the Small Catechism written by Martin Luther.** Classes start August 1 at 10:45-11:45. There will be no class on August 15. Anyone is welcome to attend the class and ask questions. Following the six week class there will be a reception of new members.

Midweek Messages

There is an opportunity to share your thoughts about your spiritual life. You are invited to write one or more of these midweek messages. Call or email the church office for more information.



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

In Loving Memory of Sandra Oberg Gundlack by

Gail & Joe Churney and Sandy & Rick Neuendorf



Above/Right: the baptism of Archer Ryan Caulfield



Left: Piper, Hayden, and Lincoln enjoy Pastor's children's message



Book Club - Mondays

The Book Club's will soon finish reading *Dreams from My Father: A Story of Race and Inheritance*, by President Barack Obama. **They will then move on to Obama's second memoir, *A Promised Land*.** *A Promised Land* remains focused on his political career, documenting Obama's life from his early years through the events surrounding the killing of Osama bin Laden in May 2011.



Book Club meets Monday mornings at 10:00 a.m. in the Gathering Room. Discussions are lively, and anyone is welcome to participate. Come join the reading community at St. Mark!



Underwear & Socks Ministry

I have applied for and received a \$250 grant from Thrivent Financial to use as seed money to provide new underwear and summer socks for patrons of St. Vincent de Paul Place.

Their patrons are in desperate need of **NEW men's Boxers or Boxer Briefs** (no tighty whitey type briefs please) and **NEW women's underwear**. The types of socks needed are **NEW men's and women's** ankle socks and quarter socks.



This ministry will run until the end of August. I'm hoping that members of the congregation will support this ministry by bringing a pair of socks or underwear each Sunday until the end of August. You can put them in the blue collection box during the offering collection. You're probably wondering what size to get. Basically medium, large, or extra large for both men and women. No child sizes are needed.

Thank you in advance for supporting this new ministry. Let's make it a success.

Gail Churney
860-884-0382

Clothing Shed Ministry

A new ministry has begun. Used clothing can be dropped off in the shed in our parking lot. This ministry will help us function in a more environmentally sound way by diverting clothes away from landfills. There are donation receipts available for tax deductions in the box on the clothing shed.



We are also in need of volunteers to sort through clothing donations. Many of the clothes are in great condition to be given to members of the Norwich community. The volunteers would look through the donations to find clothes that could be distributed as part of the Community Luncheon, and they can even take clothes for themselves or others in their lives. If you are interested in sorting through donations or helping to find a home for these clothes, please email or call the church.

2021 Flower Chart



The Flower Chart for 2021 is posted in the Narthex
Reminder: The cost is \$30.00 per Sunday.



Norwich Bully Busters

For the past month, St. Mark has been the site of Norwich Bully Busters, a summer program meant to educate the community on the "Bullying Prevention Law" and school policies regarding bullying.

In addition to preventing violence in schools, they work towards providing the community with fun, interactive and low-to-no cost programs for youth in and around the City of Norwich. Debbie Kievits, the director of the Bully Busters, lives by the motto, "Kindness is magical." Debbie and the youth members of the program have been at St. Mark Monday through Thursday, 9-3 each week. As one of their activities, a few kids weeded our courtyard. We are very grateful for their help!

On Friday, August 6 from 5-8, Bully Busters will be hosting an event to celebrate World Youth Day. Anybody who wishes to come is welcome. There will be food, various vendors, and many fun activities. There will also be a free COVID-19 vaccine clinic sponsored by Uncas Health. This event will conclude their summer program.



2022 ELCA Youth Gathering

Every three years, 30,000 high school youth and their adult leaders from across the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America gather for a week of faith formation known as the ELCA Youth Gathering. Through days spent in interactive learning, worship, Bible study, service and fellowship, young people grow in faith and are challenged and inspired to live their faith in their daily lives.



St. Mark's youth will be attending the Youth Gathering in Minneapolis in 2022. These gatherings are an experience like no other. If you are eligible to attend (anyone in high school including rising freshman and seniors who have just graduated), do not pass up the opportunity! We will be fundraising from now until next July to ensure that the costs of the trip are covered. Currently, the Youth Fund has \$3,981.17 set aside for the Gathering.

If you have any questions or would like more information about the gathering, feel free to ask Pastor Mary.

August 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:	August 1	August 8	August 15	August 22	August 29
Assisting Minister	Aiden McVicker	Christine Kuzmenko	Sabrina Tolppi	Sandy Quarto	Virginia Maloney
Lector	Virginia Maloney	Robin Slane	Christine Kuzmenko	Sandy Neuendorf	Sandy Quarto
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!

Thank You

Let's extend a thank you to **Richard Russ, Chris O'dell, and Becky Dumais** for painting Vicar Eric's office. He will surely appreciate the fresh coat of paint as he joins the St. Mark community!



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 known 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.

Calendar of Events - August

Sunday, August 1, Pentecost 10

9:30 a.m. Worship
 10:45 a.m. Discipleship Class - Memorial Hall
 11:00 a.m. Cornerstone
 1:00 p.m. Interfaith Luncheon - Memorial Hall

Monday, August 2

9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. Bully Busters - Memorial Hall
 9:00 a.m. Morning Prayer - Chapel
 10:00 a.m. Book Club – Gathering Room

Tuesday, August 3

9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. Bully Busters - Memorial Hall
 6:30 p.m. Cornerstone - Gathering Room

Wednesday, August 4

9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. Bully Busters - Memorial Hall

Thursday, August 5

9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. Bully Busters - Memorial Hall
 7:00 p.m. Worship Committee
 7:00 p.m. AA Meeting - Memorial Hall

Friday, August 6

9:00 a.m. Morning Prayer - Chapel
 10:00 a.m. Bible Study - Gathering Room
 8:00 p.m. AA Meeting - Memorial Hall

Saturday, August 7

10:00 a.m. Prepare food for Interfaith Luncheon
 4:30 p.m. Seminar
 5:30 p.m. Worship

Sunday, August 8, Pentecost 11

9:30 a.m. Worship
 10:45 a.m. Discipleship Class - Memorial Hall
 11:00 a.m. Cornerstone
 1:00 p.m. Interfaith Luncheon - Memorial Hall
St. Mark provides
 3:00 p.m. Summer Concert - Front Lawn

Monday, August 9

9:00 a.m. Morning Prayer - Chapel
 10:00 a.m. Book Club – Gathering Room
 6:00 p.m. Helping Parents Heal - Gathering Room

Tuesday, August 10

6:30 p.m. Cornerstone - Gathering Room

Wednesday, August 11

Thursday, August 12

5:30 p.m. Finance Committee – virtual
 7:00 p.m. AA Meeting - Memorial Hall

Friday, August 13

9:00 a.m. Morning Prayer - Chapel
 10:00 a.m. Bible Study - Gathering Room
 8:00 p.m. AA Meeting - Memorial Hall

Saturday, August 14

4:30 p.m. Seminar
 5:30 p.m. Worship

Sunday, August 15, Mary, Mother of Our Lord

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

Monday, August 16

9:00 a.m. Morning Prayer - Chapel
 10:00 a.m. Book Club - Gathering Room

Tuesday, August 17

6:30 p.m. Cornerstone - Gathering Room

Wednesday, August 18

Thursday, August 19

7:00 p.m. AA Meeting - Memorial Hall

Friday, August 20

9:00 a.m. Morning Prayer - chapel
 10:00 a.m. Bible Study - Gathering Room
 8:00 p.m. AA Meeting - Memorial Hall

Saturday, August 21

4:30 p.m. Seminar
 5:30 p.m. Worship

Sunday, August 22, Pentecost 13

9:30 a.m. Worship
 10:45 a.m. Discipleship Class - Memorial Hall
 11:00 a.m. Cornerstone
 1:00 p.m. Interfaith Luncheon - Memorial Hall

Monday, August 23

9:00 a.m. Morning Prayer - Chapel
 10:00 a.m. Book Club - Gathering Room

Tuesday, August 24

12:00 p.m. Clergy Conference Luncheon
 6:30 p.m. Cornerstone - Gathering Room
 6:30 p.m. Congregation Council - virtual

Wednesday, August 25

Thursday, August 26

7:00 p.m. AA Meeting - Memorial Hall

Friday, August 27

9:00 a.m. Morning Prayer - chapel
 10:00 a.m. Bible Study - Gathering Room
 8:00 p.m. AA Meeting - Memorial Hall

Saturday, August 28

4:30 p.m. Seminar
 5:30 p.m. Worship

Sunday, August 29, Pentecost 14

9:30 a.m. Worship
 10:45 a.m. Discipleship Class - Memorial Hall
 11:00 a.m. Cornerstone
 1:00 p.m. Interfaith Luncheon - Memorial Hall

Monday, August 30

9:00 a.m. Morning Prayer - Chapel
 10:00 a.m. Book Club - Gathering Room

Tuesday, August 31

6:30 p.m. Cornerstone - Gathering Room

Birthdays



Happy Birthday!
To those celebrating their
Birthday in August



- | | |
|------------------------|----------------------|
| 2 - Greg Withbroe | 13 - Michael Garber |
| 8 - Kurt Kallmeyer | 20 - Hazel Lotring |
| 8 - Molly Garcia | 20 - Joy Bachand |
| 12 - Kraig Sanquedolce | 25 - Anneliese Kempf |
| 13 - Lara Garber | 27 - Lorraine Fox |
| | 29 - Mitch Robinson |

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.

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.

Community Luncheon

St. Mark will be providing food for the luncheon being held on August 8. If you want to help prepare the meal please talk to Sue Underhill or Sandy Neuendorf



September
Monthly Memo
News Articles

Please send your articles for the **September Monthly Memo** to st.marklutheran248@gmail.com by Monday, **August 19th**. Thank you.

Community Luncheon Grab and Go

The Community Luncheon Grab and Go is being held at St. Mark. People enter through the handicap door on the side of the building. Tables are set up with food for them to take, and they go out through 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. St. Mark has joined with other congregations here in Norwich in providing for the needy. Recently, Christ Episcopal Church generously gave St. Mark a variety of food prep supplies in order to help with this ministry. Many thanks for their support! If you would like to be involved please talk to Ines Kallmeyer, Sue Underhill 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. They are accepting other non-perishable food items as well. We will send the money and cereal to them once a month.



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, 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, Dale Ann Beebe, Carolyn Melvin, Geri Evert, Jane, Mary, David Kuzmenko, Luis, Bob Weaver, Kathy Yarger, Charlene Seltz, Mary Elizabeth Lang, Clarice Martin, Rob Peterson, James Signorino, Christina McCann, Lina McCann, Hope McCann, Yvonne Scott, Sarah Sullivan, Parker Churney, 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: Sandra Oberg Gundlack, Robbin McVicker



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

860-887-6826

st.marklutheran248@
gmail.com

Facebook:
Norwich Lutherans
norwichlutherans.org
ThePlace.StMark



August 2021 Newsletter



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