



December 2022 Newsletter



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Advent Devotional Time



Pr. Eric (St. Mark Lutheran Church) and Pr. Heidi (St. Luke Lutheran Church) are happy to announce a collaborative time of devotion every Wednesday evening in Advent from 6-7:15pm. The devotional time will include an activity to help us know one another and have some fun. The activity for 12/21 will be caroling around the neighborhood near St. Mark. What a great chance to gather with

our sister Lutheran Church! More details to follow in the Midweek memos.

Advent I	11/30	St. Luke Lutheran Church (1830 CT-12, Gales Ferry)
Advent II	12/7	St. Mark Lutheran Church
Advent III	12/14	St. Luke Lutheran Church (1830 CT-12, Gales Ferry)
Advent IV	12/21	St. Mark Lutheran Church



Christmas Eve Worship Experience for all ages!

December 24th
11:00 a.m.



Christmas Day Worship

St. Luke Lutheran Church
(1830 CT-12, Gales Ferry)

9:30 a.m.



To Contact
Pastor Eric:

email:
revonbroadway@gmail.com

cell:
860-371-5969

If you would like
to make an appointment
with Pastor Eric,
please call
the St. Mark office at
860-887-6826.

Morning Prayer

Mondays and
Thursdays
at 9:00 a.m.

Morning Prayer meets
in the chapel.

Phone or Zoom
860-371-5969
Contact
the church office
for Zoom link.

Pastor Eric's Thoughts

Celebrating Christ

December and Advent is upon us. I know for many, that involves decorating the house, sending cards, attending holiday gatherings, singing carols, and many more traditions. I love Christmas and especially lights on peoples' houses and trees that can be seen decorated through windows. I enjoy my rides home from Norwich to Manchester in the dark this time of year. Christmas lights and music bring me joy and I know many folks feel the same way.

I have a tradition of putting some of my Christmas lights up the day after Thanksgiving. I love doing that and then standing outside of my house admiring the lights. The joy that comes in preparation for Christmas is tiny compared to what is promised to us through Christ. Just like the amount of time Christ lived (about 33 years) is miniscule compared to the worldwide impact he has had.

Our last Sunday before Advent we celebrated Christ the King Sunday, with the gospel text of Luke 23:33-43 which tells the story of Jesus being crucified. The crucifixion is such a contrast to the images associated with a baby in a manger. Christmas is just a glimpse of the promise Jesus brings to us. The true promise is celebrated during Holy Week and Easter. It seems to me the crucifixion story just before Advent is well placed in our church year.

Merry Christmas my siblings in Christ!

Out and About

I may not be the vicar at St. Mark anymore but as your pastor I continue to be out and about. I have ventured to New London where I am meeting clergy from a variety of faith traditions. We are gathering to discuss and plan having a faith-based group dedicated to community organizing in Southeast Connecticut. We are meeting to get to know each other and to find commonality among the group. The ultimate goal is to harness the power of the members of our congregations for social change and justice. Pastor Heidi Johnston from St. Luke Lutheran Church in Gales Ferry is one of the partners in this group. I will be attending a workshop to gain skills in faith-based community organizing from January 22-26. Many of the folks from the Southeast Connecticut group I have met will participate in the training as well as other Lutheran Pastors from New England. I look forward to learning and working with this group and will keep you all posted as things progress.

I bid you peace!



Decorating Our Worship Space for Christmas

We will be decorating our worship space at 11:00 a.m.
on Thursday, December 19th

We will put up our trees, wreaths and
arrange poinsettias
Please join us!

Casual Wednesday Evening Worship in the Chapel Beginning Again in January

Join us for Casual Wednesday Evening Worship in the Chapel at 6:00pm on the first and third Wednesdays. The service will be shorter than a typical Sunday service. Music will be a bit different, and the overall feel will be something new for St. Mark. Come see what it is all about.



Stewardship pledges



Thank you to everyone who has turned in a pledge card. If you have not turned in your pledge yet there is still time. You may either place it in the offering plate or mail it to the church. Cards are still available in church if you have misplaced yours.

As of November 28, we have received 23 pledges for 2023 totaling \$69,690. The total number of pledges received for 2022 was 25 totaling \$80,446, so we're down 3 pledges and \$13,756 from last year. So far this year, the people who have pledged both years have increased their pledges this year by a net total of \$1,544.



Poinsettias

Now is the time to order a poinsettia, either as a memorial, honor or a donation. Cost is \$20.00 each. Make checks payable to St. Mark.
Deadline to sign up - December 11th.

Name: _____

In (Memory/Honor) of: _____

Plants ordering: _____

Congregation Council Members

James Quarto, president	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
Sue Underhill, vice-president	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
Dale Eichholz, secretary	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
Lily Armstrong	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
Joy Bachand	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
Joe Churney	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
Barbara Gladue	860-334-7291	mickeybonnie@comcast.net
Tom Seidel	860-642-6316	jtseidel@comcast.net
Linda Stewart	860-367-3410	
Tom Tolppi	860-389-6818	tomtolppi@yahoo.com
Pastor Eric Heinrich	860-371-5969	revonbroadway@gmail.com

Other Officers: Treasurer, Tom Tolppi
Financial Secretary, Kurt Kallmeyer

CALLING A CONGREGATIONAL BUDGET MEETING - December 4

In order to approve the budget for 2023 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 4th* at 11:00 a.m. in Memorial Hall. Copies of the proposed budget for 2023 will be made available by email prior to the meeting 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, they need to be in the church office before December 27, 2022. Please email, mail or leave these in the church office. Thank you!



Congregation Council

There are open council seats available. If you are interested or would like more information please contact Dale Eichholz and Christine Kuzmenko who are the nominating committee.

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING Sunday, January 22, 2023

Please join us for the Annual Congregational Meeting of St. Mark on Sunday, January 22 after worship. It will take place immediately after worship in Memorial Hall. Copies of the annual report will be available the Sunday prior to the meeting and at the meeting.

A note from the office

The office is open 9-Noon
Monday-Thursday

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

For the Pastor please call Pastor Eric Heinrich at 860-371-5969.

Worship Schedule

Sundays - 9:30 a.m.

Worship on Facebook / YouTube
YouTube channel: [ThePlace.stmark](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCThePlacestmark)
Links found on Facebook: NorwichLutherans

*You have a choice:
Worship in person or virtual*

ELCA Youth Gathering Announces Theme, New Event



We're excited to announce the theme for the 2024 ELCA Youth Gathering is "Created to Be," centered on Psalm 139:14 — "I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Wonderful are your works; that I know very well." During the Gathering, young people will explore how we are created to be brave, authentic, free, disruptive disciples. To incorporate our pre-events — the Multicultural Youth Leadership Event (MYLE) and the tAble — into the overall Gathering more intentionally, both events will share the "Created to Be" theme. The brand-new Young Adult Gathering, to take place concurrent with the ELCA Youth Gathering, will share the theme as well.

Synod Grants Available - deadline approaching December 15

Grants are available from the synod in the areas of congregational revitalization, youth and young adult ministry and anti racism efforts. Application details may be found on the synod website:

(<https://www.nelutherans.org/resources/documents>).

St. Mark Job Opening: Looking for Administrative Assistant

Part time: 15 hours per week

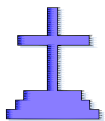
Necessary skills: ability to communicate well with a diverse range of people, keyboard/typing, computer knowledge (Microsoft Word, Publisher, internet skills, ability to preserve confidentiality and learn church management system). If interested call or email St. Mark.

Baptism of Laura
October 30, 2022



Food Drive Ministry for Veterans

During the month of December, St. Mark will be conducting a food drive ministry for the Veterans Rally Point Food Pantry in Norwich. Gail Churney will coordinate the ministry. She will apply for a Thrivent grant for the project but even if the grant request is denied we will go forward with the food drive. Your food donations will be collected each Sunday during the month thru December 25th and delivered to the food pantry weekly. Please be generous. It's important to show support for our veterans. Thank you.



A Gift to
St. Mark Lutheran Church
has been
received and acknowledged
with thanks from:

In Celebration
of the Baptism of
Laura Isabella Moreno
by
Rick & Sandy Neuendorf

In Loving Memory of
Jolanthe Glover
by
Ursula Chartier
Marilyn Williams

Holiday Craft

and Vendor Fair

With Luncheon

GRACE EPISCOPAL CHURCH
4 CHAPEL HILL ROAD - YANTIC, CT

SATURDAY - DECEMBER 3rd

9:00AM - 2:00PM

RAFFLE PRIZES

CRAFT VENDORS - CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS - POTTERY -
HOMEMADE CANNING ITEMS, JEWELRY ETC. - MANY GIFT
IDEAS



LUNCHEON - 11:00AM - 1:00PM



TAKE OUT ONLY

CAN CALL AHEAD (860) 887-2082

Deb's Corn Chowder - Homemade Tomato Soup

Sandwiches - Chicken Salad, Egg Salad, Ham Salad & Grilled Cheese

Dessert - Gingerbread

Soup, Sandwich & Dessert - \$10.00

Bible Study

Bible study will be offered on Thursdays at 10:00 a.m. Pastor Eric will guide the members in reading and interpreting the texts from the Bible which will be read at the Sunday worship that week. Come at 10:00 or remain following Morning Prayer. Coffee will be ready for you to pour yourself a cup. Come once or come often. Bring your favorite or use one of the Bibles here at the church.

Book Club



Interested in reading fiction and using a book to have you consider aspects of life as a Christian? *The One Good Thing* by Kevin Alan Milne is a book about following the golden rule and having faith in God. It deals with concepts such as mercy, grace, and unwavering faith. The story follows a wife and her children as they deal with the sudden loss of Nathan, their husband and father. A Facebook page created upon Nathan's death allows for friends to share stories about all the good deeds Nathan has done helping others. It also leads to a mystery that has Nathan's wife and kids questioning if Nathan was the man they thought he was.

Book Club gets together Mondays at 10 a.m. in the Gathering Room.

The Giving Tree - Adopt-a-Family

Thank you to everyone who donated gifts to our adopted families. The gifts were greatly appreciated.

Special thanks to Sandy Neuendorf for making the lists and tags.



December 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:	December 4	December 11	December 18	Sat. December 24 11:00 a.m.
Assisting Minister	Christine Kuzmenko	Kurt Kallmeyer	Dale Eichholz	Virginia Maloney
Lector	Tom Tolppi	Virginia Maloney	Christine Kuzmenko	Sandy Neuendorf
Ushers	Sandy & Chuck Anadore	Richard Russ Joan Seidel	Robin Slane Sue Underhill	Richard Russ Linda Stewart
Eucharistic Minister	Dale Eichholz	Linda James	Rick Neuendorf	Joy Bachand
Altar Guild	Sandy Neuendorf C. Kuzmenko C. Schanandoah	Sandy Neuendorf Sandy Anadore	Sandy Neuendorf Ursula Chartier C. Schanandoah	Sandy Neuendorf Virginia Maloney

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.

Coffee Hour

We will have coffee hour each Sunday following worship in Memorial Hall. Join us for a mug of Joe or a cup of tea. Conversations over a cup of coffee or tea will encourage development of new friends even as we reconnect with long time friends.



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.

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.

2022 Flower Chart



The Flower Chart for 2022 is posted in the Narthex
Reminder:
The cost is \$30.00 per Sunday.



Calendar of Events - December

* Each Sunday there is coffee hour after worship

Thursday, December 1

9:00 a.m. Morning Prayer
10:00 a.m. Bible Study
7:00 p.m. AA Meeting - Gathering Room

Friday, December 2

9am - 2pm Homeschoolers
8:00 p.m. AA Meeting - Memorial Hall

Saturday, December 3

Sunday, December 4, Advent 2

9:30 a.m. Worship
10:30 a.m. Congregational Budget Meeting
11:00 a.m. Cornerstone
1:00 p.m. Community Luncheon - Memorial Hall

Monday, December 5

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

Tuesday, December 6

6:30 p.m. Cornerstone - Gathering Room

Wednesday, December 7

6:00 p.m. Advent Devotionals (St. Mark)

Thursday, December 8

9:00 a.m. Morning Prayer
10:00 a.m. Bible Study
11:00 a.m. Worship Committee
5:30 p.m. Finance Committee
7:00 p.m. AA Meeting - Gathering Room

Friday, December 9

8:00 p.m. AA Meeting - Memorial Hall

Saturday, December 10

Sunday, December 11, Advent 3

9:30 a.m. Worship
10:30 a.m. Thrivent speaker at coffee hour
11:00 a.m. Cornerstone
1:00 p.m. Community Luncheon - Memorial Hall

Monday, December 12

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

Tuesday, December 13

10:00 a.m. Congregation Council
6:30 p.m. Cornerstone - Gathering Room

Wednesday, December 14

6:00 p.m. Advent Devotionals (St. Luke)

Thursday, December 15

9:00 a.m. Morning Prayer
10:00 a.m. Bible Study
7:00 p.m. AA Meeting - Gathering Room

Friday, December 16

9am - 2pm Homeschoolers
8:00 p.m. AA Meeting - Memorial Hall

Saturday, December 17

Sunday, December 18, Advent 4

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

Monday, December 19

9:00 a.m. Morning Prayer
10:00 a.m. Book Club
11:00 a.m. Decorate the Church

Tuesday, December 20

6:30 p.m. Cornerstone - Gathering Room

Wednesday, December 21

6:00 p.m. Advent Devotionals (St. Mark)

Thursday, December 22

9:00 a.m. Morning Prayer
10:00 a.m. Bible Study
7:00 p.m. AA Meeting - Gathering Room

Friday, December 23

8:00 p.m. AA Meeting - Memorial Hall

Saturday, December 24

11:00 a.m. Christmas Eve Worship
Sunday, December 25, Christmas
9:30 a.m. Christmas Worship at St. Luke
11:00 a.m. Cornerstone
1:00 p.m. Community Luncheon - St. Vincent dePaul

Monday, December 26

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

Tuesday, December 27

6:30 p.m. Cornerstone - Gathering Room

Wednesday, December 28

Thursday, December 29

9:00 a.m. Morning Prayer
10:00 a.m. Bible Study
7:00 p.m. AA Meeting - Gathering Room

Friday, December 30

8:00 p.m. AA Meeting - Memorial Hall

Saturday, December 31

Birthdays



Happy Birthday!
To those celebrating their
Birthday in December



- | | |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| 1 - Ellen Hanley | 23 - Barbara Deshefy |
| 8 - Connie Berglund | 24 - Melissa Withbroe |
| 10 - Janice Silva | 27 - Linda Andrews |
| 13 - Jim Quarto | 29 - Sandy Quarto |
| 15 - Archer Caulfield | 30 - Lili Rafeldt |
| 16 - Debbie Andrews | |

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.



December Newsletter
The Rose
Pictures and Articles

Please send your articles for **January's Rose** to st.marklutheran248@gmail.com by **Thursday, December 12, 2022.**
Thank you.

Community Luncheon

St. Mark will be providing food for the luncheon being held on December 11.
If you want to help prepare the meal please talk to Sue Underhill or Sandy Neuendorf

Homeschoolers



The Thames Valley 4-H Homeschooling group began meeting on Friday September 3, at St. Mark and will continue on select Fridays through December 17. They are here 8:30-2:30. We welcome their return and look forward to continuing our relationship with this group of leaders and children. It's always nice to hear children's voices at St. Mark!

Taking Part in Worship

There are many opportunities for individuals to get involved in worship at St. Mark. Each Sunday, we need volunteers to be assisting ministers, readers, kyrie singers, ushers, altar guild members, cameramen, and audio techs. These roles are vital to our worship, and it is easy to join the volunteers. If you are interested in helping with any of these roles, please call the office or speak with Linda Mandel. Pastor Eric, along with our audio-visual personnel, are happy to train new volunteers.



Event Cancellation / Snow Policy for St. Mark



Winter weather in New England can be unpredictable. Because of that, there may come a time when events at church may need to be cancelled out of concern for the safety of our members.

The process for the cancellation of activities due to inclement weather or other emergencies is as follows: Cancellations will be listed in several different places:
1) On TV. Check WFSB, channel 3 for most of the Norwich Area. 2) On the church website and facebook pages.

[St. Mark is on Instagram](#)
**Check us out on Instagram -
@ThePlace.StMark**

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.

Prayer List

We include in our prayers:

Homebound members: Betty Schmidt, Lorraine Fox, Lucille Spanos, Irene Toscano, Bruce Ashline, Hazel Lotring, Martha Johnson and Debbie Andrews.

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

We pray for the sick especially: Sandy Quarto, Ariann Griffin, Lydia Tibbals, Henry Wulf, Laura Jo Sherman, Mary Elizabeth Lang, Tate Campbell, Sarah Sullivan, Charlene Seltz, Christina McCann, Lina McCann, Hope McCann, Yvonne Scott, Parker Churney, Charles Peters, Jennifer Stark, Janet Hatch.

Homebound members: Betty Schmidt, Lorraine Fox, Lucille Spanos, Irene Toscano, Bruce Ashline, Hazel Lotring, Martha Johnson and Debbie Andrews.

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.

We pray for those who have died: Irene Signorino



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.

Cereal Ministry



We continue to feed people: To simplify giving to St. Vincent de Paul Place you can drop off your cereal at St. Mark or send a check 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.

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.



NEWSLETTER OF
ST. MARK LUTHERAN
CHURCH



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ThePlace.StMark



December 2022 Newsletter



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