

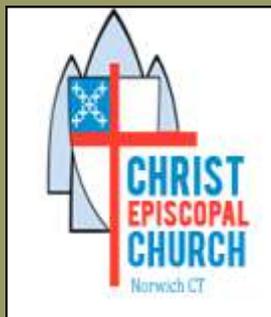
THE COMBINED  
NEWSLETTER OF  
ST. MARK LUTHERAN  
CHURCH AND  
CHRIST EPISCOPAL  
CHURCH

# Narthex News

Working as One to Serve All!

February 2018 Newsletter

## January Guest Preachers



Inside this issue:

Ann's Thoughts	2
Christmas	3, 13,
Congregational Meetings	4, 5
Worship Service Changes	4
Birthdays	7
Memorials	7
Calendars	8-9
Volunteers	10-12
Event Cancellations	19



Rev. Rachel Thomas,  
Episcopal Missioner  
for S.E.C.T.

Jourdan Johnson,  
Young Adult Service  
Corps missionary  
along with Bill Small  
and Rev. Hugh James



## FEBRUARY SUNDAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE AT StM

8:00 am - Spoken Holy Eucharist Service  
8:45 am - Coffee Hour  
9:30 am - Sung Holy Eucharist Service  
10:45 am - Coffee Hour

## Hugh's Thoughts



To Contact Hugh:

E-mail:  
hughjames1784@att.net

Pastoral Emergencies:  
860-859-9709



To Contact Ann:

E-mail:  
amp@larcompress.com

Pastoral Emergencies:  
978-578-6844

---

If you would like to make an appointment with Hugh or Ann, please call either church office at  
860-887-6826  
(St. Mark) or  
860-887-4249  
(Christ Episcopal)

Dear Friends,

I'm writing this just after our vote to continue our relationship and walk together as "merging" congregations. I am grateful to everyone who voted to support what I strongly believe is the way forward for both congregations. The resolutions in both churches were strongly supported. I believe there was one opposing vote in St Mark and 9 in Christ Church. I want to take this opportunity to say that my door will always be open to discuss what we are doing and why. If any of those who voted against the **resolutions would like to discuss their reservations with me, I'd be glad to hear from you.**

For some people change can be very unsettling and even though we know there will be significant change whichever way we had voted it can still be a cause for concern, and one concern for people is which building are we going to choose when we vote. So I thought it might be useful to give a brief outline of the process we envisage leading up to that vote, and then I want to mention something which to me is more important than which building we choose.

We have a Building Committee which has been meeting for many months now. They are charged with researching the relative merits and drawbacks of each building, and coming up with a recommendation for us. The recommendation is to help us decide which building will be better suited both now and in the future for our needs as a church: which one will better enable us to worship together and carry out the mission **(s) that God has for us. The recommendation will not be a simple "this one" or "that one" recommendation, but will be accompanied by a detailed report giving all the pros and cons that they have considered.**

On the 24<sup>th</sup> of February (with a snow date of March 3<sup>rd</sup>) the vestry and council will meet together to hear that report, understand it, discuss it, possibly make changes and assuming they agree to then commend it to the congregation. We will then have the best part of 2 months to explain it to everyone, and we will need to set up meetings to discuss it, and really grapple with all the issues that have been raised, so that when we get to vote on April 29, we will be making the best informed decision that we can.

I said earlier on that there was something more important to me than deciding on a building. In my 62 years I have worshipped regularly in at least 23 different church buildings. All of them have been very special to me, and all of them have been very different, from the magnificent architecture of a medieval priory at Kidwelly (before I moved to Norwich) to a former converted army missen\* hut in Nottage (where I was a curate). I know that God is everywhere, that we can find God anywhere, and that **the building is ultimately no more than the place where God's people gather. Where we really find God is in the people around us and in the love that flows between us. So "the more important thing" for me is what kind of church are we now and what kind of church are we becoming. Do we love and care for all of God's children? Do we love and care for one another? What are we doing to improve the quality of God's love shared among us? How are we celebrating God's love for us and for all people? And how are we sharing that love with the world around us?**

I would commend those questions to you as something to ponder during your Lenten devotions.

Wishing you every blessing,  
Hugh

\* a type of temporary building put up rapidly by the British army during world war 2"



## Lent at Christ-St. Mark

### Ash Wednesday - February 14

10:00 a.m. Ashes to Go outside the Courthouse

12:00 noon Imposition of Ashes and Communion at 248 Broadway

7:00 p.m. Ecumenical Service with Imposition of Ashes at 1st Congregational Church on Norwichtown Green



### Ecumenical Worship in Lent

On Wednesday evenings during Lent there will be a series of services with other churches in the Norwich area. Each of the first five services will be at a different church each week, starting at **7:00 p.m. and the theme will be "Life Together"**. The venues for the different services will be as follows:

February 14 (Ash Wednesday)	First Congregational, Norwichtown Green, 81 E. Town Street
February 21	First Baptist, 239 West Main Street
February 28	Christ-St Mark, 248 Broadway
March 7	Lee Memorial Methodist, 294 Washington Street
March 14	Park Congregational, 283 Broadway
March 21	Christ-St Mark, 248 Broadway

Each church normally provides a reception of finger foods after the service. More details about this later.

On the final Wednesday, March 21, we will have a different kind of evening, which will be held at 248 Broadway as we have the largest fellowship hall. It will involve a pot-luck supper and a hymn sing during which the clergy of the different churches will be explaining why a particular hymn is important to them.

### St. Mark Council Elects Officers

The St. Mark Church Council has elected officers for 2018: Sandy Quarto, President; Joe Churney, Vice President; Sandy Neuendorf, Secretary and Rick Neuendorf, Financial Secretary.

Joe Churney served as Council President from 2012-2017 and also served as president during Pastor Swenson and Pastor Sieburg's calls. We thank him for his dedication, caring and hard work, bringing us through many changes and challenges. Although Joe and Gail are doing some traveling, we are grateful for his continued input and support in 2018.



I have served on the Council in various positions at numerous times since joining St. Mark in 1979. I look forward to working with the Council/Vestry as we continue on our partnership path. This is an exciting time as we forge new ground, work and pray together. After all, we are--

Better together!  
Sandy Quarto

## A New Senior Warden for Christ Episcopal Church

At the Annual Meeting on Sunday January 28 Will Schramm stepped down as Senior Warden of Christ Episcopal Church. We all want to thank him for the leadership he has provided during a time of transition. In the last few months his family circumstances have made it difficult for him to manage all his commitments and we are particularly grateful to him for all he has done.

In his place we welcome Michael Lillpopp. Michael is well known to the Christ Church congregation, having been senior warden during the interim period between Scott Hankins and myself. So he has good experiences of leading church through a period of change, and I will always be grateful for his helping me settle into my first position in an American church. I look forward to working closely with him again.

Hugh James



## Worship Committee Update

The last worship committee was held on Wednesday January 24. We discussed how our Christmas services had gone and reviewed the move back to 248 Broadway. It was felt that the service on Christmas Eve at 10:00 a.m. had gone particularly well. Christ Church had held a similar service on previous Christmas Eves at 7:00p.m. but that had not been so successful in attracting people. We thought that the time had worked well, as had the combination of pageant and lessons inside a communion service. We thought that next year we should try to do the same on the Sunday before Christmas.

We talked about how we are distributing communion at 248 Broadway. The use of the altar rail gives people the opportunity to kneel if they so wish, and that had been considered important by a good number of people when we carried out the survey on distributing communion last Summer. It will take us a little while to get used to this **way of doing it, but we felt it was going to be easier for most of us after we've had a few weeks to iron out the teething problems. If anyone has any observations you'd be welcome to mention them to me or to any member of the committee.**

At each of our meetings we talk about the music at our services. Jesse consults various hymn guides and the ELCA's "**Sundays and Seasons**" website and makes a list of suggestions for us to discuss. Other people make suggestions. We spend time talking it through and then come to a decision about the hymns. This time we decided to try a new setting for the service music (the bits of the service which we sing other than hymns) during the Sunday Services in Lent. This setting is one which was written a few years ago by our organist Jesse N. Glaude. **It was last used in Norwich at my installation as Rector of Christ Church in May 2012. I'm looking forward to hearing it again.**

We discussed our services for Lent, Holy Week and Easter. We decided not to put on an extra Lent Course, but instead to encourage people to support the series of Ecumenical services on Wednesday evenings (see the separate article on this). There may be some who would like to attend the regular Thursday Bible Study or the Tuesday Morning Prayer service as a special Lenten discipline.

On Palm Sunday (March 25) we will probably begin the service with the blessing of palms outside the church, weather permitting. On Maundy Thursday we will celebrate the Last Supper using a liturgy incorporating a Passover style meal and try to recreate the kind of Supper Jesus would have shared with his disciples on that occasion. This service will be at 78 Washington Street, at the request of those who have normally cooked the meal.

On Good Friday we will hold a service at noon at 248 Broadway and there will be the ecumenical Stations of the Cross procession in the evening, from Chelsea Parade along Broadway ending up outside the Central Baptist Church.

On Easter Eve we will hold a vigil service in the evening, and on Easter Day services at our normal times. More details of these nearer the time.

Hugh James

### Informal Congregational Meetings after each Service

Sunday	Topic	Responsibility
Feb 18	Current Usages and how they fit in both churches	Building Committee
Mar 18	Details of voting procedures  These will need to be thought through and proposed to Vestry and Council for approval before the annual meetings, as we plan to use the annual meeting lists as the draft voting rolls.	Building Committee
April 29	Separate vote of each congregation to accept or reject the recommendations of Council and Vestry respectively	Vestry and Council

### WORSHIP SERVICES AT 248 BROADWAY

January 7 - April 1

8:00 a.m. Spoken Eucharist  
Coffee & Tea

9:30 a.m. Sung Eucharist  
Coffee & Tea

### Thursday Bible Study



Thursday Bible Study meets every Thursday, at 6:00 pm in the Pine Room at 78 Washington Street. Readings for the following Sunday will be discussed. Everyone is welcome to join us. The meetings are normally led by Hugh James and last about 45-50 minutes, allowing people plenty of time to attend both the Bible Study and the Choir Practice which begins at 7:00 p.m.



### Godly Play (Sunday School)

If anyone is interested in Godly Play (Sunday School) please speak to Ann Perrott or call the church office.

### Stewardship News

Please remember to fill out your Estimate of Giving cards and put them into the offering plate or mail them to the church office. Thank you for prayerfully making your pledge and sharing your gifts to God and the ministries of St. Mark Church and Christ Episcopal Church.

Your Stewardship Teams



### Christ Trinity, Sheffield, Mass.

We are the first church in Connecticut to be bringing together congregations of Lutherans and Episcopalians, but we are not the first in New England. There are others in Augusta, ME, Claremont, NH and Sheffield, MA. Some of us paid a visit to Sheffield last March and were greatly encouraged by what we heard. You may also remember that in May some of their parishioners came and shared their experience with us in a special service at 248 Broadway.

During December our vestry/council and Christ-Trinity's council both considered my suggestion that we try a pulpit exchange between our two churches. Everyone thought it a good idea and so on March 4<sup>th</sup>, I will be going to Sheffield and leading their services, and Erik Karas, their Pastor will be coming to



Norwich. Erik is a Lutheran pastor who, until July 2017, was pastor of "The Church at 209" which according to their website is "a new Christian Community being developed by The Holy Spirit and the people of Prince of Peace Lutheran Church and St. Mark's Episcopal Church" in Augusta, ME (<http://tweenine.org/>). In July Erik moved to Sheffield (<https://www.christtrinitysheffield.org/our-staff.html>). So he brings with him the experience of two merging congregations.



### African Children's Choir at 248 Broadway on February 11th



Mark your calendars for February 11 at 6 p.m. when Cornerstone City Church hosts the African Children's Choir for a free performance at St. Mark Lutheran Church. These most remarkable children are amazing, exhilarating and inspirational! Jim and I saw them last year and were stunned by their talent, energy and especially their stories.

They will have lessons in Memorial Hall at St. Mark on February 12 & 13 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. and February 14 from 9 to 11 a.m. Come and meet them, stay for lunch, bring a goodie (optional) and hear how they came from tragic circumstances to perform in this remarkable group that has toured all over the world.

Please go to [africanchildrenschoir.com](http://africanchildrenschoir.com) for more info.

*Come early for a good seat - they pack the house!*

Sandy Quarto



### Souperbowl of Caring

Are you ready for the Souperbowl? This is a national initiative to help "tackle hunger" in local communities. We've received 167 cans of soup so far and you can still bring in soup this Sunday - Super Bowl Sunday. All cans are going to go to St. Vincent DePaul Place. They will be delivered on Monday, February 5th. Thank you for your support in this worthwhile project to feed the hungry.

Birthdays and Anniversaries



February Birthdays:

- 6 - Jack Stone
- Valerie Vishno
- 7 - Sandy Vanase
- 8 - Ursula Chartier
- Elaine Coletti
- Elsie Ayers
- 9 - Sandy Neuendorf
- A. Jay Deming
- Hannah Stanley
- 14 - Ruth Stanley
- 16 - Hugh James
- Debra Deming
- Lou Rose
- 19 - Ellen Carnaghan
- 20 - Salvador Aromin
- Leslie Stanley Cox
- 21 - Mary Elizabeth Lang
- 22 - Tammy Gromko
- 24 - Louise Sanquedolce
- 26 - Gretchen McVicker
- 27 - Jillian Stanley

February Anniversaries:

- 20 - Catherine & Stu Cosby



March Narthex News Articles

Please send your articles for the *March Narthex News* to [st.marklutheran248@gmail.com](mailto:st.marklutheran248@gmail.com) by *Friday, February 16th*. Thank you.



\*2018 Flower Chart\*

It is located in Memorial Hall on the wall by the parking lot. The cost is \$30.00 per Sunday for 1 vase



Save Serve (for food handling)

There is a class for Safe Serve that we're trying for on Tuesday, February 13, 2018 from 8 a.m. - 4 p.m. at Dime Savings, just after Wal-Mart. Deadline to sign up is February 5<sup>th</sup>. If you have any questions contact Debbie Kimball or the CEC office.



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

In Loving Memory of  
Robert Eliasson  
By  
Christine Kuzmenko  
Linda Mandel  
Rick and Sandy Neuendorf

Coffee Hour Volunteers Needed



Please consider helping out with coffee hour. Volunteers are needed. Please call St. Mark church office at 860-887-6826 or email to: [st.marklutheran248@gmail.com](mailto:st.marklutheran248@gmail.com) or speak to Linda Mandel.

Thrivent Action Team Grant



The latest Thrivent Action Team Grant was able to provide high protein foods for the Food Pantry. The food delivered on Martin Luther King Jr day was 67 cans of tuna, 120 cans of chicken, 39 cans of low sodium Spam and 40 bags of dried black beans. We hope Thrivent members will make sure to use their allotted grants in 2018. Thrivent is an ecumenical financial program and you can become a benefit member or an associate member to be eligible to apply for grants. If you are interested Churneys, Neuendorfs or Seidels can refer you to a Thrivent representative.

St. Mark Email Change: Our email has changed! The new St. Mark email address is [st.marklutheran248@gmail.com](mailto:st.marklutheran248@gmail.com). Please update your email contact list. We will still receive emails sent to our original [st.mark@snet.net](mailto:st.mark@snet.net), but the new Gmail is safer and more reliable.

# CHRISTMAS at christ - st. mark



## Calendar of Events - February

### SERVICES AT ST. MARK using Evangelical Lutheran Worship & The Book of Common Prayer

CEC = Christ Episcopal Church/StM = St. Mark Luth. Church

\* Each Sunday there is coffee hour after each service,  
Choir practice at 9:00 am

- Thursday, February 1  
6:00 p.m. Bible Study (CEC Pine Room)  
7:00 p.m. Choir (CEC)  
Friday, February 2  
8:00 p.m. AA Meeting (StM)  
Saturday, February 3  
8:00 a.m. Cornerstone (StM)
- Sunday, February 4\*, Epiphany 5  
8:00 a.m. Spoken Eucharist Service  
9:30 a.m. Sung Eucharist Service  
11:00 a.m. Cornerstone (StM)  
Monday, February 5  
7:00 p.m. Barbershoppers (StM)  
Tuesday, February 6  
9:00 a.m. Morning Prayer (CEC)  
6:30 p.m. Cornerstone (StM)  
Wednesday, February 7  
6:00 p.m. TOPS (CEC)  
6:30 p.m. Cornerstone (StM)  
Thursday, February 8  
6:00 p.m. Bible Study (CEC Pine Room)  
7:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal (CEC)  
Friday, February 9  
11:00 a.m. Food Pantry (CEC)  
8:00 p.m. AA Meeting (StM)  
Saturday, February 10  
8:00 a.m. Cornerstone (StM)
- Sunday, February 11\* Transfiguration of Our Lord  
8:00 a.m. Spoken Eucharist Service  
9:30 a.m. Sung Eucharist Service  
11:00 a.m. Cornerstone (StM)  
6:00 p.m. African Children's Choir (StM)  
Monday, February 12  
7:00 p.m. Barbershoppers (StM)  
Tuesday, February 13  
9:00 a.m. Morning Prayer (CEC)  
6:00 p.m. Lions Club (CEC)  
6:30 p.m. Cornerstone (StM)  
Wednesday, February 14 - Ash Wednesday  
10:00 a.m. Ashes to go (Courthouse)  
12:00 p.m. Ash Wednesday Communion w/ashes (StM)  
6:00 p.m. TOPS (CEC)  
6:30 p.m. Cornerstone (StM)  
7:00 p.m. Ash Wednesday Ecumenical Service  
at First Congregational Church, Norwichtown Green,  
81 E. Town Street
- Thursday, February 15  
6:00 p.m. Bible Study (CEC Pine Room)  
7:00 p.m. Choir (CEC)  
Friday, February 16  
11:00 a.m. Food Pantry (CEC)  
8:00 p.m. AA Meeting (St. Mark)  
Saturday, February 17  
8:00 a.m. Cornerstone (StM)
- Sunday, February 18\* Lent 1  
8:00 a.m. Spoken Eucharist Service  
8:45 a.m. Cong. Meeting w/Building Committee  
9:30 a.m. Sung Eucharist Service  
10:30 a.m. Cong. Meeting w/Building Committee  
11:00 a.m. Cornerstone (StM)  
Monday, February 19  
7:00 p.m. Barbershoppers (StM)  
Tuesday, February 20  
9:00 a.m. Morning Prayer (CEC)  
6:30 p.m. Cornerstone (StM)  
6:30 p.m. Combined Council/Vestry Meeting (StM)  
Wednesday, February 21  
6:00 p.m. TOPS (CEC)  
6:30 p.m. Cornerstone (StM)  
7:00 p.m. Ecumenical Lenten Service (First Baptist, 239  
West Main Street)  
Thursday, February 22  
6:00 p.m. Bible Study (CEC Pine Room)  
7:00 p.m. Choir (CEC)  
Friday, February 23  
11:00 a.m. Food Pantry (CEC)  
8:00 p.m. AA Meeting (StM)  
Saturday, February 24  
8:00 a.m. Cornerstone (StM)  
9 a.m. - 1 p.m. Vestry/Council Meeting w/Bldg Cmtee (StM)
- Sunday, February 25\* Lent 2  
8:00 a.m. Spoken Eucharist Service  
9:30 a.m. Sung Eucharist Service  
11:00 a.m. Cornerstone (StM)  
Monday, February 26  
7:00 p.m. Barbershoppers (StM)  
Tuesday, February 27  
9:00 a.m. Morning Prayer (CEC)  
6:00 p.m. Lions Club (CEC)  
6:30 p.m. Cornerstone (StM)  
7:00 p.m. Worship Committee (StM)  
Wednesday, February 28  
6:00 p.m. TOPS (CEC)  
6:30 p.m. Cornerstone (StM)  
7:00 p.m. Ecumenical Lenten Service (StM)



## February Volunteer Schedule

Normally we email these assignments to people.

Date:	February 4	February 11	February 18	February 25
-------	------------	-------------	-------------	-------------

8:00 a.m.

Acolyte:	Irene Landis	Kayla Mills	Ron Crouch	Dave Anderson
Reader:	Linda Snarski	Joan Good	Ron Crouch	Dale Eichholz
Chalice Bearer:	Chuck K. Norris	Peter Sepowitz	Ron Crouch	Chuck K. Norris
Coffee Hour:	Irene Landis and Kayla Mills	Carol and Peter Sepowitz	Rose and Dave Anderson	Dale Eichholz

9:30 a.m.

Crucifer:	Owen McVicker	Will Schramm	Sabrina Tolppi	Stu Cosby
Acolyte:	Stephen Kimball	Aiden McVicker	Rozanne Sobieski	Owen McVicker
Chalice Bearers:	Virginia Maloney Rick Neuendorf Sandy Quarto	Tom Seidel Sandy Vanase Marilyn Williams	Sandy Quarto Stu Cosby Dawn Erardy	Alice Harding Judy Huntley Stephen Kimball
Reader:	Sandy Neuendorf Ruth Stanley	Patty Russell Linda Andrews	Eileen Akers Sabrina Tolppi	Robert Tolppi Cathy Cosby
Intercessor:	Eileen Akers	Judy Huntley	Janet Koch	Sandy Neuendorf
Ushers:	Richard Russ Rozanne Sobieski	Lisa Carr <i>Need a volunteer</i>	Herb Zickwolf Judy Huntley	Mary E. Lang Joan Seidel
Altar Guild:	Debbie Kimball Dawn Erardy Alvina Williams Virginia Maloney	Bill Small Sandy Neuendorf	Pam Jaxheimer Judy Huntley Ursula Chartier	Janet Koch Judy Huntley
CEC Counters:	Bill Small Dawn Erardy(DI)	Rozanne Sobieski Judy Huntley (DI)	Debbie Baltzell Jay Deming (DI)	Lisa Carr Dawn Erardy (DI)
Eucharistic Visitor:	-----	Sandy & Rick Neuendorf	Virginia Maloney	-----
Coffee Hour:	<i>Need a CEC volunteer</i> Sandy Quarto	Dawn Erardy Ursula Chartier	Debbie Kimball Richard Russ	Janet Koch Joan Seidel

If you are unable to serve on your assigned dates,  
please let Linda Mandel at the Broadway church office  
know who your replacement will be.

[st.marklutheran248@gmail.com](mailto:st.marklutheran248@gmail.com) or 860-887-6826 Thank you!

## March Volunteer Schedule

*Normally we email these assignments to people.*

Date:	March 4	March 11	March 18	March 25
-------	---------	----------	----------	----------

8:00 a.m.

Acolyte:	Irene Landis	Kayla Mills	Ron Crouch	Dave Anderson
Reader:	Linda Snarski	Joan Good	Sue Underhill	Ron Crouch
Chalice Bearer:	Peter Sepowitz	Ron Crouch	Chuck K. Norris	Peter Sepowitz
Coffee Hour:	Irene Landis and Kayla Mills	Carol and Peter Sepowitz	Dave and Rose Anderson	Dale Eichholz

9:30 a.m.

Crucifer:	Aiden McVicker	Will Schramm	Sabrina Tolppi	Stu Cosby
Acolyte:	Stephen Kimball	Owen McVicker	Rozanne Sobieski	Aiden McVicker
Chalice Bearers:	Mary Elizabeth Lang Virginia Maloney Rick Neuendorf	Sandy Quarto Will Schramm Tom Seidel	Sandy Vanase Marilyn Williams Stu Cosby	Dawn Erardy Alice Harding Judy Huntley
Reader:	Stu Cosby Linda Andrews	Megan Armstrong Janet Koch	Mary Elizabeth Lang Sandy Neuendorf	Robin Slane David Norman
Intercessor:	Eileen Akers	Judy Huntley	Janet Koch	Sandy Neuendorf
Ushers:	Christine Murtha Richard Russ	Herb Zickwolf David Norman	Lisa Carr Mary E. Lang	Rozanne Sobieski Richard Russ
Altar Guild:	Debbie Kimball Dawn Erardy Alvina Williams Virginia Maloney	Bill Small Sandy Neuendorf	Pam Jaxheimer Judy Huntley Ursula Chartier	Janet Koch Sandy Neuendorf
CEC Counters:	Cal Edgar Dawn Erardy(DI)	Bruce Jaxheimer Judy Huntley (DI)	Stephen Kimball Jay Deming (DI)	Bill Small Dawn Erardy (DI)
Eucharistic Visitor:	-----	Sandy & Rick Neuendorf	Virginia Maloney	-----
Coffee Hour:	<i>Need a CEC volunteer</i> Herb Zickwolf	<i>Need a CEC volunteer</i> Virginia Maloney	Janet Koch Linda Mandel	Debbie Kimball Sandy & Rick Neuendorf

If you are unable to serve on your assigned dates,  
please let Linda Mandel at the Broadway church office  
know who your replacement will be.

[st.marklutheran248@gmail.com](mailto:st.marklutheran248@gmail.com) or 860-887-6826 Thank you!

### 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 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.*

### Eucharistic Visitors



The very vital ministry of bring Communion to homebound members and friends of St. Mark Church will continue in the months ahead. If you would like to join this team of people, please speak to Hugh James.

### Prayer List

Homebound Parishioners: Elaine Andrews, Pat Bromley, Mary Browning, Evelyn Fletcher, Jeanette Maplesden, Lucy Salva, Ruth Sanders and Linda James.

Clergy: For Justin, Archbishop of Canterbury, The Rt. Rev. Michael Curry, Presiding Bishop; Ian, our Bishop, Laura our Bishop, Suffragan; John, Bishop of the New England Synod in the Evangelical Lutheran Church; Michael, Bishop of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Norwich; Rachel Thomas, our Regional Missionary; Hugh our Rector & Pastor of St. Mark Lutheran Church; and Ann, our Priest.

Young Adult Service Corps: Jourdan Johnson during her year of missionary service in Brazil.

We pray for the sick especially for: Peter, John, Doris Ramsay, Joan Cantwell, Donna Hamilton; Miranda McClean, Arolyn Scott (breast cancer & diabetes), Tom Aromin, Jesse Kalisher, Dennis Levander; Tom Belden, Betty Heubner, Brother Rob, Sarah Sullivan, Daniel Tracy, Mary Simcik, Don Weseman, Fran Archambeault, Marsha Charest, Eben Smith, Carl Smith, Matthew Maloney, Molly Garcia, Michael Schmidt, Parker Churney, John Federkiewicz, Bruce Ashline, Jennifer Bedell, Caroline, Cherie Schanandoah, Charles Peters, Lina McCann, Hope McCann, Andy Foster, Christina McCann, Kristin Zawacki, Marge Jabs, Jennifer Stark, Susan Keller, Janet Hatch. Also, those with addictions, their families & friends.

For the hungry: for all children being sexually abused and the adults healing from it, homeless, all persons living with HIV/AIDS, their families, and those who care for them; for those who are out of work or looking for work.

For those who defend our liberties on land, sea, and in the air: David Carl Krug, Azi Idehenre, Chad McCord, Josh Leone, John Sepowitz, Christopher Wright, and for the innocent victims of warfare.

In Thanksgiving for: Our Food Pantry available for those in need

For all those in need of guidance: Dolan family, Miranda & family

### Tuesday Morning Prayer—Join Us!

Those of us that support the Morning Prayer program at Christ Episcopal Church on Tuesday fulfill an important part of our Church's life.

In the process of conducting the service we prepare to pray for the needs of the congregation. Beyond the list of church leaders and churches both near and far we pray for members of our congregation and those they care for. There is no great secret in doing this and being effective but our numbers are few and so we are inviting anyone to join us and add to our voices. There is ample evidence that prayer works and by increasing the voices there is a greater chance that we will be heard.

This simple said service starts in the Pine Room promptly at 9:00 and lasts about 20 minutes. About once a month a Holy Eucharist will be included to honor men and women that have served the faith since its earliest years.

Following the service we have coffee and tea in the Pine Room and we try to bring ourselves up to date on those we pray for or those we may visit.

## Jourdan Johnson - Brazil Update

First, I would like to say how happy and grateful I am to have been back with you all in the past few weeks and being able to share my experiences. In less than a week, I head back south to warmer breezes. Each time **I move, it is difficult and doesn't necessarily get any easier with time or practice, because it still means saying goodbye.** But, knowing that I will be going to see people I know and love and that I can always return helps ease the transition.

In the upcoming six months I'm still not entirely sure what all of my duties in Brazil will be, but that is often the nature of the culture there; flexibility is a must. I do know that I will continue to work with the youth group, sing in the choir, acolyte and visit other areas in diocese to help out where I can. There is also the possibility that I will be helping to lead a retreat or two for clergy. In June the Archbishop elections and the vote around gay marriage will occur so there may be some interesting news around that time.

As I am extending my time in Brazil, I will need to do a bit more fundraising. Again, the Episcopal Church pays the majority of the costs, but I am asked to raise a percentage. I thank all of those who have contributed previously. If you feel led and are able to help out, you can contribute in the following ways:

*Send checks to:*

Yanick Fourcand  
Mission Personnel Office  
The Episcopal Church Center  
[815 Second Ave.](#)  
New York, NY 10017  
*Memo:* Jourdan Johnson,  
Volunteers in Mission

Online:

<http://cecnorwichct.org/donate-to-cec.html>

Memo: Jourdan Johnson (or just write a check out to Christ Church with my name in the memo.)

Donations are tax deductible, let me know if you want the form to fill out for this reason.  
Wishing you and your family a wonderful new year!

I am looking forward to letting you all know what I am up to and hopefully getting some news about the USA in return. See you all in six months!

Jourdan



## History of Coventry Cathedral and the Cross of Nails

The Cathedral of St. Michael, one of the largest parish church buildings in England, was elevated to Cathedral status in 1918 when the Diocese of Coventry was created. The building was built primarily in the late 14<sup>th</sup> and early 15<sup>th</sup> centuries and has the 3<sup>rd</sup> tallest spire in all of England. It was the second of 3 buildings built on the land where it currently sits – the first a Benedictine Priory and Monastery built between 1095 and 1102 and stood until Henry VII's Dissolution of the Monasteries in 1539.

Coventry was blitzed on the evening on November 14, 1940 by the German Luftwaffe. Much later it was disclosed that the bombing of Coventry that night was expected and the event was used by the British as confirmation that British Intelligence had broken the Enigma code and would, hopefully, draw the US into the war a full year before Pearl Harbor. 500 tons of explosives, 33,000 incendiary bombs as well as parachute bombs were dropped on the city of Coventry with 507 citizens killed and 420 seriously injured during that raid alone.



The roofless ruins of the old cathedral.

The Cathedral was hit leaving only the tower, spire, outer walls and a bronze tomb of the first bishop of the Diocese of Coventry in the current iteration. The burning of the organ was hot enough to melt all the leading in the stained glass windows.



The new cathedral as seen from the tower of the old cathedral.

The decision to build a new cathedral was made almost immediately. A competition was held in 1950 to design the new cathedral with the winner Basil Spence and Arup selected from over 200 entries. The decision to leave the old cathedral as a garden of remembrance and to build the new building using the same sandstone as the ruins tied the 2 buildings together. An archway from the new to the steps of the old further connects the buildings together.

The foundation stone was laid by HRH Elizabeth II in 1956 and the Cathedral was consecrated in 1962.

The West Window of the Cathedral (always the back wall of a traditional church) is solid floor to ceiling glass which allows the communicant to see the ruins as you return to your seat from receiving Communion looking through the Screen of Saints and Angels. Behind the high altar at the East End of the Cathedral is a tapestry (thought to be one of the largest in the world) depicting Christ. The stained glass windows in the Nave face away from the congregation and you only see them as you return to your seat from communion.

The building also includes a Chapel of Unity, a space not consecrated as an Anglican space, but leased to a Joint Council which is Ecumenical.





From within the ruins, 2 crosses were created that are familiar without the **Anglican world**. **The first is the Charred Cross**. **The cathedral's stonemason** saw 2 roofing timbers laying on the floor in the shape of a cross. He wired them together. The original Charred Cross stood on the alter in the Ruins until 1964 when it was replaced by a replica. The original is now in a case in the Cathedral. The Provost of the Cathedral in 1948, Richard Howard, engraved the words Father Forgive into the sandstone surrounding the altar in the ruins.

The second is the Cross of Nails. This is the cross that you see me wearing **when I'm vested**. **The original was made from 3 roofing nails and was created** by the Provost at the suggestion of a young priest. The current Cross of Nails is a part of the cross on the high altar in the new building.

The Cross of Nails has become a symbol for peace and reconciliation globally – there are over 330 Cross of

Nails Centers throughout the world which have either a cross made from original nails or supplied by a prison in Germany. The current Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby, was a Canon at Coventry Cathedral and a part of the International Centre for Reconciliation earlier in his life.

The Litany of Reconciliation, based on the Seven Cardinal Sins, was written in 1958 and is prayed daily at noon either in the Cathedral or on Fridays, in the Ruins. It provides a reminder to all that while we pray for the sins and problems of the world, we must always remember to start with ourselves.

In celebration of the rebirth of the city of Coventry, it was recently selected as the City of Culture for the UK in 2021. Many of the events noted by the selection committee are events which occur at the Cathedral. The City of Culture is an every 4 year award – prior winners include Derry, Hull, Glasgow and Liverpool is modeled on a European Capital City of Culture concept.

I first visited Coventry on Easter Weekend 1969 as a 13 year old traveling with my grandparents and my Dad. The experience of being in Coventry on Easter Morning for a sunrise service held in the ruins followed by the regular service in the Nave is one that I've never forgotten.

**I've continued to travel to Coventry for spiritual strength throughout the rest of my adult life and wear the Cross of Nails every day and a larger one when I serve at the altar.** The experience of walking with Jesus through the 4 days of Easter starting with Maundy Thursday is extremely powerful as I also remember the loss of life caused during the Blitz that night in 1940 and think about the Resurrection of Jesus as witnessed by the people of Coventry.

Written by Stu Cosby

The first 4 pictures were taken from [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Coventry\\_Cathedral](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Coventry_Cathedral)

The picture of the Cross of Nails was taken from <http://www.heureka.clara.net/books/cross.htm>

The Coventry Litany of Reconciliation was taken from <http://www.coventrycathedral.org.uk/ccn/the-coventry-litany-of-reconciliation/>



## Did You Know that you can make a gift to support St. Mark Lutheran Church or Christ Episcopal Church with a tax free distribution from your IRA?

For those aged 70½ or older, it is once again possible to make tax-favored charitable gifts from traditional and Roth IRA accounts.

On December 18, 2015, President Obama signed into law legislation that retroactively extends the charitable IRA rollover for 2015 and makes this provision permanent for future years. A total of up to \$100,000 can be transferred directly from traditional or Roth IRAs to St. Mark Lutheran Church or Christ Episcopal Church free from federal income tax each year. Amounts given in this way count toward required IRA minimum withdrawal amounts for the year of the gift.

To make such gift, it is important to not withdraw funds prior to a gift, but have the gift amount distributed directly from an IRA to St. Mark Lutheran Church or Christ Episcopal Church. Donors must complete this gift by December 31, 2018.

To take advantage of the IRA charitable rollover to make your gift to support St. Mark Lutheran Church or Christ Episcopal Church, please review the following helpful tips on how to handle your charitable gift correctly:

\*Contact your IRA custodian or representative before making a gift to arrange for the proper transfer of funds from your IRA directly to St. Mark Lutheran Church or Christ Episcopal Church. The check issued from the IRA must be made payable to St. Mark or Christ Episcopal.

\*If you have elected to have income tax withheld from your normal IRA distributions, advise your IRA administrator not to withhold taxes from distributions to charity.

\*Consult your tax advisor for the tax reporting of the special election described above.

\*While this topic is fresh on your mind, ask your attorney and financial advisor how to make St. Mark Lutheran Church or Christ Episcopal Church a beneficiary of your will or trust or IRA.

Q: Can I give my RMD to charity now, or do I have to wait until December?

A: You can give your RMD to charity anytime during the year.

*This is information only about the change in the IRA tax law and should not be considered as legal, tax or financial advice. You should consult with your legal, tax and financial advisors to implement the benefits of the IRA charitable rollover law and related matters.*

### Future Q&A

Q: *How much can I transfer from my IRA to charity? Can I transfer more than my RMD?*

A: Yes, if you are 70½ or older, you can transfer up to \$100,000 to charity tax-free each year~ even if that's more than your required RMD. The money counts as your required minimum distribution but isn't included in your adjusted gross income.

**Q: I'll be 70½ in a few months. Can I give my RMD to charity now?**

A: Even though you can take your RMD any time during the year you turn 70½ (or until April 1 of the year after you turn 70½), you have to wait until you actually turn 70½ to make the tax-free transfer to charity.

Q: *Can I give my 401K RMD to charity?*

A: No. You can only make the tax-free transfer from an IRA.

Q: *Can I withdraw the money from my IRA and then write a check to charity, or do I need to transfer the money directly?*

A: You need to transfer the money directly from the IRA to the charity for it to count as a tax-free transfer. Ask your IRA administrator and the charity about making a direct transfer, or you can have the IRA administrator send a check from your account to the charity. If you have check writing for your IRA, you can write a check to the charity. Give the charity a heads up so it knows the contribution came from you and can send you an acknowledgment.

## Food Bank Necessities and Schedule

### **Christ Episcopal Church Food Pantry 11:00 a.m. to 12:30pm Schedule for**

February	4	closed
February	11	open
February	18	open
February	25	open



- The Food Pantry could always use:**
- peanut butter, tuna in water, canned chicken, canned black beans and kidney beans, dried lentils
  - plain white rice, brown rice, rice mixes, pasta, macaroni and cheese, potato side mixes
  - canned diced tomatoes, plain tomato sauce (no salt added), canned carrots, peas, corn, and mixed vegetables
  - canned chili, chunky-style soups with meat and vegetables
  - canned green chilies (mild), pasta sauce, ketchup, mustard, small boxes of sugar or sweetener, salt and pepper, small jar of mayonnaise, coffee, tea bags, pancake syrup, grape jelly, strawberry jam
  - canned peaches, fruit cocktail, pineapple chunks or slices, pears
  - 100% juice boxes for kids (no large bottles), shelf-stable milk (such as Parmalat), shelf-stable almond milk (for lactose intolerant clients)

## Cereal Ministry



Many Thanks to those of you who have brought and continue to bring in cereal for St Vincent De Paul Place. As you recall, St. Mark created a new Mission oriented ministry to "help feed those who hunger" by making a commitment to provide at least 25 boxes of cereal to the SVDPP food pantry each month. This commitment from St. Mark along with similar commitments from other churches and community groups helps SVDPP to better plan for meeting the needs of the community and is greatly appreciated by the patrons of their food pantry. This is a very easy ministry for most of us, requiring only a walk down the cereal aisle to buy cereal each month and put it into the collection bin in either the Narthex or the Pine Room marked cereal for St. Vincent de Paul. Please do your part. Thank you.

## Event Cancellation / Snow Policy for Christ - 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. Christ Church School of the Arts follows the procedure laid down by Norwich schools. If they are closed CCSArts will also be closed for lessons.



THE COMBINED  
NEWSLETTER OF  
ST. MARK LUTHERAN  
CHURCH AND  
CHRIST EPISCOPAL  
CHURCH

St. Mark Lutheran  
Church  
248 Broadway  
Norwich CT 06360

860-887-6826

st.marklutheran248@  
gmail.com

Facebook:  
Norwich Lutherans

[norwichlutherans.org](http://norwichlutherans.org)

Christ Episcopal  
Church  
78 Washington St.  
Norwich CT 06360

860-887-4249

[cecnorwich@sbcglobal.net](mailto:cecnorwich@sbcglobal.net)

Facebook:  
CEC Norwich

[cecnorwichct.org](http://cecnorwichct.org)

