



The Messenger

VOL. LXII, ISSUE II

St. Mark's Lutheran Church

February 2020

Called by the Spirit. Equipped to Serve. Sent to love all!

Greetings from Pastor Ken

Dear Members of St. Mark's,

Many of you have met me, some have not. I'm Pastor Ken Thurow, and the plan is that I will serve as your pastor until a "permanent" pastor has accepted your call. I met with the Council at their January 14 meeting, and have spent time in the office on a few occasions so far. I had previously been scheduled to lead worship and preach at King of Kings in Pueblo the last two Sundays of January and have completed that obligation. Starting January 28, I will be present at St. Mark's on a more consistent schedule.



A very brief bio: I live in Boulder with my wife, Marlys. A graduate of Wartburg Seminary, I served in the South Dakota Synod for 27 years; we moved to Boulder in 1990, and I retired in 2000. I have since served as Interim Pastor in 10 congregations and been active in leading worship and preaching in many more. Marlys and I have three adult children and six (mostly adult) grandchildren. We love sports and travel. Special theological interests include the Bible (notably the Gospels and Old Testament Prophets) and its relevance to social and justice issues. I have authored a small book, *A Place at the Table: Scripture, Sexuality, and Life in the Church*. There's more, but you will be learning it as we spend time together and by asking.

In the immediate future we will be planning for Lent, and I will be learning to know you, the area, and characteristics and pastoral care needs of St. Mark's. I look forward to it.

*Peace,
Pastor Ken Thurow*

(pronounced pretty much like "thorough," not like "Thoreau")

It's Been a Privilege—Goodbye from Pastor Bev

Dear People of St. Mark's,

The years certainly pass quickly, don't they? I came to you as your Interim Pastor just over a year ago in November 2018. I dare say that many (or most) of you didn't want an interim. You wanted to get your next "real" pastor. In the Rocky Mountain Synod, transitions from one settled pastor to the next involve a period of transition to reflect on the past and set goals for the future and this period is led by a pastor experienced in the interim process.

Over the next 13 months we accomplished quite a bit. The Transition Team worked diligently to study the neighborhood and its population trends, survey, interview and converse with members of the congregation, and published a report of their findings, which will guide the newly formed Call Committee to complete the interim process.

Along the way we came together week after week as a community gathered in prayer and praise, in Word and Meal, encouraged for our individual and collective journeys as disciples of the living Christ. We worshiped in the pavilion in the warmth of the summer sun; picnicked and celebrated the bounty of vegetable gardens. We collected over 100 pairs of shoes for children in need, fed the hungry with hot meals on Wednesday evenings, and provided food through the Food Pantry. The quilters recycled plastic bags into sleeping mats, the prayer warriors met weekly to pray with intention for the needs of loved ones and the world. We entrusted beloved saints to their eternal home. We hosted youth groups from around the country during the summer, and in the fall welcomed a new youth group member, Kobe Kemp. Kinna began a confirmation class and continued to reach out to the youth of the community with the love of Christ, building healthy relationships with the confidence that God's love is for everyone, no matter what.

It was a privilege and a blessing to be your pastor for the past 13 months. You are imprinted on my heart and you will continue to be in my prayers. Just as there are boundaries that must be set when a settled pastor leaves, so there are with interim pastors. We entrust you to the leadership and care of another pastor, and we watch from a distance as you make your way into the future.

God bless you, each and every one for you have been a gift to me.

May the peace of Christ be with you always!

Pastor Bev



Pastor's Email



Please note that if you send an email to pastor@stmarksaurora.org, it will now be read by Pastor Ken and not Pastor Bev. We retain the same email for the pastor to foster continuity through changes in pastoral leadership rather than establishing a new email for each pastor that everyone has to learn.

Note: You may have to edit your Contacts to update the name associated with this email address, especially if it still reads Pastor Bev or Pastor Inga's name..

Transitions and Lent

You've heard this one before: As Adam & Eve were being sent out of the Garden, Adam turned to Eve and said, "Eve, I think we are in a time of transition."

Yes, I know that is always true – have you noticed how many hybrid or totally electric cars are on the streets and highways? Are you as amazed as I am by the continuing advances in science and technology? As I was driving to St. Mark's just before writing this, I was listening to Public Radio – listening to a scientist describing bricks that could reproduce themselves – cut one in half and each would grow into a full brick! OK, transitions. And St. Mark's is experiencing far more than enough transition. So now I'm here following an Interim Pastor – but not as the called pastor you had hoped would be here, but as a "Bridge Pastor," hopefully to bring this relay to the finish line.

But let's keep breathing. The Call Committee is in place with most of the prep work finished. Names of prospective pastors will soon be coming, then interviews, and at the end of the process, a new pastor. But amid all the transitions, we are here. You are here, and the life of St. Mark's continues in all the richness of worship, learning, outreach, and community life. Adult Faith Formation is underway, starting with biblical topics: February 2 – Gospels 4:1; February 9 – Prophets & Non-prophets; February 16 – New Testament Judaism: Born in Babylon.

Near the end of February, we enter the season of Lent. St. Mark's will again have both noon and evening worship on the Wednesdays of Lent. **NOON MEALS WILL CONTINUE IF YOU COME TO TAKE PART!** The workers are ready and willing, but (especially in 2019) participation was disappointing. In other words, bring your appetite along with your readiness for worship.



The Lenten theme for the midweek services following Ash Wednesday is "Holy Week: The Gathering Storm." The brief homilies will look at events and words of Jesus (primarily from Matthew's Gospel) between the Palm Sunday entrance into Jerusalem and the Thursday Last Supper. "The Fig-Tree Incident," "I Cannot Come to the Banquet," "The Religion Trap," "Survival Guide," "Here Comes the Judge." Liturgy for the 6:30 evening services will be Holden Evening Prayer. Plan to walk through the season with us. Invite others.

Peace,
Pastor Ken Thurow



Call Committee Update

Michele Gohl

The Call Committee met with Sarah Moening from the office of the bishop on January 14. We went over our Ministry Site Profile and discussed the next moves of the Call Committee. The Call Committee will have regular meetings to assure this process goes as smooth as possible.

Please pray for the Call Committee as we move through this process. The members of the committee are: Norma Duncan, Clark Gilbert, Ken Barger, Dawn Ramos, Dorie Gerhart, Fanus Tampubolon, and myself.

From the desk of the Director of Youth and Family Ministry

Kinna Nordstrom

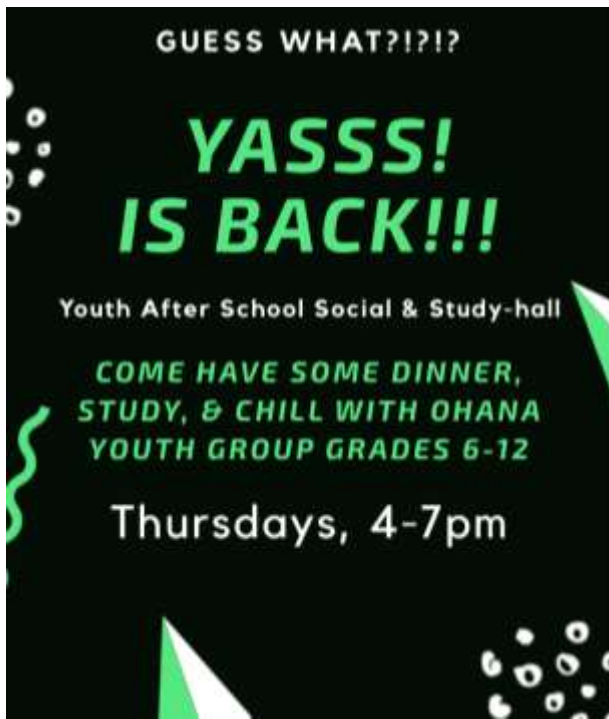
As I have mentioned before, I am on the board for the Auraria Campus Ministry (ACM). I helped start ACM with my two friends from seminary, and our youth were their first students. The ministry is growing and is very similar to the ecumenical and community centered OHANA youth ministry here at St. Mark's. This picture is from one of their Tuesday night dinners with our guest visitor, Bishop Jim Gonia.



For more information and to subscribe to the weekly newsletter, visit the ACM website at <https://www.aurariacampusministry.org/>.



I think it's safe to say that Kobe has been welcomed with open arms into the OHANA Youth Group and St. Mark's. Thank you for all the love, support, and patience with our lil' guy! He's now 5 months old, has two teeth, almost sits up on his own, is sleeping through the night (most nights), and just started eating cereal. Kendall and I are so in love! A special thank you to my Youth Committee and youth – Diana and Vere – for taking care of Kobe while I teach my Affirmation of Baptism class. Takes a village, amen?!



As most of you know, my position here at St. Mark's is part time, which means I have to find supplemental work. For about a year now, I was working for an after-school program, which meant I had to put our YASSS! program at St. Mark's on hold. Luckily, I was offered a new part time job at Messiah Community Church, that allows me to bring this beloved program back! This also means that I will be gone one Sunday a month to be at Messiah, where I serve as the Director of Music Ministries. A big shout out to my Youth Committee, and my Faith Formation Committee, for their efforts to continue programming while I am absent once a month. I know our young people, and I, really appreciate you!

SMLCW News

Mary Stephenson, President

Well here we are moving into month number two of 2020 and life continues to move forward.

I first would like to thank Laura Cote' and Tammi Susan Whitcomb for assisting with the church service on December 29, 2019. There were 48 members who ventured out in the cold, snowy weather to participate in Lessons and Carols. Thank you to Ken Barger for providing music, Rose Kvern for playing the organ, Sara Jensen and Patrick Stephenson for helping with ushering. If I left anyone out, I apologize. All in all it was a great continuation of hearing the story of Jesus birth and singing many carols.



I hope you marked your calendars for **Sunday, February 9** as that is our annual **BAKE SALE!** You have time to plan to participate, whether it is providing items to sell, buying of the goodies, or just donating to the cause. All proceeds will be divided equally between Aurora Mental Health and our ongoing convention fund. This is an annual event and we always have lots of support. We set up just outside the library in the Narthex so you can't miss it. Looking forward to another successful event.

As we move into February, we are strongly reminded it is the month of LOVE. You can't walk into a store without seeing the balloons of hearts, multiple displays of flowers and Valentine cards. It was already coming out before Christmas items were moved out. Why do we rush each special day? Jesus tells us to love one another all the time. You know, sometimes that is a hard task to do. We hear not much good on TV or the radio but only bad. Our ears need to hear and our eyes need to open to the good in our world. So, as you celebrate Valentine's Day in your own way, remember that Jesus tells us to love one another. Look for the good all around you.

Council Corner

Council Highlights—January 14, 2020

President Gohl opened the meeting at 5:27 pm. Pastor Ken Thurow led devotion and prayer.

Secretary, Treasurer, and Financial Secretary reports were reviewed and accepted.

President's Report

President Ryan addressed a question concerning the length of time the flooring installation is taking. Ryan has told him that he will start deducting from his pay if he misses any more deadlines.

New Beginnings sent a letter to Ryan asking to have Mary Katherine serve as their Administrative Assistant approximately 3 hours a week. New Beginnings is prepared to pay for this and to cover the cost of the copier. The council will review this letter and vote on it at a later date.

Pastor's Report

Pastor Ken shared with Council that he plans to be available to the congregation whenever needed and he would like to be contacted in the event of any crisis.

New Business

Ryan reminded council that Annual Reports are due January 31.

Dorie and Ellie will represent the council serving on the Nominating Committee with Ryan sitting in as Council President.

Ryan is looking for people to set up audit committees.

Parish Education

As printed: Kinna thanked the Council for allowing her to miss one Sunday a month for a new part time job as the ¼ time Music Director at Messiah Community Church. This will free up time for her to bring back Youth After School Social and Study since she will go from working 20 hours a week outside St. Mark's to only 10 hours a week.

Call Committee

Sarah Moening from the Office of the Bishop office joined the Council, the Transition Team, and the Call Committee to fill out the Ministry Site Profile. This will help her in finding candidates for the Call Committee to interview for a new pastor.

Sarah then excused the Council and Transition Team to meet with the Call Committee alone. Members of Call Committee present were: Michele Gohl (from the Transition Team), Clark Gilbert, Norma Duncan, Dawn Ramos, Dorie Gerhardt, Ken Barger, Fanus Tampubolon, and Ryan Gohl (representing the Council).



Building Security

Please always check that *all* exterior entry doors are locked and fully latched prior to leaving the building.
Your help in securing the facility is greatly appreciated.

Summarized Report of Income and Expenses

Submitted by Bill Stephenson, Treasurer

<u>December, 2019</u>			
<u>Current Month</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Year to Date</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Total Income	\$21,977.59	Total Income	\$195,347.68
Total Expenses	-\$32,717.75	Total Expenses	-\$228,552.89
Net Income	-\$10,740.16	Net Income	-\$33,205.21
BUDGET COMPARISON OF ENVELOPE OFFERING			
<u>Monthly Budget Amount</u>	<u>Actual Current Month</u>	<u>Budget Year to Date</u>	<u>Actual Year to Date</u>
\$13,718.63	\$16,542.84	\$164,623.55	\$139,413.79
Over/Under Budget	\$2,824.21		-\$25,209.76

Thank You Notes

Thank you to Bob Gunther for his time and efforts in replacing the broken timer that controls when the exterior lights on the front of the church building come on and turn off. In case you haven't noticed in driving by after dark, Bob also installed a new light fixture that illuminates the three crosses in front of the sanctuary at night. We greatly appreciate his sharing his electrical skills with our church in helping to address these issues!

Neil and Rose Kvern send a hearty thanks to the thoughtful folks who put together the basket of delicious fruit. We have really enjoyed and appreciated it.

I am always humbled at receiving extra compensation as a paid employee, by those who are already generous donors of time and finances. My sincere appreciation. —Rose Kvern

To all the special Angels at St. Mark's who prepare the lovely fruit baskets, you are much appreciated! The baskets are lovely and delicious! Thank you for mine. —Ellie Weaver

Kevin and I would like to thank everyone of the fruit basket angels for the delicious fruit. It makes great salads. We appreciate it so much! God bless you all. —The Gustafsons

To the St. Mark's Family:

Thank you so much for the beautiful fruit basket, and to Marlis Feller to bring it to my home. With much thanks and love. —Chris Loftesnes

Sonny and I want to thank our St. Mark's family for the lovely fruit basket. It was quite ample, and we thoroughly enjoyed it. Also, thanks to the Fellers for delivering it. Lastly, thanks to Mary Katherine for delivering my bulletin each week. —Colleen Graham

Dear people of St. Mark's,

Thank you so much for the extra money you contributed so that I, and the staff who serve here at St. Mark's, could have a Christmas Bonus! This meant a lot to me and my family and helped us stock up on diapers for Kobe! Pray you all had a Merry Christmas, and blessings to all this New Year! —Kinna Nordstrom Kemp

To all who gave a little extra towards a gift for the staff of St. Mark's at Christmas, thank you! I know money is tight for many members and I cherish that so many of you gave generously to show an extra token of appreciation for Pastor, the other ladies on staff, and me. Gratefully, —Mary Katherine Smith

Community News

Events

Stratus Chamber Orchestra – Serenade: Of Love & Enchantment

Friday, Feb. 7, 2020 at 7:30 p.m. (Immersive Seating)

1st Plymouth Congregational Church
3501 S. Colorado Blvd., Denver, CO

Visit <https://sforce.co/3a0p4jM> to purchase tickets for February 7.

Saturday, Feb. 8, 2020 at 7:30 p.m. (Traditional Seating)

Augustana Lutheran Church
5000 E. Alameda Ave., Denver, CO

Visit <https://sforce.co/2T2WIPK> to purchase tickets for February 8.

Colcannan's Leap Year concert

Saturday, February 29 7:30 pm at Augustana Lutheran Church

Augustana Arts brings Colcannan for one of their final Denver appearances!

Join with your friends for this Leap Year concert featuring Denver's beloved ensemble, Colcannon, before members of the group move to Ireland. While the musical focus is on the beautiful wealth of traditional Irish music, Colcannan's true message is the story of the resilient and joyous human spirit. Rocky Mountain ELCA members receive 25% discount by using the code RMS25 at checkout. Visit www.AugustanaArts.org or call 303-388-4962 for tickets.

Colorado Lutheran Day at the Legislature

Thursday, February 27, 7:30 a.m. to noon

We invite you to join us! The event is a great opportunity for learning, listening, and action, and will involve visits to your representatives in the Capitol building. Register at

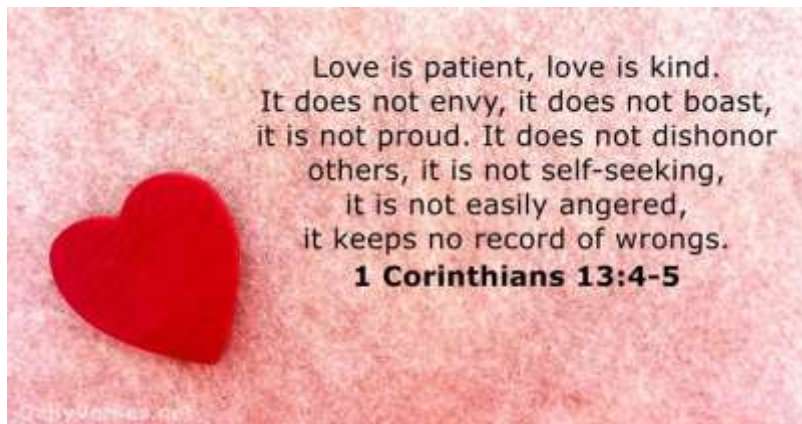
https://www.rmselfca.org/legislature_day_2020



James Hersch Annual Concert/ Soup Supper

Saturday, February 1 at 6:00 p.m.

James Hersch will be joining us for his annual concert at Holy Love Lutheran Church (4210 S Chambers Rd, Aurora, 80014). A potluck soup supper will be held in the Fellowship Hall beginning at 6:00 p.m. and the concert will follow immediately after. Free will offering.



Please Keep in Your Prayers

We welcome your requests for prayers for persons in need or prayers of thanksgiving for blessings received. Please note that prayer requests will remain on the list for four Sundays; a request may be extended by contacting the church office.

Recent hospitalizations, illnesses, and concerns:

Alan Burnham (*recovery from surgical procedure*)
Allie Nicodemus and family
Roxanne Bell (*Sally Lynch's neighbor, cancer*)
Jean Rose (*back pain*)

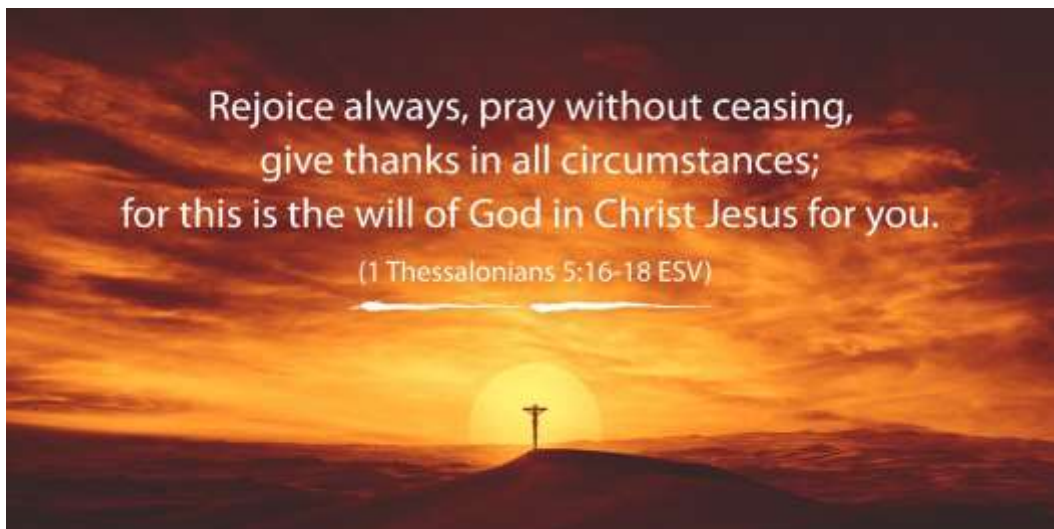
For those diagnosed with cancer or long-term illness:

Ellie Weaver (*breast cancer*)
Esther Rusk (*home hospice*)
Reid Shea and family (*friends of Mary Katherine Smith, lymphoma lung cancer*)
Charlie Robertson and family (*friends of Chelsea Thompson*)
Gene Hesse (*Joan Gustafson's son-in-law, infected surgery wound*)
Ricky Shaw (*surgery*)
Jeannie Blom (*former member, eye infection*)
Vernita Wild (*recovery from fall injuries*)
Susan Saeugling (*digestive system issues*)
Chuck Martell, II (*Lou and Bubbles' son, heart issues*)
Virginia Martell (*Chuck's wife, Alzheimer's*)
Jean (*Jackie Kirk's sister, cancer*)
Lisa Wild (*friend of Patty Costello, kidney cancer*)
Cindy Lenzen (*Doris Seline's daughter, health*)
Doreen Goldsberry (*Doris Seline's daughter, breast cancer*)
Isaiah Daniels (*Ollie Daniels' grandson, deployed to Kuwait*)
Darrell Hesselius (*incurable health problem*)

For homebound members and friends:

Gil Bliss George Devers
Colleen Graham Mark Heflin
Clare Pankratz Gerry Redlin
Daphne Remington
Lillian Ripper Arlene Selk
Don Snook and Trish Kulp

Brian Hodgson (*health*)
Sandy Day (*health*)
Jeff (*Hugo Redlin's son, health*)
Jeff Martin (*health*)
Rick Parsons (*friend of Diana Ratliff, cancer*)
Christine Slape (*friend of Brian Hodgson, cancer recurrence*)
Cogie Elzea (*sister of Sara Jensen, hospice*)
Kevin Dominguez (*son of Mary Ann Dominguez, health issues*)
Luci Stephenson (*Bill Stephenson's mother, health concerns*)
Ollie Daniels (*pain and breathing problems*)
Vivian Ryden (*Anne Barger's mother*)
Sally Lynch (*breathing issues*)
Marie Calaway (*mother of Karen Arensen, in hospice care*)
Ann Howell (*cancer maintenance treatments*)
Patrick Stephenson (*cancer maintenance*)
Doug Benson (*health, dialysis*)
Nancy (*sister of Dorie Gerhardt, health*)
Roxanne Knutson (*serious pain*)
Jim Ekberg (*cousin of Chris Elbert, health*)



WORSHIP LIFE AT ST. MARK'S

February 2020

Sunday, February 2, 2020 ~ Presentation of Our Lord

The Presentation of Our Lord is referred to in some corners of the church as Candlemas because of an ancient tradition of blessing all the candles to be used in the church in the coming year at the mass celebrated on that day. It was a way of underscoring the truth of Simeon's confession that this baby Jesus was "a light for revelation to the Gentiles" and a light for glory to Israel. Let the light of every candle in church be a little epiphany of the love of God for all people in the person of God's son, Jesus, the light of the world.

Sunday, February 9, 2020 ~ 5th Sunday After Epiphany

* *Second Sunday of the month – food collection for St. Mark's Pantry and Aurora Interfaith Community Services*

Light shines in the darkness for the upright, the psalmist sings. Isaiah declares that when we loose the bonds of injustice and share our bread with the hungry, the light breaks forth like the dawn. In another passage from the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus, the light of the world, calls his followers to let the light of their good works shine before others. Through baptism we are sent into the world to shine with the light of Christ.

Sunday, February 16, 2020 ~ 6th Sunday After Epiphany

In today's reading from Deuteronomy we are called to choose life by loving and obeying God. Much of today's gospel reading echoes portions of the Ten Commandments. Jesus' instructions to the crowd reveal a pattern of behavior that honors both God and the neighbor, resulting in life and health for the whole community. We too are invited to embrace these commandments, not out of fear of retribution, but because God has promised that to do so means life for us.

Sunday, February 23, 2020 ~ Transfiguration of Our Lord

Today's festival is a bridge between the Advent-Christmas-Epiphany cycle that comes to a close today and the Lent-Easter cycle that begins in several days. On a high mountain Jesus is revealed as God's beloved Son, echoing the words at his baptism. This vision of glory sustains us as Jesus faces his impending death in Jerusalem. We turn this week to Ash Wednesday and our yearly baptismal journey from Lent to Easter. Some churches put aside the alleluia at the conclusion of today's liturgy. This word of joy will be omitted during the penitential season of Lent and will be sung again at Easter.

Wednesday, February 26, 2020 ~ Ash Wednesday

On Ash Wednesday we begin our forty-day journey toward Easter with a day of fasting and repentance. Marking our foreheads with dust, we acknowledge that we die and return to the earth. At the same time, the dust traces the life-giving cross indelibly marked on our foreheads at baptism. While we journey through Lent to return to God, we have already been reconciled to God through Christ. We humbly pray for God to make our hearts clean while we rejoice that "now is the day of salvation." Returning to our baptismal call, we more intentionally bear the fruits of mercy and justice in the world.



Happy Birthday!

Feb. 3	Bernette Douin Mayra Guerrero	Feb. 26	Cindy Lenzen
Feb. 12	Gerry Redlin Kinna Nordstrom-Kemp	Feb. 27	Robert Brelsford
Feb. 13	Keith Langford	Feb. 28	Ollie Daniels
Feb. 15	Ann Howell	March 1	Wilma Langford
Feb. 18	Candice Thurlow	March 3	Elaine Stanger Gayle Jetchik Doug Benson
Feb. 21	Norma Duncan		
Feb. 21	Shannon Walsh-Vermaas		

Happy Anniversary!!

Les & Diana Ortt
February 6, 1954

Karl & Marlis Feller
February 14, 1961

Worship Service Schedule - February 2020

As of time of publication; subject to change

Greeter:

Jim and Karen Arensen

Lector:

2nd & 9th: Susan Tami Whitcomb 16th & 23rd: Neil Kvern

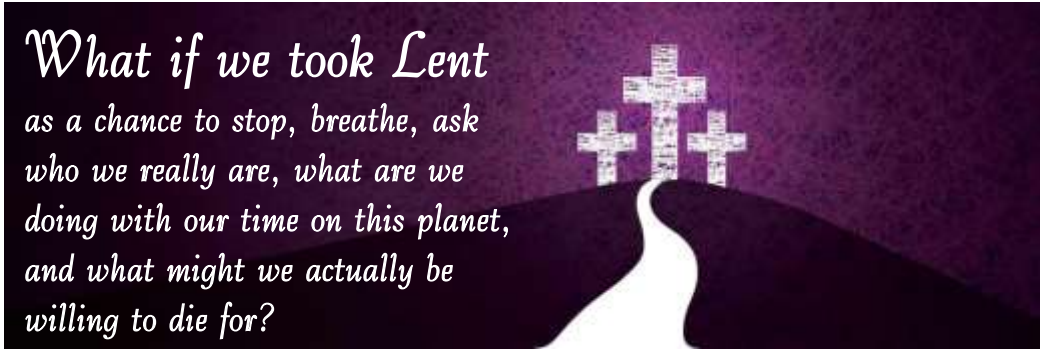
Ushers:

Marcia Daugherty Brian Hodgson Susan Saeugling

Assisting Ministers: **Communion Assistants:**

2th: Sara Jensen 2nd: Laura Garcia and Mary Katherine Smith
 9th: Name TBD 9th & 23rd: Laura Garcia and Ellie Weaver
 16th: Name TBD 16th: Laura Garcia and Mary Stephenson
 23rd: Name TBD

Weekly Attendance January 2020	
January 5 th	77
January 12 th	86
January 19 th	77
January 26 th	69



St. Mark's Lutheran Church
 111 Del Mar Circle
 Aurora, CO 80011



Phone: 303-366-9702

Website: www.stmarksaurora.org

Email: admin@stmarksaurora.org

*Called by the Spirit.
 Equipped to Serve. Sent to love all!*

If you wish to change how you receive our monthly newsletter *The Messenger*—whether it is via email or hard copy (either by picking up at the church or by receipt in the postal mail system)—please email admin@stmarksaurora.org or call the church office 303-366-9702.

February 2020 Highlights

- 6th YASSS! Resumes every Thursday, 4–7 p.m.
- 9th Women's Bake Sale
- 11th Council Meeting
- 26th Ash Wednesday
 Worship – 11 a.m.
 Lenten Lunch – Noon
 Worship – 6:30 p.m.

St. Mark's Council Members

- | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|
| Ryan Gohl—President | OPEN—Building/Grounds |
| Bill Stephenson—Treasurer | Shannon Walsh-Vermaas—Youth |
| Patty Costello—Financial Secretary | Dorie Gerhardt—Parish Ed/Women |
| Ellie Weaver—Secretary | Terri Maniscalco—Stewardship |
| Claudette Gilbert—Social Concerns/ Fellowship | |