



The Messenger

VOL. LXII, ISSUE III

St. Mark's Lutheran Church

March 2020

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

HOLY WEEK: THE GATHERING STORM

LENT 2020 AT ST. MARK'S

WEDNESDAYS IN LENT

March 4, 11, 18, 25, and April 1

Worship at 11:30 a.m.

with meal after

Worship at 6:30 p.m.

with meal before

HOLY WEEK

Palm Sunday, April 5

Worship at 9:15 a.m.

Maundy Thursday, April 9

Worship at 6:30 p.m.

Good Friday, April 10

Worship at 6:30 p.m.

From the Desk of Pastor Ken Thurow

We enter Lent marked with ashes, our worship a bit more subdued, the “A” word missing from our liturgy and hymns. It is labeled a “penitential” season, a time for reflection and repentance.

This I am sure you have heard many times: it is a season to turn from our sins and failures, to let go of what might be painful in our past, and to turn toward God, thankful for all that Christ has done.

This I am not sure you have heard before: it is a season to turn from our victories and successes, to let go of what might live as pride in our lives, and to turn toward God, thankful for all that Christ has done.

It is true in our individual lives, as it is in business, as it is in congregations. The past can be a heavy load whether we remember it with regrets or with self-congratulation. It can be hard to let go and recover from the former, hard to come back to earth from the latter. A passage in Philippians says, “*This one thing I do, forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal...*” We often find it easy to look at what was behind and hard to strain forward to what lies ahead. A Hall of Fame baseball career, smashing success in business, the glory days in the rearview mirror of a congregation—any can be a hindrance in the rest of life, reminding us of achievements that can never be replicated.

But last month I heard Bishop Gonia speak about his desire to see every congregation recognize how their size and situation makes them just right for the ministry to which they are called in their setting. That is doubly hard when we struggle with budgets and memories, but it is most certainly true. *Something* about St. Mark’s makes us both right and ready to be servants of Christ and our neighbors in this time and place. An important part of our “repentance,” our turning toward God this Lent, is to seek the Holy Spirit’s wisdom and guidance to help us answer the call. Let us pray for courage and discernment as the season continues.

Pastor Ken Thurow

A decorative graphic consisting of a blue triangle pointing to the right, with a lighter blue gradient overlaying it.

CHANGE IN PASTOR’S TITLE

We have received word from the Office of Synod Bishop Jim Gonia that, on the basis of a call extended through the Rocky Mountain Synod Council, Pastor Ken’s title has changed from Bridge Pastor to Interim Pastor of St. Mark’s. This does not mean a change in his relationship to this congregation but simply a change in the Synod’s roster category.

From the desk of the Director of Youth and Family Ministry

Kinna Nordstrom

Spring Quest Camp

March 13–15, OHANA Youth will be attending camp in Buena Vista. We have 28 youth, five young adults, six adults, and Kobe registered! They will do a special blessing and gift giving for our seniors: Melody and Queen Emenyonu, Gabe Bourque, and Jefry Vasquez.

This Spring's Theme: *Awakened Heart*

In Colorado, we live in a beautiful and sacred part of God's creation, yet often we are out of touch with nature, or we take it for granted, or we are overwhelmed by the daily news of climate crisis. Join us this spring as we awaken our hearts and reconnect with creation. We will learn ways to quiet the anxiety that surrounds climate crisis and as a community explore how hope is built, not found. We will leave the weekend with concrete actions that each of us can do to help heal and protect this fragile earth, our island home. Together, we will reclaim the ancient Christian understanding that God created, redeems, and sustains all of creation.





SMLCW News

Mary Stephenson, President

I can't believe how fast the months are flying by. We are already coming into March. Even though February is supposed to be the shortest month of the year, there is nothing short when it comes to work!

I would like to thank all who supported our BAKE SALE. We had such a variety of baked goods the table was filled to the brim until people started buying. Thank you to all those who provided baked goods, purchased food items, or just gave a donation. Many of you gave extra in monetary gifts which we greatly appreciate. Waking up that morning gave me reason for concern when I saw all the snow. But you all came through for us and we made \$400.00! We will be able to make a substantial donation to Aurora Mental Health. Again, many thanks for a successful event.

The RMSWO Fall Convention will take place September 18–20 in Greeley, Colorado. The location is Immanuel Lutheran Church and the theme is "From the Darkness into the Light." In-kind gifts requested are gift cards for Sarah's Home, Weld Food Bank, migrant worker kits (toiletries), or school supplies for children of migrant workers. This will be an election year to vote for a vice president, treasurer and board members. If you are interested in submitting your name for one of these positions, the forms will be available in my mailbox in the Narthex. At this writing, I am not aware of registration fee but will publish that when I have further information made available.

Here we are into Lent. As a child growing up in a small town in Minnesota, I really didn't understand the meaning of Lent. Yes, I was raised in a strong Christian home, filled with the love of God and devoted, caring parents. Church was a very important family day. I think now of Lent as being a time to think... remember the 40 days of not all good things that happened to Jesus. However you think of Lent, may it be your own thoughts and interpretations. God knows our hearts and can interpret our thoughts, whatever they may be.

MARCH BLESSINGS! HAPPY ST. PATRICK'S DAY!

Community News

Lenten Lunches

Each Wednesday of Lent, other than for Holy Week, our Lenten Lunch crew prepares a warm meal at noon following the midday worship service for a freewill offering. This year's menu is as follows:

March 4	Lasagna, tossed salad with dressing, garlic bread, ice cream with Pirouettes
March 11	Meatloaf, au gratin potatoes, corn, pickled beets, bread-and-butter pickles, rolls, Bronstad sheet cake
March 18	Chicken pot pie, salad, green Jell-O™ cake
March 25	Ham, sweet potatoes, salad, green beans, rolls, fruit Jell-O™
April 1	Pulled pork slider sandwiches, Waco beans, coleslaw, carrot cake

Rest in Peace

Former member Emma G. Landess, wife of E. Dean Landess (original organist when St. Mark's opened), passed away on February 3, 2020, a little more than a week after her 95th birthday on January 26. Her obituary may be viewed at <https://www.dignitymemorial.com/obituaries/wheat-ridge-co/emma-landess-9027033>. *Rest eternal grant her O Lord and may light perpetual shine on her.*

Donations for Our Food Pantry

We collect food on the second Sunday of each month. We welcome your donations anytime but please label them for the food pantry. When shopping for canned goods to donate, those items with "pop-tops" (pull tabs) are especially welcome as many who partake of our pantry lack can openers.

Please Note: Per Food Bank of the Rockies guidelines for our pantry, we are unable to accept any food donations that are six or more months past their use by date.

We appreciate your support of this valuable ministry!
—Claudette Gilbert, Social Concerns Chair

Thank you

Jean Rose wishes to thank all her friends at St. Mark's for the beautiful cards and prayers she has received over the past few months.

Casseroles for Those in Need



Keeping with our previous decision to do projects for God's Work Our Hands (GWOH) during the year rather than just one day, I am asking for your help to serve our community. Aurora Warms the Night is requesting some hot meals for 50 people who are given shelter for the night at the Star Motel on north Peoria Street. If you are willing to make a casserole or buy one that would serve ten people, please contact me at 303-766-3976. If you can't reach me please leave a message for me, freeze the casserole, and leave it at Church in the freezer, labeled with AWTN and my name on it. Thank you!

—Claudette Gilbert

Congratulations!

Our former member Pastor Debbie Cote' and her husband David Malan are celebrating the birth of their daughter, Rosalina Elise Malan, on Friday, February 14. Rosalina was born by c-section, weighed 7 pounds, 9.55 ounces, and 22 inches long. Both mother and baby are doing well.

Events

Augustana Arts' Upcoming Concerts:

The Brilliance of Brahms: A Human Requiem

Saturday, March 7, 2020 at 7:30 p.m.

The *Brahms' Requiem* is a particularly unique work among requiems. By using German instead of Latin, and themes of comfort to the living instead of prayers for the souls of the dead, Brahms wrote a requiem that is lovely, peaceful, and hopeful. Both the Colorado Women's Chorale and Colorado Men's Chorale will perform.

A Musical Night in Vienna

Saturday, March 28, 2020 at 6:00 p.m.

Live performances by Stratus Chamber Orchestra, City Strings, and the Colorado Women's/Men's Chorales will be the highlight of this special "Heart for the Arts Gala" fundraising event.

Visit <https://augustanaarts.secure.force.com/ticket/> to purchase tickets for either concert at Augustana Lutheran Church (5000 E. Alameda Ave., Denver, CO).

A UNIQUE AND POWERFUL PRESENTATION OF CHRIST'S LIFE, PASSION, AND RESURRECTION TOLD THROUGH 14 STAGED LIFE-SIZE WORKS OF ART, WITH MUSIC AND SCRIPTURE



26th GALLERY OF LIVING ART



And the JUNIOR GDLA
DESIGNED ESPECIALLY
FOR FAMILIES, WITH A
SHORTER PRESENTATION
AND A BACKSTAGE TOUR!
SATURDAY, MARCH 14
11 A.M.



FRIDAY, MARCH 13 • 7:30 P.M.
SATURDAY, MARCH 14 • 2 AND 5 P.M.
SUNDAY, MARCH 15 • 3 P.M.

FREE ADMISSION • FREE CHILD CARE PROVIDED
DOORS OPEN ONE HOUR PRIOR TO EACH PRESENTATION

FIRST
LUTHERAN
CHURCH
COLLARIER SQUARE

166 NORTH
CASCADE
AVENUE 719.632.8836
FLCCS.NET



Welcoming the Stranger: Fear, Facts & Faith

Saturday, March 14 at 1:00 p.m.

Christ Church, 2950 S University Blvd., Denver



Join Lutheran Family Services Rocky Mountains for a conversation about immigration with Matt Soerens, author and U.S. Director of Church Mobilization with World Relief.

Visit <https://www.lfsrm.org/event/welcoming/> for more information.

Resource Fair for Seniors and Caregivers

Sunday, March 15, 2:30–4:00 p.m.

Lutheran Church of the Holy Spirit
6400 S. University Blvd., Centennial

Participating agencies will be present to provide resources and answer questions—not to sell anything! Experts will also be available to answer questions regarding Medicare and legal matters. If you or a loved one are looking for resources, this event is for you! For more information, call 303-794-3451.

Lent 2020 Online Book Discussion

Those interested in reading and discussing the book *The City is My Monastery* by Richard Carter during Lent 2020 are welcome to join an online discussion group presented by Augustana Lutheran Church. For more information, please visit <https://rtgmtg.wordpress.com/>.

Directory Updates

New Address for Palma Kruger:

1860 S Potomac St, #2202

Aurora, CO 80012

Please submit any corrections, updates, or additions to Mary Katherine in the office by either leaving a note in her box or e-mailing them to:

admin@StMarksAurora.org.

Healing Dark Emotions: Discovering the Good Gifts of Anger, Grief, and Depression, with Reverend Christine Ruth

Sunday, March 8 at 10:50 a.m. to noon

Atonement Lutheran Church (Chapel)
685 Inca Parkway, Boulder

We will be looking at the theological tensions around these emotions/experiences and how to handle them in a spiritually healthy way. Christine Ruth, M.Div., MS, LMFT is an ordained pastor, teacher, and licensed marriage and family therapist. This program is offered by the Mental Health Ministry Team of Atonement Lutheran Church, Boulder.

Taizé Weekend – Hospitality: A Pilgrimage of Trust

Saturday, March 14 from 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.
and Sunday, March 15 at 4:45 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

You are invited to a Taizé Encounter of song, prayer and dialogue with Brothers Emile and John from the Taizé community in France. We will gather around the theme, *Hospitality: A Pilgrimage of Trust*. In an increasingly fragmented world, people are asking: Who is my neighbor? Is reconciliation possible? Is community a dream?



Join Brothers Emile and John as they share in dialogue and spiritual practice that is the heart of the community's home in France. Bishop Gonja will be a part of panel discussion with the Brothers. Ihoby Rakotomalala of Auraria Campus Ministry and Krista Kilgus of Urban Servant Corps will also be leading workshops on hospitality and building community.

For more information, go to

<http://www.thethreshold.us/taize-weekend/>.

Council Corner

Council Highlights—February 11, 2020

President Gohl opened the meeting at 6 p.m. Pastor Ken Thurow led an opening devotion and prayer.

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

President's Report

President Ryan shared that the flooring is complete and final payment has been made.

Ryan is thinking of asking the men of the church, such as what was the Men's Group, and anyone willing and available to help with care of the church.

Pastor's Report

Pastor Ken will miss two Sundays in March due to a previous commitment. In his absence, Pastor Barb Lemke will be available for pastoral care. Supply pastors will be scheduled to fill in on Sundays.

Pastor Ken has made a start on pastoral care contacts of our homebound members in person and by phone.

Pastor Ken will have no part in selection of a pastor, but is available to advise on the process and to discuss questions regarding St. Mark's future.

Old Business

Nominating committee will be meeting soon. There are many positions needing to be filled.

New Business:

Council is looking for groups at St. Mark's to serve a light meal before Wednesday evening Lenten Services. There are five weeks to cover starting March 4. Council will take one week.

Call Committee

A final *Ministry Site Profile* was submitted to the Bishop's office with the reference from Pastor Bev Piro. The committee now has to wait for names of candidates to be provided.

Meeting ended with the Lord's Prayer.

Summarized Report of Income and Expenses

Submitted by Bill Stephenson, Treasurer

<u>January, 2020</u>			
<u>Current Month</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Year to Date</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Total Income	\$10,330.04	Total Income	\$10,330.04
Total Expenses	-\$10,162.67	Total Expenses	-\$10,162.67
Net Income	\$167.37	Net Income	\$167.37
<i>BUDGET COMPARISON OF ENVELOPE OFFERING</i>			
<u>Monthly Budget Amount</u>	<u>Actual Current Month</u>	<u>Budget Year to Date</u>	<u>Actual Year to Date</u>
\$13,941.05	\$9,754.99	\$13,941.05	\$9,754.99
Over/Under Budget	-\$4,186.06		-\$4,186.06

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:

Sara (*Sandy Day's great niece, brain tumor surgery*)

For the faithful departed and those who mourn:

Family of Jean Harris (*Shirley Kerezsi's sister*)

Family of Emma G. Landess

For those diagnosed with cancer or long-term illness:

Allie Nicodemus and family

Roxanne Bell (*Sally Lynch's neighbor, cancer*)

Jean Rose (*back pain*)

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*)

Jeannie Blom (*former member, eye infection*)

Vernita Wild (*recovery from fall injuries, back home*)

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*)

For homebound members and friends:

Gil Bliss

George Devers

Colleen Graham

Mark Heflin

Palma Kruger

Clare Pankratz

Gerry Redlin

Daphne Remington

Lillian Ripper

Arlene Selk

Don Snook and Trish Kulp

Darrell Hesselius (*incurable health problem*)

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*)

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*)

Nancy (*sister of Dorie Gerhardt, health*)

Roxanne Knutson (*serious pain*)

Jim Ekberg (*cousin of Chris Elbert, health*)



The latest issue of the Rocky Mountain Synodical Women's Organization newsletter, *Views from the Rockies*, is posted on the bulletin board outside the sanctuary for reading and copying (and can be read online at <https://www.rmsselca.org/women-newsletter>). Read up on plans for both the RMSWO Fall Convention and Retreat in Greeley, to be held September 18–20, and the Women of the ELCA Triennial Gathering in Phoenix, AZ, July 16–19.

WORSHIP LIFE AT ST. MARK'S

March 2020

Sunday, March 1, 2020 ~ First Sunday in Lent

Today's gospel tells of Jesus' temptation in the desert. His forty-day fast becomes the basis of our Lenten pilgrimage. In the early church Lent was a time of intense preparation for those to be baptized at the Easter Vigil. This catechetical focus on the meaning of faith is at the heart of our Lenten journey to the baptismal waters of Easter. Hungry for God's mercy, we receive the bread of life to nourish us for the days ahead.

Sunday, March 8, 2020 ~ Second Sunday in Lent

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

During Lent we journey with all those around the world who will be baptized at the Easter Vigil. In today's gospel Jesus tells Nicodemus that he must be born of water and Spirit. At the font we are given a new birth as children of God. As God made a covenant with Abraham, in baptism God promises to raise us up with Christ to new life. From worship we are sent forth to proclaim God's love for all the world.

Sunday, March 15, 2020 ~ Third Sunday in Lent

In today's gospel the Samaritan woman asks Jesus for water, an image of our thirst for God. Jesus offers living water, a sign of God's grace flowing from the waters of baptism. The early church used this gospel and those of the next two Sundays to deepen baptismal reflection during the final days of preparation before baptism at Easter. As we journey to the resurrection feast, Christ comes among us in word, bath, and meal—offering us the life-giving water of God's mercy and forgiveness.



Sunday, March 22, 2020 ~ Fourth Sunday in Lent

Baptism is sometimes called enlightenment. The gospel for this Sunday is the story of the man born blind healed by Christ. "I was blind, now I see," declares the man. In baptism God opens our eyes to see the truth of who we are: God's beloved children. As David was anointed king of Israel, in baptism God anoints our head with oil, and calls us to bear witness to the light of Christ in our daily lives.

Sunday, March 29, 2020 ~ Fifth Sunday in Lent

In today's gospel Jesus reveals his power over death by raising Lazarus from the dead. The prophet Ezekiel prophesies God breathing new life into dry bones. To those in exile or living in the shadows of death, these stories proclaim God's promise of resurrection. In baptism we die with Christ that we might also be raised with him to new life. At the Easter Vigil we will welcome the newly baptized as we remember God's unfailing promise in our baptism.

Happy Birthday!

March 1	Wilma Langford	March 18	Joan Chambers
March 3	Doug Benson Gayle Jetchick Elaine Stanger	March 20	Bubbles Martell
March 4	Sally Lynch	March 22	Daphne Remington
March 6	Debra Dayton	March 25	Lue Martell
March 8	Gerald Graham	March 26	Roxanne Knutson
March 12	Joshua Vermaas James Weaver	March 27	Robert Bliss Fabian Mendia
March 15	Nancy Haugen Mary Katherine Smith Bill Stephenson	March 28	Susan Dilley
March 17	Claudette Gilbert Anandro Sinaga	March 31	Terri Gehler
		April 2	Michael Coe

Happy Anniversary!

Ken and Anne Barger
March 30, 2003

Worship Service Schedule - March 2020

As of time of publication; subject to change

Greeters: 1-8 & 22-29:
Ryan & Michele Gohl

15:
Dawn and Abel Ramos

Lectors: Ken or Anne Barger

Communion Assistants:

1-8: Diana Mendia and Andrea Sinaga
15: Joan Gustafson & Chelsea Thompson
22-29: Diana Mendia and Andrea Sinaga

Assisting Ministers:

1: Betty Falk
8: Laura Cote'
15: Mary Katherine Smith
22: Richard Schnier
29: Sara Jensen

Ushers

Ken and Anne Barger
1, 15-29: Ellie Weaver
8: Randy Jensen

Weekly Attendance February 2020	
Feb. 2 nd	63
Feb. 9 th	67
Feb. 16 th	61
Feb. 23 rd	62
Feb. 26 th	
11 a.m.	33
6:30 p.m.	29

St. Mark's Lutheran Church
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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.

March 2020 Highlights

- 4th Lenten worship and meal
- 10th Council Meeting
- 11th Lenten worship and meal
- 18th Lenten worship and meal
- 25th Lenten worship and meal

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	