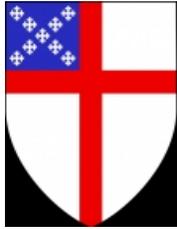


Phone: 360-249-3281

Website: www.stmarksmonte.com



Rev. Lorraine Dierick, Priest
Rev. Bonnie Campbell, Priest
Rev. Gretchen Gunderson, Priest
Rev. Joyce Avery, Deacon
Jim Campbell, Preacher
Corby Varness, Preacher

Worship
Sundays at 10 a.m.

St. Mark's Newsletter

Click on Newsletters in the middle left of our Home Page.

St. Mark's Church Video

Click on St. Mark's Video in the upper right of our Home Page.

St. Mark's Sermons

All of the sermons from our Sunday worship services are placed on our website to be read and studied further within a couple of days of being preached on Sundays. Click on Recent Sermons in the middle right of our Home Page.

St. Mark's Bishop's Committee Minutes

A list of all meeting minutes from 2009 on is found below the Upcoming Meeting Agenda. Click on Administration in the middle left of our Home Page, then click on BC Meeting Minutes in the right side of the page

Adult Bible Study
Wednesdays at 10 a.m.

ST. MARK EPISCOPAL CHURCH
124 NORTH SYLVIA STREET
PO BOX 533
MONTESANO, WA 98563

St. Mark's Episcopal Church Newsletter

March-April, 2018

Continuing Activities

Weekly Bible Study--Wednesdays, 10:00AM, at St. Mark's

Our weekly Bible study on Wednesdays generally uses the weekly Lectionary readings used in the Sunday worship services. No preparation is needed. Please join us for this study each week—Wednesdays from 10:00-11:30AM. (We also sometimes look at some interesting religious videos for part of our time each week to enhance our Bible learning experiences.)

Feed Your Spirit Book Club—Semi Monthly on Second or Third Mondays, 12 Noon

Our semi monthly book club generally meets on the second or third Monday every other month. We read a new book and also discuss other books people have read for an hour (or more as some might feel led to do, over your own brown bag lunch). Invite your friends and neighbors to join us!

Worship Information—Sundays at St. Mark's

Readings—shared, people volunteer just before the start of the service for the Old and New Testament readings. *Flowers*—provided by the Worship Team most Sundays. However, if you want to supply them for a specific Sunday (maybe to remember a loved one or celebrate an important event), this can be arranged in advance—just make it known to the Altar Guild folks. *Prayers for Healing*—3rd Sundays, just before the Peace. Anyone can come to the altar rail and request laying on of hands and prayers for themselves--or for anyone else named. Prayers do work!! And the anointing oil used smells great!

Upcoming Events

Cathedral Day at St. Mark's, Seattle: (Saturday, 4/28, 11am-3pm)

There will be a Eucharist with confirmations, receptions, and reaffirmations at 11 AM followed by lunch from the food truck of your choice and other activities. See the new aspects of the cathedral or see the cathedral for the first time! Bishop Greg will be there and we are hoping to have at least a carload of folks go up to the other St. Mark for the day. If anyone is interested in preparing for any of the above, speak with one of the priests to arrange that.

<https://resources.ecww.org/cathedral-day-2018>

Easter Season Events at St. Mark's: (3/25-4/1/2018)

Palm Sunday Communion Service: March 25, 10am—Includes the blessing of the palms (actually fern fronds) and a reading of the Gospel of Mark Passion story.

Maundy Thursday Communion Service: March 29, 6pm—worship service, including foot washing like Jesus did for his disciples, and a small soup/bread meal after the service.

Good Friday Service: March 30, noon at St. Mark's--short communion service, with the Gospel reading of the Passion.

Good Friday Ecumenical Service: March 30, 7pm to be held at Montesano Church of God

Easter Sunday Communion Service: April 1, 10:00am—celebration of the Risen Christ, renewal of Baptismal vows, and an Easter Egg hunt for kids, too!

25th Ordination Anniversary for Lorraine Dierick and Gretchen Gunderson at St. Mark's: 3/25, 11am following the Palm Sunday Service

This year marks the 25th anniversary of Lorraine's and Gretchen's ordination as priests in the Episcopal Church. They both studied together in the Local Priest program in this Gray Harbor area from 1988-93 to be ready for ordination for their churches of St. Mark's, Montesano and St. John's, South Bend.

Latest updates for the celebration: (please come and join the celebration if you can, or send thank you's to them at St. Mark's, PO Box 533, Montesano, WA 98563)

1) The food and drinks for the celebration—we will have small sandwiches and chips (finger type food), so if anyone wants to add more of these finger type items, go for it. We have decided, though, that a standard cake is not happening, so bringing desserts of all types will be great.

2) Lorraine and Gretchen will co-celebrate the worship service that morning so they can be “dressed” for the service and do the thing they have been doing for 25 years. There is no sermon that day because it is Palm Sunday and we traditionally read the Passion Gospel that day as the sermon—all in the service have participating reading roles.

3) There will be special Worship program for the service that day, since we will have extra people coming for both worship and the event. We are also making a booklet with information about the two of them and to celebrate this day. It will have a picture of the two of them, their abbreviated stories, a congrats letter from the Bishop, and picture/article from the ordination event in the paper back in 1993.

We hope to see or hear from you!

Other Ongoing Activities at St. Mark's (in Calder Hall)

Sundays 7 pm Alcoholics Anonymous

Tuesdays 7 pm Alcoholics Anonymous

Thursdays 12 noon Alcoholics Anonymous

Fridays 7 pm Alcoholics Anonymous

Recent News

Ash Wednesday Service (2/14/2018, 6pm) at St. Mark's

Our annual Ash Wednesday service with ashes and communion, followed by a soup and bread meal, as we began Lent. 15 attended, including 4 from the Church of God! Wonderful food!

Ashes to Go on Ash Wednesday (2/14/2018) at the Montesano Post Office

Rev. Bonnie Campbell imposed ashes under the bridge in Aberdeen and at the Montesano Post Office (including the drive through) again this year.

108th Shrove Tuesday Pancake Day Event (2/13/2018, 11:30am -6:30pm) at St. Mark's

Our 108th Annual Shrove Tuesday Pancake Day event at St. Mark's was a success again this year, with the community's help. Special thanks to all the volunteers who helped us make this happen—especially the Church of God for the use of their dishwasher! We raised \$1300 in net proceeds to give to local groups—Montesano Food Bank, the Children's Advocacy Center, and the Montesano School Emergency Fund. A lot of pancakes, lots of fellowship, and plenty of tired feet--but a lot of fun, too for this Montesano community that comes together each year for this.

St. Mark's Annual Meeting (2/4/2018, 11am) at St. Mark's, after Worship

Our annual meeting reviewed the previous year's finances and events, approved the 2018 budget, and determine our Bishop's Committee and Delegates for the annual convention of the Diocese. Kevin Varness is the new Sr. Warden, and Corby Varness is the new Clerk. Lorna Wargo is an alternate for Convention this year.

Latest Finances Summary

Summary of St. Mark's Finances—3/7/2018

Net Operating Year to Date--\$-1,152.09

We have paid out significant outreach funds already, including \$5,000 to Chaplains on the Harbor from the 2017 gain of the St. John, South Bend DIF, and \$1,300 from the proceeds of the Shrove Tuesday Pancake Day event. The utility expenses are also higher during the winter months, and will drop a bunch as we head for the summer.

Total Operating Expenses--\$10,161.59

Highlights—All bills received and paid current.

Outreach to Date—\$7,391 Diocesan Assessment Required/Paid—\$291

Total Operating Revenues--\$9,009.50

Overall, total revenues for the year are below budgeted levels. Pledge revenues are short so far, hopefully will get some help soon, while plate revenues are about as expected.

**Non-Operating Revenues--\$2,403.70 Non-Operating Expenses--\$0.00
Net Non-Operating Year to Date--\$2,403.70**

Net All Operating and Non-Operating Year to Date--\$1,251.61

St. Mark's, Montesano Funds Summary—Total is \$78,453.80

Operating Fund (General)--\$5,776.71

- General/Designated Checking Account—\$5,272.64
- General/Designated Savings Account--\$504.07

Diocesan Investment Fund (St Mark Legacy)--\$28,680.18

- Memorial Fund (part of DIF)--\$750.29

Diocesan Investment Fund (St John Legacy)--\$43,224.62

(not updated yet to show \$4,870 taken for Chaplains)

Clergy Discretionary Fund/Checking Account--\$772.29

Other Articles on Faith and Other Things

Christian Leaders Shutter Jerusalem Holy Site To Protest Israeli Tax, Land Policies

The Church of the Holy Sepulchre, where Jesus is believed to have been crucified, is temporarily closed. Ori Lewis

JERUSALEM (Reuters) - Church leaders in Jerusalem shut the Church of the Holy Sepulchre on Sunday in protest at a new Israeli tax policy and a proposed land expropriation law which they called an unprecedented attack on Christians in the Holy Land. Roman Catholic, Greek Orthodox and Armenian church leaders said the holy site, a popular stop for pilgrims and where many Christians believe Jesus was crucified and buried, would remain closed until further notice.

After the protest move, an Israeli cabinet committee delayed by a week its scheduled consideration on Sunday of a bill that would allow the state to expropriate land in Jerusalem sold by churches to private real estate firms in recent years. The stated aim of the bill is to protect homeowners against the possibility that private companies will not extend their leases of land on which their houses or apartments stand.

The churches are major property owners in the city. They say such a law would make it harder for them to find buyers for church-owned land - sales that help to cover operating costs of their religious institutions. "This abhorrent bill ... if approved, would make the expropriation of the lands of churches possible," said the statement by Theophilus III, the Patriarch of Jerusalem, Francesco Patton, the Custos of the Holy Land, and Nourhan Manougian, the Armenian Patriarch of Jerusalem.

Rachel Azaria, the lawmaker who sponsored the legislation, said in a statement she agreed to delay the committee's discussion by a week so that "we could work with the churches" to try to resolve the dispute.

The churches' protest was also aimed at the recent cancellation by Israel's Jerusalem municipality of a tax exemption it has granted to church-owned commercial properties in the city. "This reminds us all of laws of a similar nature which were enacted against the Jews during dark periods in Europe," the church leaders said.

Jerusalem Mayor Nir Barkat said on Twitter it was illogical to expect that church-owned commercial property, including hotels and retail businesses, would continue to enjoy tax-exempt status. "Let me make it clear: we are not talking about houses of worship, who will still be exempt from property tax, according to law," he wrote.

Outside the Church of the Holy Sepulchre, pilgrims voiced their disappointment at finding its doors shut. "I am very upset. It's my first time here and I made a big effort to get here and now I find it closed," said Marine Domenech from Lille, France.

Reporting by Jeffrey Heller and Ori Lewis; Writing by Jeffrey Heller; Editing by Raissa Kasolowsky, William Maclean

Episcopal Church teams with ecumenical partners for 2018 Poor People's Campaign: A National Call for Moral Revival February 23, 2018

In honor of the 50th Anniversary of the Poor People's Campaign organized by the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., in 1968, the Episcopal Church is teaming with ecumenical partners including the National Council of Churches into action, ministry, and official relationship with the 2018 Poor People's Campaign: A National Call for Moral Revival.

The Episcopal Church Executive Council approved a resolution at its January meeting "acknowledging the unfinished work of the 1968 Poor Peoples Campaign, celebrate the revival of the movement as the 2018 Poor People's Campaign: A National Call for Moral Revival." The resolution concluded that the Poor People's Campaign will "recognize these issues of poverty and justice severely affect our domestic and global brothers and sisters and commit to ministry of active engagement, advocacy, and support throughout the Episcopal Church."

"This is an important partnership and we are enthused that the Episcopal Church is teaming with others in this important initiative," commented the Rev. Melanie Mullen, Director of Reconciliation, Justice and Creation Care. "The work of the Episcopal Church through General Convention and Executive Council fully embodies the values of the gospel that underlie the Jesus Movement."

For Episcopalians and the Episcopal Church, the goals of the Poor People's Campaign: A National Call for Moral Revival are:

- To live into our partnerships with the National Council of Churches and with the Poor People's Campaign;
- To rally Episcopalians on the issues of poverty and justice;
- To ask for consideration in joining marches occurring nationally on April 4, the anniversary of the assassination of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., and Sunday, May 13, Mother's Day;
- To encourage all interested Episcopalians to sign up to participate.

For more information on Poor People's Campaign: A National Call for Moral Revival contact the [Rev. Melanie Mullen](#).

Faith begins with an invitation

March 4, 2018 by Jon White

I'm sure it's apocryphal, but I once heard that the average Episcopalian invites someone to church once every 27 years. Though that line usually elicits a few laughs, I think it does capture something true about our relationship with evangelism. For the most part, Episcopalians aren't very good at it. I've even met people who were opposed to doing evangelism altogether!

Yet, the biblical witness and Jesus' own words make it clear that inviting an ever-increasing number of people to follow Jesus and to live by his precepts is an essential and fundamental part of Christ's mission (and God's plan for ultimate salvation).

I suspect many of us associate evangelism with uncomfortable or awkward encounters with zealous door-to-door Jesus marketers. Their techniques more akin to high-pressure sales than anything Jesus ever did and their disturbing fascination with Hell can be pretty off-putting to most people in the Episcopal church. I've also found that, for many Episcopalians, their faith is something deeply personal; where opening up that part of themselves to others makes them feel very vulnerable.

But evangelism doesn't have to be knocking on the doors of strangers nor does it require opening up a most cherished part of ourselves to potentially hostile (or worse, indifferent) strangers. And evangelism definitely isn't convincing someone to believe in God, or Jesus, or to accept the whole weight of the doctrines of the faith (or fill out a pledge card). Simply put, evangelism is the opportunity to invite someone to check out something that's important to you that you think they might enjoy or derive benefit from.

In the beginning of John's gospel John tells of how followers of John the Baptist encountered Jesus and when they asked him where he was staying, he replied "come and see." And then later, when Philip told Nathanael that they had met the Messiah and Nathanael responded with skepticism, Philip said to him in turn, "come and see."

Come and see. That's it – that's evangelism; "come and see this thing that I've found." And it shouldn't be any harder than inviting someone to read a book you liked or see a movie you enjoyed or even to come with you to that great new café, coffee shop, bookstore, or bar that you love. The movement that Nathanael undergoes, from skeptic to disciple to apostle is the same one that we are invited to take. It's the same one that the whole world is invited to take, but someone still has to be Philip, someone has to be the one to say "come and see."

The Church, the ekklesia of Christ, the whole people of God, are called into Jesus' mission and ministry. But the institution that we call "church" has a narrower purpose; it exists primarily to form, nurture and sustain followers of Jesus. As critics of the church might say, Jesus started a movement and not a religion, which is true, as far as it goes. The movement though, needs the impetus of the organization, the power of the institution to continually reinvigorate itself. And evangelism is the necessary first step in inviting people to have that life changing encounter with Jesus.

Jesus invites every living person in every generation to take up his ministry and continue his mission; bringing healing, reconciliation, and peace to a broken and hurting world. When we talk about being the body of Christ, this is what we are aiming at; we're the hands and feet of Christ – in fact the only hands and feet that Jesus has in this world. By the same token, the only lips Jesus has, the only words he speaks to the spiritually curious, the skeptic, or the hurting stranger, are our words; our invitation to "come and see."

Jon white is the rector of St Luke's in Camillus, NY and was formerly chair of the diocesan evangelism committee in West Virginia

The Prayers of the People

March 6, 2018 by Kimberly Knowle-Zeller

I find myself sitting in the back of the sanctuary. My toddler daughter remains at the front of the church sitting with some of her favorite church people. I take our 7-month-old and sit on a rocking chair. We nurse and cuddle. He fusses a bit. I listen to the service. Finally he can't resist anymore and he falls asleep nursing. He's in my arms safe and content. Wrapped in love. I rock back and forth. I see the congregation worshipping. Singing. Praying. Listening. Fidgeting. Talking. Playing. All of it holy. All of it worship.

For fear of waking up the baby I remain rocking in the back. It's time for the prayers of the people. I silently offer my prayers of gratitude.

Gratitude for this baby.

Gratitude for rest.

Gratitude for the community surrounding us.

When not focused on my own prayers and the baby sleeping in my arms, I hear the prayers offered by the assisting minister. Prayers offered on behalf of the congregation. Certain words grab my attention conjuring a whole host of personal prayers. More prayers rise for this world, for healing, for love, for new life, for peace.

And for some moments my prayers exist only in deep sighs and a loving stare for my son. I see the congregation members in front of me. I let their actions become my prayers.

Two other children sleep on their parents shoulders. May we all know such rest and comfort.

A high school couple surrounds one another with their loving arms. May we all have gentle hands to reach out to us.

Another family plays with their toddler and another passes their twin boys from caring hands to caring hands. May we all be so deeply loved.

I rock back and forth. My son sleeps. I pray. Sometimes with words.

This sleeping, this fidgeting, this tuning in and out of worship, this longing, this loving, this holding, this noticing, it's all worship. It's all prayer. One breath, one rock, one hand at a time.

These are my prayers.

These are the prayers of the people.

These are God's people.

Amen.

Kimberly Knowle-Zeller is an ordained ELCA pastor, mother of two, and spouse of an ELCA pastor. She lives with her family in Cole Camp, MO.

March 2018 Monthly Calendar of Events

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
25 <u>10am Holy Communion</u> <u>7pm AA</u>	26	27 <u>7pm AA</u>	28 <u>10am Bible Study</u>	March 1 <u>12pm AA</u>	2 <u>7pm AA</u>	3
4 <u>10am Holy Communion</u> <u>7pm AA</u>	5 <u>7pm AA</u>	6	7 <u>10am Bible Study</u> <u>12pm Monte Ministerial Association Meeting</u>	8 <u>12pm AA</u>	9 <u>7pm AA</u>	10
11 <u>10am Holy Communion</u> <u>7pm AA</u>	12 <u>7pm AA</u>	13	14 <u>10am Bible Study</u>	15 <u>12pm AA</u>	16 <u>7pm AA</u>	17
18 <u>10am Healing Service</u> <u>7pm AA</u>	19 <u>7pm AA</u>	20	21 <u>10am Bible Study</u> <u>11:30am Bishop Committee</u>	22 <u>12pm AA</u>	23 <u>7pm AA</u>	24
25 <u>10am Palm Sunday & Ordination Celebration</u> <u>10am Holy Communion</u> <u>7pm AA</u>	26 <u>7pm AA</u>	27	28 <u>10am Bible Study</u>	29 <u>12pm AA</u> <u>6pm Maundy Thursday/Meal</u>	30 <u>12pm Good Friday Service</u> <u>7pm AA</u>	31

April 2018 Monthly Calendar of Events

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
April 1 <u>10am Easter Sunday</u> <u>10am Holy Communion</u> <u>7pm AA</u>	2	3 <u>7pm AA</u>	4 <u>10am Bible Study</u> <u>12pm Monte Ministerial Association Meeting</u>	5 <u>12pm AA</u>	6 <u>7pm AA</u>	7
8 <u>10am Holy Communion</u> <u>7pm AA</u>	9	10 <u>7pm AA</u>	11 <u>10am Bible Study</u>	12 <u>12pm AA</u>	13 <u>7pm AA</u>	14
15 <u>10am Healing Service</u> <u>7pm AA</u>	16	17 <u>7pm AA</u>	18 <u>10am Bible Study</u> <u>11:30am Bishop Committee</u>	19 <u>12pm AA</u>	20 <u>7pm AA</u>	21
22 <u>10am Holy Communion</u> <u>7pm AA</u>	23	24 <u>7pm AA</u>	25 <u>10am Bible Study</u>	26 <u>12pm AA</u>	27 <u>7pm AA</u>	28 <u>11am Cathedral Day</u>
29 <u>10am Holy Communion</u> <u>7pm AA</u>	30	May 1 <u>7pm AA</u>	2 <u>10am Bible Study</u> <u>12pm Monte Ministerial Association Meeting</u>	3 <u>12pm AA</u>	4 <u>7pm AA</u>	5