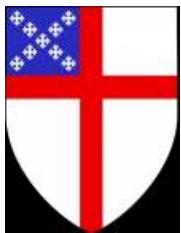


Phone: 360-249-3281

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
Katie Hirschfeld, Preacher**

**Worship
Sundays at 10 a.m.**

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

St. Mark's Newsletter

Click on Newsletters in the upper right of our Home Page.

St. Mark's Church Video

Click on St. Mark's Video in the middle left 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. Select Administration in the upper middle of our Home Page, then click on BC Meeting Minutes in the pulldown menu.

**Adult Bible Study
Wednesdays at 10 a.m.**

St. Mark's Episcopal Church Newsletter

September-October, 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.

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

Note: After all these many weeks, we are just past the middle of the season of Pentecost—only 12 more weeks to go.

Annual Church Picnic (Sunday, 9/9/2018) at St. Mark's

We always have a super "picnic" meal of pulled pork and many other dishes and desserts in our parish hall. Bring a dish to share!

Size to Size Conference (Monday-Tuesday, 10/1-2/2018) at the Ft. Worden Retreat Center near Port Townsend

A group of 8 of us are attending this event for St. Mark's, to learn more about small church operations and leadership, and to meet others doing the same thing.

Blessing of the Pets (Sunday 10/7/2018) at St. Mark's

Our at least 15th anniversary service upcoming! A wonderful St Francis and Blessing of the Pets Sunday! We also have candles to light to remember those pets we have had who have passed on. A fabulous cake afterwards and treats for all. AND--we raised money with the offering to give to Grays Harbor PAWS and the Freedom Tails dog training program at Stafford Creek Prison!

Diocesan Convention (10/26-27/2018) at the Doubletree Seattle Airport

Kids Halloween Treats (10/31/2018) at St. Mark's

From about 5-7:00pm, many kids with their parents come by, and the costumes are awesome! We (Kevin!) decorates outside for this events—and the kids love it! Bags and bags of candy are given away, what we don't eat ourselves—have to sample it, you know.

All Saints Celebration (11/4/2018), 10:00AM at St. Mark's

All Saints Day--we celebrate those who came before us. There is a combination of tables for displaying pictures of those loved ones who we remembered during the service, and candles to light as we pray for them.

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

Sorry: with the new website format I do not have yet found how to print out the monthly calendar with a legible format. Meanwhile, the calendar can be viewed on our website.

Summary of St. Mark's Finances—8/31/2018 (last 7/18/2018)

Net Operating Year to Date--\$-1,562.42 (last \$416.65)

Our regular expenses have dropped, as we hit the Summer and Fall months. We would be showing a positive amount, but have used \$2,200 from the Sagen Outreach fund for various outreach items this year (revenues received in 2017, not 2018, and is already in our operating account).

Total Operating Expenses--\$21,293.64 (last \$18,920.86)

Highlights—All bills received and paid current.

Outreach to Date—\$11,632.59 Diocesan Assessment Required/Paid—\$1,129.99

Total Operating Revenues--\$19,731.22 (last \$18,504.21)

The total revenues for the year are near or better than budgeted levels, except for pledges received.

Non-Operating Revenues--\$2,816.10 Non-Operating Expenses--\$351.96

Net Non-Operating Year to Date--\$2,464.14

Net All Operating and Non-Operating Year to Date--\$901.72 (last \$319.68)

St. Mark's, Montesano Funds Summary—Total is \$73,233.91 (last \$72,651.87)

--Operating Fund (General)--\$5,366.38 (last \$6,512.15)

- General/Designated Checking Account--\$4,862.29 (last \$6,008.07)
- General/Designated Savings Account--\$504.09 (last \$504.08)

--Diocesan Investment Fund (St Mark Legacy)--\$28,838.07 (last \$28,005.23)

- Memorial Fund (part of DIF)--\$754.42 (last \$732.63)

--Diocesan Investment Fund (St John Legacy)--\$38,566.50 (last \$37,452.46)

--Clergy Discretionary Fund/Checking Account--\$462.96 (last \$682.03)

Designated Funds (part of Checking Account):

- Sagan Outreach Fund (initial-\$10,000)--\$2,200.00
- Caton Chaplains Dinner Fund (initial-\$3,600)--\$2,291.54

Other Articles on Faith and Other Things

Articles Below are From the Episcopal Café

The Prophetic Voice

August 11, 2018 by Heather Sisk

In honor of the recently passed Feast Day of St. Mary Magdalene; I thought I'd explore the nature of spiritual direction and prophetic voice. The Magdalene's feast day is celebrated during the season after Pentecost, apropos for the season that marks the arrival of the Spirit. Mary Magdalene's proclamation to the disciples: "I have seen the Lord" (Jn 20:18) is part of the prophetic tradition: a tradition that always signifies a divine message intended for the community.

In Hebrew scripture, the rift between God and humans is always mended through us returning to God, and to God's forgiveness. Jesus' resurrection is a proclamation to the people that God forgives. Mary's personal encounters with Jesus and the resurrected Christ reveal a Trinitarian understanding of God: God as human who identifies with the marginalized and the victim, God as creator who heals and forgives, God as Spirit who dwells with us.

Ultimately sharing this Trinitarian understanding of God begins to set new patterns for community based in mutuality, love and forgiveness. The Holy Spirit in Christianity is also known as advocate and friend. In Spiritual Direction we learn to be a friend to our true selves. We listen for where the Spirit's voice abides or connects us and with our higher purpose. This higher purpose in Greco-Christian language is named Agape.

Agape is Love in its highest form. Like the Prophet's sympathetic appeal, it is a conduit or love between God and human, human and God, and for others in the form of unattached charity and

mercy. It is a love that is seated in the heart-space and understands that there are no strings attached. Essentially it is always the acknowledgment of the true self that flows into acknowledgment of community. Agape is transformative, and through prayer and attention it grows into new language and new activity.

Our prophetic voice is at one time the outward stage of all the inner work of spiritual direction, contemplation and prayer. At the same time, it might also arise in what appears to be a beginning: the voice calling out in the wilderness of our very being. Or it may feel like someone calling our name distinctly, as in the garden in John's gospel where Jesus calls "Mary." Like Mary, we turn, we catch our breath in the knowledge that this internal stirring is our teacher; our "Rabboni."

Our prophetic nature is our true voice – Love prompting us to action – the Spirit moving us in new directions: to begin again in new patterns of resurrection for the self and for community.

Heather Sisk is a Spiritual Director and retreat leader. She earned her MA in Spiritual Direction from The General Theological Seminary in 2010.

Shout from the Rooftop

August 25, 2018 by Linda Ryan

My phone rang this afternoon, an uncommon occurrence which usually means confirmation of an appointment, notification of a prescription that is ready, or someone wanting to sell me something. This time, my caller ID showed me a number that didn't look familiar, so I was hesitant about taking it. It was my daughter-in-law, and she seemed quite excited.

She's usually a rather fast talker, but this time it was at a kind of supersonic speed, and her first thing was, "Guess what?". She'd called to share good news was they had just signed the final papers for a house. She was so excited; how could I be anything but tremendously enthusiastic for her and my son.

The neat thing is things seemed to fall into place as if it were planned out that way. It's a house that they have rented for the last 12 years, and the landlord informed him that he was interested in selling the property about the same time that they had been discussing buying a house. Up until then, they were happy renting, but they're getting older and figured it was time to contemplate purchasing a home. The fantastic part about it is that they love the house, the area, the neighbors, the proximity to places where they go frequently, and that that they don't have to move a single piece of furniture unless they want to change which wall it is against.

Getting news like that is fantastic, like getting news of a new grandchild (I have a grand-cat, and that's fine with me!), someone I know won the lottery or had some other wonderful things like that happen. It's the kind of news I'd like to yell from the top of my trailer or call everybody I know to tell them. I didn't do the former, but I did do the latter.

Getting good news seems to be like getting a breath of fresh air. Reading the local and national news is frequently rather depressing. It appears as if disasters and violence are abundant, and good news stories don't seem to be anybody's priority. Occasionally there is something fantastic, but it doesn't last in the news as a school shooting, a false arrest, or something scandalous floating around the news stations that they can fill focus on.

We claim that Jesus preached the good news. We Christians believe that indeed it is good news, that Jesus came as a human being to live as a human being and also to invite us to share in the message of salvation and of the beauty of God's kingdom. In some places, however, it would be hard to think about Jesus message as good news. The hope that Jesus brought and the joy of his words often get overlooked, just like the Bible verses, and there are many of them, that repeat "Love God and love your neighbor." That's good news, but we don't always hear that when we listen to preachers and speakers talk to us about the wages of sin, how evil the world is, and how the kingdom of God is in heaven, which we can attain if we say the right phrases.

It's difficult to focus on good news like "Love your neighbor as yourself," when we seem to hear condemnation and the like from people who profess to be Christian. Where is the good news if

someone is told that by just being who they are, they are condemned by God. What always amazes me is that people who often proclaim their Christianity the loudest are the ones who we later find have been adulterers, thieves, bearers of false witness, perpetrators of crimes against women and children, and any of a number of other crimes and misdemeanors. It's no wonder the term Christian often brings scorn and disgust when someone brings up their faith.

Like buying a new house, good news deserves to be spread, allowing others to share in the happiness and the depth of feeling that goes with it. Like having a new baby, people forget about the cares of the world as they look over the new infant, hold it, and touch its little cheek or hand and feel the warmth. It's good news when two people get married. It's good news when our kids succeed in life and that they grew up to be responsible, loving, and contented people. It's good news when we speak and act in such a way that helps others see the kingdom of God in their lives and the lives of others. It should be worth shouting from the rooftops.

I'm happy for my kids; in fact, I couldn't be more thrilled for them. I would like to think that there would be lots of good news around to cheer up a world that seems to be getting more cynical, sarcastic, and mean-spirited. Jesus didn't teach those things. The focus of his message was love, and it seems to be that love is in short supply in lots of places.

The kingdom of God isn't a goal to be achieved once I take my last breath. It's something that is as close as my next breath and as available as God's grace. It's not something where I can add up points for righteous living like points for a gas discount by buying X number of dollars of groceries at a specific store. It's a no-strings thing, unlike a buy-one, get-one-free offer. It does require some effort, difficult things sometimes, like loving my neighbors, even if they are very different from me. Still, I don't have to raise a sweat to work on loving, or kingdom-building.

It could be as simple as shouting the good news from the rooftops.
God bless.

Linda Ryan is a co-mentor for an [Education for Ministry](#) group, an avid reader, lover of Baroque and Renaissance music, and - retired. She keeps the blog [Jericho's Daughter](#). She is also owned by three cats.

Compassion

August 23, 2018 by Laurie Gudim

A friend who was a very wise man grounded in a rich prayer practice took medical marijuana as he was dying to combat his anxiety about not being able to breathe. For awhile I was disillusioned by this. Shouldn't prayer itself have quelled his fear? But in my own prayer I received an answer: compassion. It led me to a deeper understanding.

Today I am pondering the breath-taking miracle of Jesus walking across the water to the disciples in their boat. The wind is high, the sky dark, and they are rowing for all they are worth. All at once they see the Master coming right up to their boat. It is as though they were rowing across the desert instead of the sea. They are terrified, but their fear is turned into a joyful welcome when they hear him say to them, "I am; do not be afraid."

"I am; do not be afraid." It's as if really seeing Jesus in his totality is all that is necessary to usher in the Kingdom of Heaven. And this, I think, is true. It is in the simple act of inviting Jesus into our boat that our journey comes to its end, and we arrive where we wanted to go.

Here is the question, though: where is it, exactly, that we wanted to go? The ego-oriented part of us longs for an end to everything that plagues us. But, as Jesus tells the crowd that has followed him because they were fed and healed out there in the desert, it is not the food that perishes that matters.

It is not physical nourishment nor wholeness of body; it is not money nor power; it is not belonging nor even esteem or self-worth that matters. It's not about swallowing Jesus like some sort of remedy for feeling bad or lost or broken. It's not about squeezing our eyes shut and holding his Name up in front of our terrors and broken dreams. The Kingdom of Heaven is none of those things.

My friend experienced a deep anxiety about breathing, but he knew beyond the shadow of a doubt that even in his anxiety Christ was right there with him. Every desperate, in-drawn breath, every heart-wrenching moment of bodily terror was shared. It didn't make him less God's man that he suffered. He felt the deep compassion of Jesus' love. He was already grounded in eternal life.

The shore we actually come to is a new consciousness. We find ourselves, in all our humanness, in the eternal relationship with the living Christ, who spoke the unique word that is each of us before the world began. It is the "I am" of Christ that nourishes us as we each participate in the reality of our existence. When he says, "do not be afraid," this is what he means; that we know beyond a doubt that he is with us. Everything we go through is shared.

Compassion.

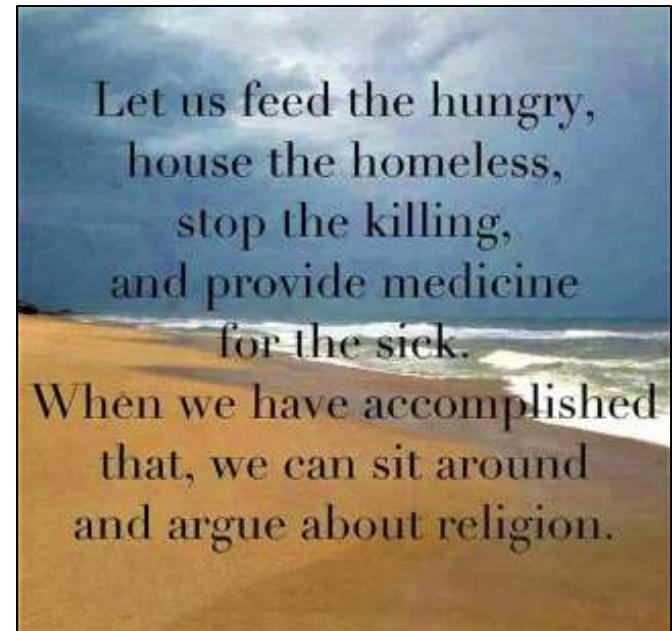
Laurie Gudim is a religious iconographer and writer living in Fort Collins, Colorado. /2018 10:23 am ET Updated Feb 27, 2018

From Episcopal Church Memos

Cath 🍏
@cathjmag

Just gave my name in Starbucks as 'The Lord be with you'. When the barista shouted my 'name', half of the customers yelled 'And also with you!' and the other half shouted 'and with your spirit!' and it was a right ecumenical mess. Try it.

8:51 am · 28 Aug 18



SO YOU WANT TO BE AN EPISCOPALIAN

A NARTHEX IS...

- a) a new sleeping pill
- b) a small dinosaur
- c) a small bone in the inner ear
- d) a church lobby

A VERGER IS...

- a) a pending partnership
- b) a master of ceremonies
- c) a verge, but more so
- d) an aspiring vegetarian

A CANON TO THE ORDINARY IS...

- a) a small weapon
- b) a mediocre church rule
- c) a bishop's assistant
- d) boring music sung as a round