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- Pentecost Sunday

Office Hours
Monday - Thursday
9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
Office Phone: (307) 234-0831
Email address: stmarkscasper5@gmail.com
Website: stmarks.diowy.org
Fr. Jim’s Cell: 912-844-7412
Fr. Jim’s email: jshumie@aol.com
Did not our hearts burn within us as He opened the Scriptures to us?!  
(Sermon from the Last Sunday in Easter Season)

I must confess to you my brothers and sisters that I have been enjoying this time in the life of our country and especially in the life of our church.

And it is not because I have been sheltering in place with my wife…though that has been wonderful.

And it is not because I have been able to spend time with my daughter and have our granddaughter spend the night many nights with us…though that is wonderful

And it is not because I am able to stop by Chick Filet every day, as I take my wife to work…though that is wonderful

And it is not because I am able to stop by Krispy Kreme donuts every day I go to pick Maureen up from work…though that is wonderful.

IT IS BECAUSE OF YOU!  The members of St. Mark’s, the visitors on Facebook Live…Every day, morning noon and night, I have the privilege of bringing everything to God in prayer as we pray together during the week and on Sundays.

IT IS BECAUSE OF YOU!  I get to hear on Zoom and read on Facebook LIVE your comments on Scripture and your petitions in prayer.

IT IS BECAUSE OF YOUR VOICES AS YOU ENGAGE THE WORDS OF SCRIPTURE.

THIS IS WHAT CAUSES MY HEART TO BURN JUST AS JESUS CAUSED THE DISCIPLES’ HEARTS TO BURN ON THE WAY OR AS JOHN WESLEY DESCRIBED, “OUR HEARTS WERE STRANGELY WARMED!”

Believe it or not, Krispy Kreme donuts and Chick Filet sandwiches do not nourish my soul…but listening to you respond to Holy Scripture does nourish my soul for it is truly one of the most favorite things I have the privilege of doing and we have been doing that since this sheltering in place began!  It is a joy to receive insights into Scriptures as we discuss it every Morning Prayer Service at 7:30 AM Monday through Friday. It is a joy to hear your responses to the psalms at Noon Day Prayers and Compline, Monday through Friday.  It is a joy to hear your responses to the Red-Letter words of Jesus in the Gospel of Mark, every Tuesday morning. This is what has been feeding my soul daily since this quarantine began.  This is what causes my heart to burn with joy and curiosity.

And this is what the disciples on the way to Emmaus experienced with Jesus.  The disciples walking with broken hearts, or as Jesus said, “slow of heart.”
The disciples who were probably returning to either their own homes or home of a relative who lived within walking distance of Jerusalem… the Holy City, the Holy Temple, where the Gospel of Luke, began and ended and from which a new beginning began. The Disciples who were in despair, hopelessness, and broken heartedness trudging their way to Emmaus discover the Risen Lord among them.

This is the longest story in Luke after the resurrection and the one that prepares us for the Story of Acts and prepares us for our day to day Way of LIFE in Christ. It is story that calls to mind “sudden recognition” stories whether in the book, Ulysses or in the Old Testament where ‘angels are entertained unawares’ and then revealed. This brings to mind a phrase from Lincoln’s first inaugural address, “better angels of our nature” which we are seeing all over the country and in Casper and in St. Mark’s. It is a story of the generosity of God in offering His son that we might all have eternal and meaningful life.

I heard the term, “Covenant of Generosity” this morning by Jon Meacham, a famous Episcopalian who happens to have a home in Sewanee Tennessee, where I spent time growing up and became “The Rev. Dr. Dr. Give me the Good News” Jim Shumard. A new covenant I give you, a covenant of generosity, where we are called to love one another as Jesus has loved us, to lay down our lives one for another, even as the martyrs have done for generations; as our soldiers have done for generations; and our front line workers and first responders do even today.

It is a story that encompasses a summary of the Good News, the opening up of Scripture to the minds and hearts of all and the Table of Fellowship with Christ and one another. The story is told for those of us who were not there but can know Jesus in the breaking of the Word and the breaking of the bread. We often say Word and Sacrament, the Liturgy of the Word and the Liturgy of the Table, but I see both as sacraments and we are partaking of the Sacrament of the Word during this time of sheltering in place.

Someone jokingly asked me recently if I was going to be civilly disobedient to the order to open up churches. BROTHERS AND SISTERS, CHURCH WAS NEVER CLOSED. You and I are the church and we have gathered together in Jesus’ name consistently since this COVID 19 pandemic began. We pray together. We fellowship together.

We hear, mark, learn and inwardly digest Scripture together. WE ARE CHURCH TOGETHER AND NO PANDEMIC OR ORDERS FROM ANYONE CAN CHANGE THAT!

I thank God for each of you and look forward to continuing to be the Church together as we all travel on the Way, even if we are at home. We travel with the disciples on the way to Emmaus; the way of the Cross; the way to heaven; the way of the Kingdom; and the way of LOVE!

God bless you one and all!
ANNOUNCING!

The slate of nominees for the election of the 10th Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Wyoming

The standing Committee of the Episcopal Diocese of Wyoming is pleased to announce the slate of candidates who will be on the ballot for the election of the 10th Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Wyoming.

The Rev. Canon Paul-Gordon Chandler is the rector of The Anglican Church in Qatar (The Church of the Epiphany & The Anglican Center) in the Persian Gulf, a church that hosts over 20,000 people from 65 countries in its building every weekend. Serving as an Appointed Mission Partner with The Episcopal Church, he is an Episcopal priest, author, peacebuilder and art curator. He grew up in Senegal, West Africa and has lived and worked around the world in leadership roles with The Episcopal Church, faith-based publishing, the arts, and Christian relief and development agencies. He is also the Founding President of CARAVAN, an international peacebuilding non-profit closely associated with The Episcopal Church that uses the arts to build sustainable peace around the world, and which has held several strategic interreligious art exhibitions throughout Wyoming.

The Rev. David L. Duprey returns to Wyoming as a candidate for Bishop, having served as an active-duty U.S. Navy Chaplain for the past 12 years. Born in Norwich, Connecticut, David spent his early years in that state. He moved to Ohio for his undergraduate studies, graduating from Capital University, a Lutheran liberal arts college in Columbus, Ohio. Capital’s Religion Department provided an outstanding foundation to begin studies at Trinity Episcopal School for Ministry, where he graduated in 1988 with a Master of Divinity degree. David was ordained to the diaconate in St. Matthew’s Cathedral in 1988, then to the priesthood in 1989. As Vicar of St. John the Baptist in Big Piney from 1988 until 1992, he became the first resident priest in the mission church. He then served as Rector of St. Peter’s, Sheridan, until he answered the call to Navy chaplain in 2008.

More information and full biographies are available from May 12 e-spirit. St. Mark’s will also have a zoom meeting this summer to provide parishioners an opportunity to discuss the candidates and share opinions.
Moving our new playground donated by Iris Clubhouse!!

Ellary Golumb!!

Maren Nicolaysen!!

Parade around Casper on Easter supporting essential workers!!

Our Graduating Seniors Class of 2020-Congratulations to all graduates!!

Audrey’s 90th Birthday!!!
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The Greek word *entunchanein*, "to make Intercession," means to meet or be with someone, on behalf of another. So when we talk of Jesus making intercession for us to the Father, it’s not Jesus talking to God about us. It is Jesus being intimately close to his Father and carrying us, whom he loves, on his heart, and into the heart of God.

-Br. Geoffrey Tristram  
*Society of Saint John the Evangelist*

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The kind of prayer we call 'oblation' means handing to God what is too much for us to carry. Without that prayer, we risk becoming infected by what has affected us. Without that prayer, there will be nothing left to give or to live. Be a reservoir. Make a retreat, at least once a day. At least. You’re worth it!!

-Br. Curtis Almquist  
*Society of Saint John the Evangelist*
Online Worship to Continue & It Will Be Part of our Ongoing New Normal!

Please either call in from a regular landline phone, smart phone, computer, iPad or other devices so you can stay connected to St. Mark’s. You may also tune in to Facebook Live either as the services are held or you can access them after in the day. This may continue for some time. Call me if you need help at: 912 844-7412.

ALL PUBLIC ST. MARK’S SERVICES AND MEETINGS ON ZOOM AND FACEBOOK LIVE

SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP: SUNDAYS AT 10:30 AM

DAILY MORNING PRAYER SERVICES, MONDAYS THROUGH FRIDAYS: 7:30 AM

MONDAY MORNING COFFEE: EVERY MONDAY MORNING AT 8:00 AM TO 8:30 AM

RED LETTER WORDS OF JESUS CLASS: TUESDAY MORNINGS AT 10:00 AM

NOON DAY PRAYERS, MONDAYS THROUGH FRIDAYS AT NOON

DAILY COMPLINE, MONDAYS THROUGH FRIDAYS AT 8:00 PM

Join by Facebook Live by “liking” our Facebook Page at St. Mark’s Episcopal Church, Casper, Wyoming and/or join by Zoom on your computer or IPAD OR IPHONE by entering or clicking the URL address below. Call any of the phone numbers listed in each meeting and follow the instructions to access us by phone. Enter the password when prompted.

https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82936868048?pwd=UzJxZEhDVk9ncGh6bFdscFp3YUFtdz09

Meeting ID: 829 3686 8048  Password: 259764
Dial by your location  +1 312 626 6799  +1 646 558 8656
When this is over,
May we never again
Take for granted
A handshake with a stranger
Full shelves at the store
Conversation with neighbors
A crowded theatre
Friday night out
The taste of communion
A routine checkup
Coffee with a friend
The stadium roaring
Each deep breath
A boring Tuesday
Life itself.
When this ends,
May we find
That we have become
More like the people
We wanted to be
Were called to be
We hoped to be
And may we stay
That way--better
For each other
Because of the worst.

Laura K. Fanucci
Stop the Spread of Germs

Help prevent the spread of respiratory diseases like COVID-19.

Stay at least 6 feet (about 2 arms' length) from other people.

Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash and wash your hands.

When in public, wear a cloth face covering over your nose and mouth.

Do not touch your eyes, nose, and mouth.

Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces.

Stay home when you are sick, except to get medical care.

Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.
May Vestry Highlights

The vestry approved paying Lara Gilbert a total of an additional $5000 for the time period of May through July. The Rector, Wardens and Vestry are appreciative of the added workload she has voluntarily taken on since the Covid 19 crisis impacted us and we are asking her to do more.

•Discussed and supported the Rector’s decision that St. Mark’s would not reopen for public services until we are at such a point where ALL of the congregation would be able to attend. Two of the three phases outlined in Bishop Smylie’s guidelines would not include those 65 years and older. It could be mid to late summer or fall before we reach the third phase.

•In the meantime, “virtual” services will continue. A new Morning Prayer service has been added at 7:30 am, along with an 8 am coffee hour Monday mornings. Noonday prayer at noon and Compline at 8 pm are also available via Zoom or Facebook Live Mondays through Fridays.

•Next Vestry meeting will be held Monday, June 15 at 6:00 pm. The meetings are open to the public and we welcome visitors! Odds are pretty good that we will still meet via Zoom, but if you would like to attend as a guest, let Father Shumard know and you can be added to the group.

Interfaith of Natrona County is looking for volunteer receptionists. If you are interested in helping them out please call Mike Bon at: 307-235-8043.

Reopening your businesses

In addition to our support of Feed the Frontline, Life Steps childcare and bus tokens, the discernment group would like to assist small business owners within St. Mark’s church for whom this is a particularly difficult time. We are aware that to reopen your business you may need to purchase PPE, cleaning supplies, sanitizer, etc. to comply with COVID19 regulations. This may be an area we can be of assistance. We are setting aside moneys in our Covid19 account to assist with reopening expenses.

If you had to close your doors due to Covid19 or work for a business that has closed, you may apply for our “Open my Business” Covid19 funds, please email your story to stmarkscasper@gmail.com attention Nimbleness committee.

“The will of God will never take you to where the grace of God will not protect you.”
Bernadette Devlin