

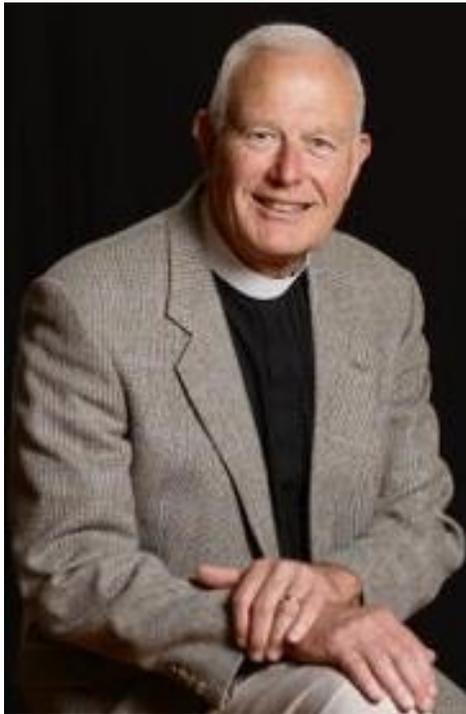


THE LION'S ROAR

Autumn 2019

On September 8th we will welcome our new Interim Priest, Father Jay Gabb, and associate priest, Father Joe Lenow, with a special coffee hour after the 10:30 Eucharist. They have graciously agreed to introduce themselves here. Thank you so much, Fr. Jay and Fr. Joe!

Greetings from Fr. Jay Gabb



To all who are St. Mark's... those Betsy and I have known since the mid-70s when we were members, those whom we have come to know more recently and those whom we have yet to meet... GREETINGS!

As your new Rector in the Interim, I am honored and excited to come among you and experience, exercise and grow all the great gifts given to us to be God's people on the corner of 13 & R. Jesus commanded us to love God and love our neighbor. As in the past, I know we will continue to love God individually and as a community of Jesus followers by our prayer, worship, service and LOVE to all whom God sends our way.

Over the next year or so I certainly want us to honor the past, continue to do all the good things you are now doing and yes, to explore and embrace the realm of new and exciting things the Holy Spirit is revealing to us. During

an interim period, each parish has the opportunity to reflect on what defines them as a unique gathering of God's people and to search for new and different dimensions of what God is calling them to be and become. For St. Mark's, this process can be a wonderful time of new experiences, new voices, new friends and members, new favorites, and perhaps some new directions for the ministry at SMOC, all as a part of discerning who will become your new Rector.

Fr. Joe Lenow, who will introduce himself elsewhere, and I are so eager to come among you beginning in September. We want to listen, learn, worship, share, love and grow with you, as this Interim period will be a time of living into God's plan for our lives as well.

Please join us on our first Sunday, September 8, as together we "make a joyful noise" unto the Lord."

Fr. Jay Gabb+

Greetings from Fr. Joe Lenow

Hello all—it's a pleasure and a blessing to be with you and serve alongside you at St. Mark's. I've already loved learning a bit about the truly special community you've built together, and I look forward to learning much more in the months ahead. It's only fair that I tell you a bit about myself!

While I was born in the Rio Grande Valley in south Texas, I have lived almost my entire life in Virginia. Both my parents are Methodist clergy, my father an elder and my mother a career Christian educator and youth pastor. While an undergraduate at the University of Virginia, I began to learn more and more about the history of Christianity and was first exposed to the depth and power of our Anglican tradition. After college, I completed a Master of Divinity at Duke University Divinity School, where I was a member of the Anglican/Episcopal House of Studies. Not having gotten my fill of schooling yet, I returned to the University of Virginia to complete a Ph.D. in Theology, Ethics, and Culture, writing a dissertation on the Christology of St. Augustine of Hippo.



After finishing my doctorate, a job in the Theology Department at Creighton University brought me to Nebraska; I am beginning my third year in the department. In June of 2018, I was ordained to the diaconate and I was ordained a priest at Trinity Cathedral in Omaha in January of 2019. Since then, I have been serving at the cathedral, and am thrilled at the opportunity to serve at St. Mark's. The parish seems to have so much going for it: a long and vibrant history that continues to nourish it today; a beautiful and contemplative worship space; and ready access to a university community full of people who may be looking for a faithful and open-minded church to call home. Building on the great work y'all (sorry, the Southerner in me couldn't resist!) have already done, St. Mark's seems poised for great things in this time of transition. I'll look forward to getting to know each of you more personally in the weeks ahead, and to seeing you on September 8! Blessings,

Fr. Joe Lenow+

Bishop Scott Barker will be making his annual visit to St. Mark's on the Campus on **September 15th**. Among other activities, there will be a potluck lunch after the 10:30 Eucharist. Watch the Weekly Minders and the bulletin for further details.

Sacred Arts Update

In August, St. Mark's on the Campus welcomes back the annual **Artists on the Edge** exhibit. Artists on the Edge is a collaboration of CenterPointe and Lincoln Parks and Recreation. The program is free and open to both trained and untrained artists. The group meets at F Street Community Center and at Matt Talbot Kitchen and Outreach. The show will be on display throughout the month of August.

In September, we'll celebrate our photographer-in-residence **Craig Lawson**. His floral images comprise the permanent exhibit in the parish hall. There will be a re-opening celebration and a slide show of Craig's fine photos of parish life at St. Mark's.

A fall workshop is in the planning stages, offering the opportunity to decorate slate tiles that were part of the roof of St. Mark's. Watch the Midweek Minders, web site, and Sunday bulletin announcements for details of this fun, hands-on project.

November 1-3, we'll host **"Wonderfully Made: A Celebration of Quilts and Quilting."** This three-day event will include a display of quilts from many eras, created for many purposes. Please save the afternoon of Sunday, November 1 for a workshop led by Connie Backus-Yoder on quilt design. You won't need to sew, but you will get to create and see how spirituality and art can come together.



"Owl in Hiding" by David Benes, one of the works in the Artists on the Edge exhibition

Grill and Chill in the Courtyard

New and returning college students are invited to grill and relax in St. Mark's courtyard on Saturday, August 24, from 5:30 pm to 8:00 pm. The Lutheran Center and St. Mark's on the Campus will provide burgers, brats, and beverages – including vegetarian fare – for a relaxing afternoon connecting with fellow Christians on campus before classes begin.

St. Mark's on the Campus is located at 13th and R Streets. You'll know you've found the right place when you see the big bronze lion with wings!



Participants in the 2018 cookout in the St. Mark's on the Campus courtyard relax and munch on hot dogs.

Endowment Committee Report

The Vestry of St. Mark's on the Campus established an endowment committee to monitor the two endowment funds of the Parish. Bob Kuzelka, Mark Musick, and Brent Cejda are serving on the committee, with Pippa Lawson (in her role as Warden), Juliana Bukoski (in her role as Treasurer), and the Rector serving in ex officio capacity. One goal of the committee is to keep the members of St. Mark's up to date on the endowments. This report is an overview of the endowment funds and a summary of the performance of the funds during the first half of 2019.

St. Mark's endowments have a principal amount of funds that is invested. Each year the Vestry determines a percentage of the previous three-year average of the endowment to be available for a specific purpose. If there is no purpose, the funds remain in the endowment until there is a purpose.

Both endowments are deposited with the Episcopal Church Foundation's Endowment Management Services (EMS) Pooled Funds. EMS Pooled Funds are managed by State Street Global Advisors and include endowments from Episcopal dioceses, churches, schools, and church-related organizations that are less than \$1 million. EMS Pooled Funds are allocated between the Episcopal Church Foundation Growth Fund – a diversified portfolio of equity funds – and the Episcopal Church Foundation Income Fund – a portfolio of fixed income assets. Both endowments have an allocation of 60/40 equities to fixed income.

The St. Mark's on the Campus **Capital Improvement Endowment** was the initial endowment and holds the greatest amount of funds. At the start of 2019 the market value of the Capital Improvement Endowment was \$134,623.59. At the end of June, the market value had increased to \$151,250.97—a year-to-date return of 12.35%. ***The recent painting of the exterior trim is an example of how the Capital Improvement Endowment can be used.***



The St. Mark's on the Campus **Operating Endowment** was more recently established through a three-year campaign. At the start of 2019, the market value of the Operating Endowment was \$36,976.63. At the end of June, the market value had increased to \$41,520.62—a year-to-date return of 12.28%. Next year (2020) will be the first time that Operating Endowment funds will be available.

We are pleased that the funds are doing very well this year, but, as we are reminded with each report, "Past performance is no guarantee of future results". Questions regarding the endowments can be directed to any member of the committee—we will do our best to provide a timely response.

To donate to either endowment, note "Capital Improvement Endowment" or "Operating Endowment" on your donation check or envelope. Any size of donation is deeply appreciated.

Recycling at SMOc

Determining whether an item is appropriate for the recycle bin can be a challenge. The first question to ask yourself is, "Can it be cleaned and dried?" If it can't be cleaned, it is garbage. Soiled items like tissues and paper towels fail this basic test and should be tossed into the trash bin. Two notable items left in the ***Is this Recyclable?*** box in the kitchen are pictured here →.

- 1) Aluminum foil, like pop cans, is highly recyclable -- if it is clean and dry, of course!
- 2) Chip bags are not accepted for recycling locally.

If you are a determined recycler, there are programs that repurpose things generally tossed in the trash such as chip bags. To explore that option for your household, check out <https://www.terracycle.com/en-US#>.

Stop by the recycling center in our kitchen to read the poster for more answers, to ask questions, and, yes, ***to recycle!*** -- Roger H.



A New Garden

In mid-August, be on the lookout for a beautiful new array of plants and flowers in our enclosed garden bed on the north side of the Parish Hall. We will have two varieties of boxwood, some elegant hydrangeas, coneflowers and peonies. There may also be a plaque! (More on that later). Our courtyard is looking quite lovely, and this means there's more beauty on the way!

Clinic with a Heart

You may remember that earlier in the year, Pippa told us about ***Clinic with a Heart***, a free medical clinic that has been busy in Lincoln since 2003. The clinic takes care of indigent people in need of medical care and is supported solely by faith-based institutions. One of those faith-based institutions is now St. Mark's on the Campus -- every time you give to our Outreach Fund, you help Clinic with a Heart!



On September 22, Teresa Harms, Executive Director of this very special medical clinic, will give a short talk during coffee hour following the 10:30 service. This will also kick off our first ***Medicine Drive*** for Clinic with a Heart. From September 22nd through October 31st, we will be collecting over-the-counter medicines to give to the clinic. Aspirin, allergy pills, laxatives, cough syrups, anything you can buy for a few dollars at a drug store will mean so much to people who can't afford them. Drop them in the basket in the narthex. And thank you in advance for your thoughtfulness!

Honoring Lay Ministries

Starting in October, we are going to honor lay ministries. We will focus on two or three ministries each month. On one Sunday of the month, the coffee hour will honor the people taking part in the "ministries of the month." On that Sunday, there will be a short presentation during the announcements featuring a participant, giving you a chance to learn more about what they do and why they like to do it. We hope you will come and help us celebrate. In October our "spotlight" groups will be Acolytes, Lay Eucharistic Ministers (LEMs) and 8:30 Rector's Helpers (LEMs). Be sure to check out the display in the parish hall.



The altar party processes for the Gospel reading.

My Ration Challenge

by Steve Blum

For the first time, the global Ration Challenge campaign sponsored by Church World Services (CWS) challenged USA residents with this question: Can you live for a week on the same rations that a refugee survives on, get sponsored to raise money for food and medical supplies for refugees, and show refugees you are with them?

After signing up for the challenge, I received the same rations that a Syrian Refugee living in a refugee camp in Jordan would receive for a week. The ration pack included rice, 6 ounces of lentils, 3 ounces dried chickpeas, 1 can of sardines, 1 can of kidney beans, 14 ounces of flour and 12 ounces of vegetable oil -- that's it -- for a week. No sugar, no caffeine; just water and these rations to spread out over seven days.

I could have just made a donation, but taking the challenge taught me so much

Quantity	Product	المنتج
420g	Rice	ارز
170g	Lentils	عدس
85g	Dried Chick Peas	حمص
125g	Tinned Sardines	سردين
400g	Tinned Kidney Beans	فاصوليا
300ml	Vegetable Oil	زيت
1	Food Coupon-Rice	كوبون ارز
1	Food Coupon-Flour	كوبون دقيق

Gross 1.5lb

Label listing the contents of a Refugee Food Ration

more than just how hungry and weak I could feel eating mostly rice for breakfast, lunch and dinner for a week. As I grew weaker, my awareness, empathy, and compassion for refugees grew exponentially stronger with each day of the challenge. Watching a fundraising infomercial may be enough for some people. For others, like me, feeling the hunger, the loss of energy and the mental fog that came from not having enough protein and nutrients in my diet for a week made a powerful point. While I knew the challenge would be over for me in seven days, refugees around the world are often surviving in camps for years or even decades. The numbers are staggering. It is estimated that globally 70.8 million people have been forcibly displaced, and 37,000 people are forced to flee their homes **every day** due to conflict or persecution. Just imagine that!

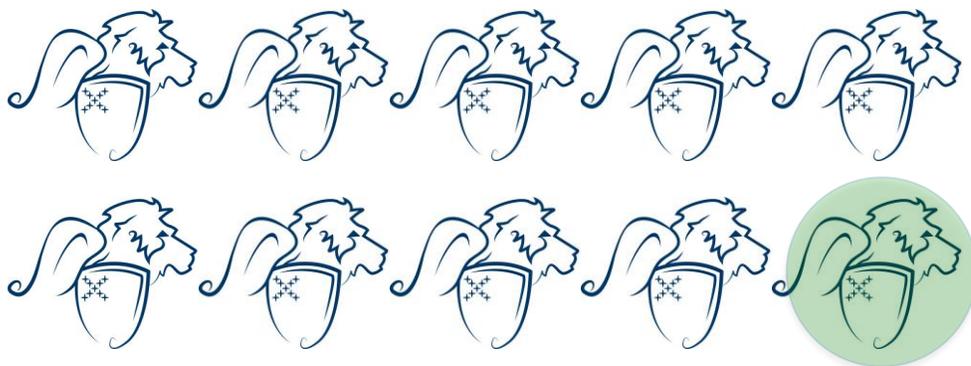
The outcome of my challenge? I lost 6 pounds in a week. I imagine it won't take long to regain that. But more importantly, I raised enough money to feed 5 refugees for a year. I feel good about this even though that's only 5 of the 71,000,000. And I certainly had my awareness raised as well. Next year, the challenge will be issued again around the third week of June, in conjunction with World Refugee Day. Consider joining in!

SMOC Strides Against Breast Cancer

St. Mark's on the Campus will take part in *Making Strides Against Breast Cancer* on Sunday, October 20, 2019 at Holmes Lake in Lincoln. Our team will join forces with thousands of volunteers from Lincoln and points beyond to raise funds for the American Cancer Society to help local cancer patients and all who love and care for them. For more information, contact Peg Sheldrick at shelarts@aol.com.

Time to Ponder Pledging

Soon, we will once again decide what portion of our resources we will pledge to our church for the coming year. Our parish is in an exciting time of transition right now. Please know that your decisions regarding stewardship this year will greatly impact the future of St. Mark's. Changes are taking place **now**. Financial support for our church home **now** will help to take our church into its **future** successfully.



Ask Marcus



Hello! I'm Marcus. You may ask me anything about church or spirit. I have been around for a long, long time, so I know many things. Leave your questions in the box in the narthex and watch for my answers in *The Lion's Roar*.

Dear Marcus: How did this Marcus character come to reside in the courtyard? Marcus, can you hear me now?
-- Inquiring Mind

Dear Inquiring Mind: Yes, I can hear you now. I have been told that for many years there was a tall wall in the courtyard with a tree beside it. Generations of children "walked the wall" and climbed the tree. When the courtyard was remodeled, the wall and the tree disappeared. A cry went up from the children, "What will we do now while our parents are talking?!" So, adults who care about children listened. Soon plans were made for a lion, the symbol of St. Mark, to grace the courtyard. In 2002, UNL Masters student, Gregg Wortham, fashioned my likeness with his artist hand and cast me in bronze and I came to the courtyard to stay. Now children once more can climb while their parents talk.
-- Marcus

Dear Marcus: Lions don't have wings. Why do you have wings?

-- Curious as a Cat

Dear Curious: You are correct that real lions don't have wings, but I am not your regular lion. The Gospel of Mark begins with a voice crying in the wilderness; the voice of John the Baptist. Witnesses thought John's voice sounded like the roar of a lion, so they began to use a lion as a symbol for Mark. I have wings thanks to Ezekiel, who had a vision of heaven where he saw Mark as a winged lion. In addition to having wings, I am often shown holding a Bible. Here at St Mark's, I have my paw resting on an open Bible. My wings are folded because I am not going anywhere. Besides, folded wings make a better slide for the children.
-- Marcus

Dear Marcus: Why is your Bible open to Mark 12:29-31? Why was that passage chosen for the sculpture?

-- Footnote Fan

Dear Fan: I believe the verses were chosen because they summarize the law and tell us how we are to live. The verses come from Jesus' answer to the scribe who asks him which commandment is most important. Jesus answers that the most important commandment is to love God with all your heart, mind and soul and to love our neighbors as ourselves. Ultimately, what matters is how we love God and our neighbors. *Lions are neighbors, too!*
-- Marcus

Save these Dates!

Lincoln Public Schools, 1 st Day of School	August 12
Vestry Meeting	August 18
UNL Greek Week @ SMOc – recruitment	August 19-22
UNL Residence Halls open	August 22
Grill and Chill in the Courtyard – Student Welcome	August 24
UNL – First Day of fall classes	August 26
Craig Lawson Photo Display re-opening	September 1
Labor Day Holiday	September 2
Fr. Jay & Fr. Joe begin	September 8
Bishop Barker’s Visit	September 15
Clinic with a Heart presentation	September 22
Medicine Drive begins	September 22
Matt Talbot Kitchen Outreach – Helping the Homeless	September 28
Vestry Meeting	September 29
Diocese of Nebraska Annual Council in Bellevue	October 17-19
Lincoln Public Schools – Fall break	October 17-18
Making Strides Against Breast Cancer	October 20
Vestry Meeting	October 27
Medicine Drive ends	October 31
Quilt Show, First Friday Reception	November 1
Quilt Show, Exhibition	November 1-3
Afternoon with the Artist – Connie Backus-Yoder	November 3

The Lion’s Roar is the quarterly newsletter of St. Mark’s on the Campus Episcopal Church
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