

# SAINT MARK'S CHURCH



MOSCOW, PA

## *mission*

SHARING LIFE IN  
CHRIST WITH  
OUR COMMUNITY

## *vision*

A WELCOMING DOOR  
TO A JOURNEY  
OF FAITH AND  
CONNECTION



## *history*

**i**n the late 19th century, St. Luke's Episcopal Church of Scranton established an Episcopal Mission in Dunmore, Pennsylvania. Services were held in Tripp Avenue Christian Church until the church building on Potter Street, Dunmore was erected in 1895. The church remained a mission for 28 years, having been officially recognized on February 27, 1904. It was incorporated as an independent parish on July 17, 1932. In 1966, St. Mark's moved to a dwelling on Main Street, Moscow. The dwelling served as both church and rectory until 1972.

**At that point, a church was built on its present site at 1109 Church Street, Moscow, PA.**

## *location*

**SAINT MARK'S CHURCH  
IS LOCATED IN THE  
BOROUGH OF MOSCOW  
IN LACKAWANNA  
COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA.**



**T**he population of Moscow is approximately 2,000, and is located 11 miles southeast of Scranton and 24 miles southwest of Honesdale.

Moscow and its surrounding areas are serviced by the North Pocono School District. North Pocono has several schools that support students from elementary through high school. There are also several preschools and daycares in the community. Other townships in the North Pocono area are Madison, Thornhurst, Springbrook,

Lehigh, Covington, Jefferson, and Roaring Brook.

Attractions and amenities in the Moscow Borough include six parks, youth sports leagues, four churches of other denominations, the North Pocono Trails Association, and the North Pocono Library.

Lackawanna College Environmental Institute is also located in Covington Township and offers a variety of programs that provide environmental and conservation education.

Not far from Moscow is the Steamtown National Historic Site located in Scranton. This National Park provides the history of steam railroad transportation, and the people who built, repaired, and rode these trains.

We are very close to the Scranton RailRiders Baseball Stadium in Moosic, PA, a Minor League baseball team for the New York Yankees. Also, nearby in Wilkes-Barre, is a professional ice hockey team, the WBS Penguins.





## *building and grounds*

**Our little country church is nestled on 4 rolling acres, surrounded by Pennsylvania woods. Located on Route 690—also known as “Church Street.”**

**The church building is half a mile from Interstate 380, and a mile from downtown Moscow.**

**T**he physical building comprises approximately 4,800 square feet of which 2,150 is devoted to the nave of the church. The basement is also 2,150 located directly under the nave and can be finished at some point.

The nave was designed 50 years ago with the intent that it be a flexible space. The room is multi-purpose with movable seats and altar for adaptability to uses other than worship.

Over the past several years, members have completed updates to the interior of the building, including fresh paint, new carpet/ flooring in several rooms, and new front doors.



## worship

Worship is typically Sunday mornings at 10:00 but we are a flexible congregation and open to change.

In response to the COVID pandemic, we upgraded our internet services to support multiple electronic options for worship. We have live-streamed through ZOOM

and Facebook. In the colder months we had an FM radio option when we gathered outside for worship. Our goal was to keep everyone safe while recognizing the need to continue to worship as a faithful community.

We have a seasoned altar guild committee

and rely on volunteers to also serve as:

Greeters (We want to ensure all members and visitors feel welcome), Acolytes, Readers, Chalice, Eucharistic Ministers (in accordance with Diocesan Policy and Training), Vestry, Offering Counter, Organist for Live Music, and Bible Study.

# community engagement

AT ST. MARK'S, WE AIM TO ENGAGE WITH THE LARGER COMMUNITY. WE BELIEVE IN USING OUR INDIVIDUAL TALENTS AND GIFTS TO SERVE MEMBERS OF THE NORTH POCONO COMMUNITY.



## **Ecumenical Lenten Services and other Traditional Events**

Each year, during Lent, St. Mark's participates in weekly Lenten services, alternating with other churches in the North Pocono community. This provides us with opportunities to come together with other faiths and to learn about different Lenten traditions.

One of our most popular special events is our annual "Lessons and Carols" service, followed by a Christmas dinner and a visit from Santa Claus. We welcome neighbors and friends throughout the area to share in this beautiful service and fellowship. We also break bread together with a Shrove Tuesday pancake supper, a Holy Thursday Lenten Soup dinner, and a summer Parish picnic.

## **Art Camp**

2021 was St. Mark's inaugural year for an art camp. We hosted a week-long evening art camp for children ages 4-12, staffed by parish members and friends of St. Mark's. The theme for 2021 was "Art Around the World." We learned about art from various cultures and then created traditional art projects to support each lesson. There was an art show on the last evening which

provided parents the opportunity to see what their children had been working on throughout the week.

## **Adult Art Afternoons**

An instructor-led art activity allows for fellowship, with church members and others from the surrounding community.

## **Campfires**

Our property and location allow for campfires on weekends in the Summer and Autumn. Families and friends of St. Mark's bring their lawn chairs and enjoy sharing stories and s'mores around a fire pit.

## **Yoga**

Yoga classes are held on Tuesday and Thursday evenings and are open to the public.

## **Godly Play/ Catechesis of the Good Shepherd**

While we currently do not have children of Sunday School age attending to warrant restarting Sunday school, St. Mark's has an "Atrium" with simple, yet beautiful, materials for children to use and reflect on.





## *outreach*

### KNIT WITS

The Knit Wits is a group of St. Mark's members that started meeting four years ago. This mission group meets on the first and third Thursday of each month. The Knit Wits meet to make prayer shawls and blankets, which are blessed and given to others for comfort. They also make sleeping mats from plastic film bags to support the Keystone Mission, and their work with the homeless population in Scranton.

This group has received local publicity for their contributions. Most recently, the Knit Wits sent mats to New Orleans as part of their expanding outreach.

### North Pocono Dry Goods Pantry

St. Mark's members regularly contribute toiletries and household items to this local mission.

### The Friends of the Poor Food Drives

Many of St. Mark's members volunteer their time to assist in the distribution of groceries to families-in-need in Scranton.

### American Red Cross

St. Mark's Church is used biannually for local blood drives.

### Alcoholics Anonymous

St. Mark's Church houses AA meetings on Monday and Friday evenings.



## *financial status*

OUR CHURCH IS CURRENTLY FISCALLY SOUND AND FUNCTIONING.  
WE HAVE THE APPROPRIATE CONTROLS IN PLACE TO ENSURE ROBUST  
FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT AND ACCOUNTABILITY.

Our generous and loyal parish membership submit stewardship pledges that account for most of the funding for the annual budget. St. Mark's also has investment income from the sale of the rectory that is held in the Diocesan Trust. Interest income from this and other investments account for a portion of our annual budget, which is submitted to Vestry for review and approval on an annual basis.

We are a small parish and are continuing to shrink. We have different fundraiser events to close budget gaps. Our approach to fundraising is to be creative.

For the first time this year, we have hosted a flea market for area artisans to sell their wares, and our own group of Knit Wits sold a variety of collectibles. But it is not all about our budget. It is good to give as well as to receive. For Christmas in 2020, we raised money for The NEPA Youth Shelter by asking for "In Memory of" donations and using those funds to donate to the shelter, rather than to purchase poinsettias for the altar. A few more popular fundraisers were selling Krispy Kreme donuts and Christmas wreaths. We enjoy coming together to support our parish needs and outside ministries.



# *what we are looking for in a Rector*

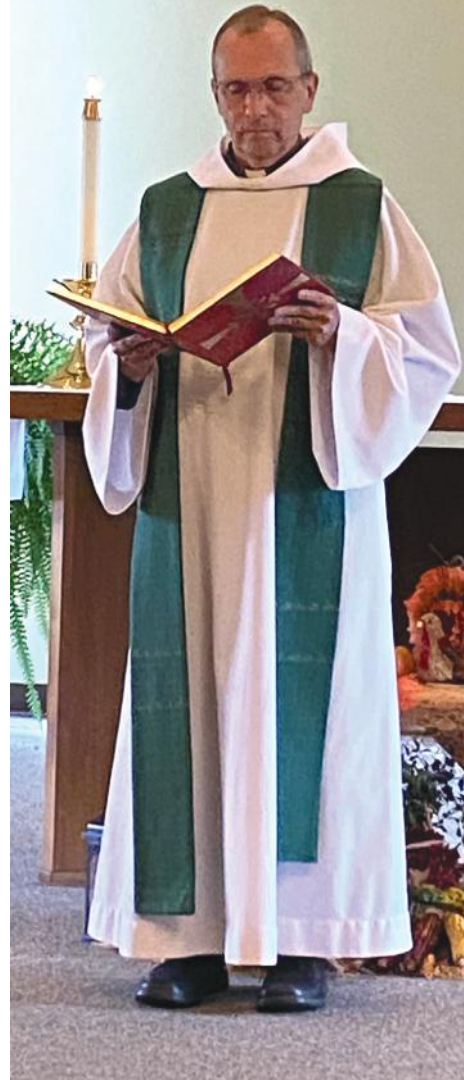
**W**e are a cohesive and vibrant congregation. Based on our survey, we are looking for a Rector who is skilled in:

- Pastoral care — Compassionate, empathetic, trustworthy for congregants and the broader community, conflict management.
- Strategizing a long-term, sustainable vision for St. Mark's, including Parish growth.
- Teaches and supports the Episcopal Church Theology.
- Spreading the Episcopal message to the broader community.
- Administrative skills, Stewardship, organizing and running the day-to-day operations.
- Leading the Parish toward Personal Spiritual Growth.

**We want our Rector to be a partner with us, to grow with us, to lead us in service of our vision and the broader Episcopal Church; and work with us to support what is important to our congregation:**

- Celebrating the Eucharist and Sacraments
- Developing Church Community and Fellowship
- Incorporating New Members into Church Life
- Support Service Activities in Community
- Concern with Social Issues
- Seeking and Adding New Members
- Developing Personal Spiritual Growth
- Pastoral Care/Ministry During Personal Crisis
- Christian Education (Youth)
- Christian Education (Adult)

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BROADER EPISCOPAL  
CHURCH.**





## SAINT MARK'S CHURCH

If who we are speaks to you  
and you are interested in learning  
more, please connect with us  
by contacting:

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