

RECTOR SEARCH

# St. Mark's

CHEYENNE, WYOMING

"The way  
of love"

# Profile

---

Welcome from the Senior Warden	3
A Message from the Diocese	4
Our Church and Our Community	6
Worship and Liturgy	8
Children, Youth and Membership	10
Outreach Ministries	11
Community Ministries	12
How to Apply	15



# Welcome from the Senior Warden

---



On behalf of the congregation of St. Mark's Episcopal Church of Cheyenne, welcome to our search and discernment process for our next Rector.

St. Mark's is a thriving faith community – congregants are connected to one another, to Cheyenne, and beyond. We are devoted to our Mission: The Way of Love. St. Mark's members and those affiliated with St. Mark's are generous with their time, diverse talents, and treasure. They give generously to minister to all who enter our Sanctuary and to those in need outside the majestic walls of one of the oldest and most beautiful churches in Wyoming.

Established in 1868, St. Mark's has a rich history. It has hosted many gubernatorial inaugural services and welcomed 14 of Wyoming's 33 governors to its membership.

Our ministries (over 40 in number) focus not only on the needs of congregants for fellowship, education, and pastoral care, but also serve the Needs Inc. of Cheyenne's underserved. With Diocesan support and encouragement St. Mark's supports Climb Wyoming, the COMEA (Cooperative Ministry for Emergency Assistance) Shelter, Family Promise, Friday Food Bags, Unaccompanied Student Initiative, Needs Inc. food collection, and several Veterans' organizations.

St. Mark's reaches members of the community seeking non-traditional faith fellowship and worship through our Taizé service (every 3rd Friday) and our Yoga Eucharist (every 2nd Wednesday).

The Education Ministry of St. Mark's focuses not only on Baptism, Confirmation and Membership, but also on community needs through our Cultural Blind Spots ministry, which invites our neighbors to engage in conversation so we can "see the other" and become "we" rather than "us and them." On Sacred Ground is a film and dialogue series that facilitates understanding of Indigenous, Black, Latino, and Asian American ancestries.

Our Youth Group is led by a young man who returned to lead our youth after obtaining his Master's degree. He came to our Youth Group 15 years ago and his family followed. Our history is made up of these generational journeys.

If you feel called, we invite you to explore our vibrant, inclusive community.

Warmly,  
Corey Rutledge,  
Senior Warden



# A Message from the Diocese

---



***“ God has been preparing the way for one of the most exciting phases of ministry in and through St. Mark’s.”***

As we dwell within the season of Advent, we can’t imagine a better time to begin this period of discernment as to whom God is calling to serve as the next Rector of St. Mark’s Episcopal Church in Cheyenne, Wyoming.

We believe that as the vestry, search committee, and congregation have been praying and planning for the future, God has been preparing the way for one of the most exciting phases of ministry in and through St. Mark’s— a future that builds on local assets, diocesan support, and divine imagination. It is one of the largest congregations in Wyoming, and its location near our state capital, St. Mark’s, is a wonderful opportunity for someone looking to take the next step up in their ministry.

This opportunity at St. Mark’s comes at a time in the life of the Episcopal Church of Wyoming as we focus on a vision for the future through an ongoing exploration of spiritual discovery that engages our hearts, minds, churches, and communities. This has led us to embody a culture of experimentation in terms of “doing” and “being” the church. It is an intentional opening of our sails into the winds of God’s Spirit to enable us to go to those places we need to go. As a Diocese, we are more committed than ever to coming alongside our local churches in strategic ways to enable them to live into their fullest ministry potential.

As we look to the future, we envision our churches transforming the church their communities in several ways:

### **A Center of Contemplation**

St. Mark's has the potential to be a distinct center of contemplation, enabling people to connect in new ways with the transcendent. St. Mark's is poised to be an all-embracing sacred space for spirituality with an aesthetic and sensory appeal that addresses the profound spiritual hunger and thirst that exists for a fresh encounter with our Creator. In addition to their traditional worship, this may entail developing alternative contemplative services and programs that reach different community segments.

### **A Center of Culture**

St. Mark's is positioned to play a leadership role in Cheyenne that creatively explores the interaction of faith and spirituality and addresses today's critical issues through the lens of spirituality and faith. The current governor of Wyoming is a member of the Episcopal Church in Wyoming and St. Mark's has served in many different ministerial roles throughout the city and state governments.

### **A Center of Compassion**

Compassionate ministry defines St. Mark's, as they have many outreach ministries that are strategically meeting critical physical and emotional needs in their community. There is potential to continue to grow in this area as this work becomes more strategically aligned with the vision and mission of the church.

### **A Center of Community**

There is a deep need for community today, and this is an area in which St. Mark's continues to excel. The church community is truly an all-embracing one that welcomes all people, seeing everyone as made in the image of our Creator. St. Mark's is a safe community, a sanctuary in the deepest sense of that word, providing life, hope, and refreshment – both spiritually and materially.

This is an exciting opportunity to discover ever more relevant ways to live into the way of Christ for today. If you sense the leading of God's Spirit, we invite you to explore joining us on this adventure of seeing Christ walk the Wyoming road.



Standing Committee President  
Diocese of Wyoming

# Our Church and Our Community

---



On January 14, 1868, Joseph W. Cook, a young Episcopal priest, arrived in Cheyenne, Wyoming. Reverend Cook was on a mission to establish an Episcopal Church in the new railroad boom town. He was supported in his efforts by St. Mark's Episcopal Church in Philadelphia.

What Reverend Cook found when he arrived in Cheyenne, was both wonderful and appalling. In his initial report to his Bishop he noted "unimaginable wickedness" of all sorts. What he also soon found was a group of people who were anxious to support him in his mission to establish an episcopal church.

Reverend Cook and his supporters were successful in forming the church. On August

23, 1868, the St. Mark's first church building was dedicated. (Source: 100 years at St. Mark's, Flynn, 1968). The present church was constructed in 1888, and is included in the National Register of Historic Places.

More than 150 years later, St. Mark's continues the work started by Reverend Cook and the original congregation. St. Mark's is a Christ-centered, strong and compassionate community with around 200 active members.

Like St. Mark's, the greater Cheyenne community has grown and prospered over time. Approximately 100,000 people live in the city and surrounding county. It is the Capital of the State of Wyoming.

## *“The diversity and commitment of the parishioners are one of the church’s greatest assets.”*

Although Cheyenne has a rich history as a railroad hub, it is now home to a wide variety of technological and commercial enterprises. It is ideally situated along the front range of the Rocky Mountains, about 100 miles north of Denver. Cheyenne is home to the National Center for Atmospheric Research (NCAR), a large and expanding Microsoft facility, major distribution centers for national companies, F.E. Warren Air Force Base and Wyoming Air and Army National Guard units.



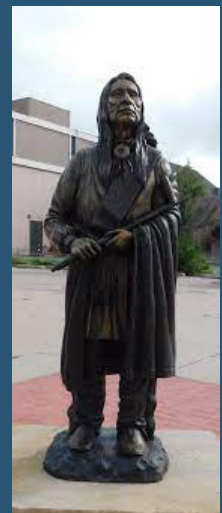
Cheyenne and the surrounding communities have outstanding public schools. Laramie County Community College is located in Cheyenne. The University of Wyoming is only 50 miles away.

The world’s largest outdoor rodeo, The “Daddy of ‘em all”, also takes place in Cheyenne each summer.

Cheyenne has a Civic Center which hosts a wide variety of musical and theatrical events, including the Cheyenne Symphony Orchestra.

Like those first members of St. Mark’s who were so anxious to support Reverend Cook in his mission, today the parish of St. Mark’s is anxious to support our next Rector as we share the good news of Jesus Christ in this great place.

**Chief Washakie**, a prominent leader of the Shoshone people in the 19th century, played a significant role in the early history of the Episcopal Church in Wyoming. Known for his diplomacy and efforts to maintain peaceful relations with European-American settlers, Chief Washakie developed a strong friendship with Episcopal missionaries in the region. This relationship resulted in his conversion to Christianity, and he became a devoted member of the Episcopal Church. In recognition of his contributions and the respect he garnered, a bronze statue of Chief Washakie now stands at St. Mark’s Episcopal Church in Cheyenne, Wyoming. The statue serves as a symbol of the enduring connection between Chief Washakie and the Episcopal Church, honoring his commitment to fostering understanding and cooperation between cultures. It stands as a testament to the shared history and the bridging of diverse communities in the state of Wyoming.



# Worship and Liturgy

Worship at St. Mark's may perhaps best be glimpsed by this message that is at the top of every worship bulletin: Whoever and wherever you are on your journey of faith, you are welcome. Our message is that God's unconditional love is extended to you right now through Jesus Christ. Here in this church, God says, "You belong, this is my family, and you have a place in it." Holy Eucharist liturgies also contain the following invitation: This is the table, not of the Church, but of the Lord. It is made ready for those who love him and for those who want to love him more. Come, all those who have much faith, and those who have little, those who have been here often and those who have not been here long, those who have tried to follow you and those who have failed. Come, because it is the Lord who invites us. It is God's will that those who desire God should meet God here.



On Sundays, we typically offer a Rite I spoken Holy Eucharist and a choral Rite II. In addition to the Book of Common Prayer, we make extensive use of Enriching our Worship and other Episcopal resources. Alternative services include monthly Yoga Eucharists and services in the style of Taizé. During summer months, we occasionally offer impromptu outdoor Eucharists in the Parish Bell Garden.

St. Mark's differs from many Episcopal churches in that we have an active and vibrant worship planning committee that works very closely with the Rector. It is responsible for the liturgies used in our services.



Music plays an important role at St. Mark's. It has often been the reason individuals have chosen to attend St. Mark's. Even though the Rite I liturgy is spoken, organ preludes, offertories and postludes are included. The choir is in a rebuilding phase under the guidance of a new Music Director following the retirement of an 18-year incumbent.



Preaching at St. Mark's reaches a wide and diverse audience. It can be characterized as thoughtful and rooted in the rich traditions of the Episcopal Church. It aims to engage both the hearts and minds of parishioners by incorporating scriptural teachings, theological insights, and personal anecdotes. At its best, it inspires, challenges, and nurtures the faith of its listeners as it invites them to deepen their relationship with God and to live out their Christian values in their daily lives.

***“ I love that St. Mark’s faithfully gathers around the liturgy and practice of our Christian faith. And does so in a warm, welcoming way to all people believing or seeking Christ.”***

# Children, Youth, and Membership

---

St. Mark's Cheyenne recognizes that children and youth are our future. Developing a vibrant and sustainable children and youth ministry is a top priority for the church membership. Our nursery ministry cares for our youngest members each Sunday morning while their parents are attending services. Our children's education ministry holds classes each Sunday morning where children learn lessons in conjunction with the day's teaching. And our youth group ministry meets twice a month with our teenage members to work on projects and events. All of these ministries further the church's goal of caring for and teaching our future church members and leaders.

While we have a solid foundation of children and youth involvement we have a huge opportunity to develop a comprehensive children and youth ministry that includes all ages from birth to adulthood. This area is a high priority for our congregation. We also understand that in order to have a church of the future we need to care for our youth today.



Membership in the church as a whole is thriving. We are the largest Episcopal congregation in southeast Wyoming and we are being innovative in our approach to growing that congregation. St Mark's is a visible part of the Cheyenne and Laramie County community and hosts many events and functions that are open to people of all faiths. We pride ourselves on being a beacon of hope to all, wherever and whenever you are on your journey of faith. St. Mark's recently embarked on an initiative called Invite, Welcome, Connect to re-energize and revitalize our efforts to grow the church and develop a church that not only gets new members in the door but welcomes them and connects them to the ministries and services we have to offer.

***The inside of the church...beautiful!  
But the people that worship there... they are the true beauty of St. Mark's"***

# Outreach Ministries



## **COMEA (Cooperative Ministry for Emergency Assistance) Shelter Meals**

This group serves meals at the homeless shelter on the third Thursday of each month.

## **COMEA (Cooperative Ministry for Emergency Assistance) Christmas Collections**

## **CLIMB WYOMING Family Collections/Christmas Tree**

Organizes giving to families in need.

## **FRIDAY FOOD BAGS**

Volunteers meet weekly to help fill over 1,100 food bags for school children in need.

## **Little Free Pantry**

“Take what you need. Give what you can give.” Community volunteers donate non-perishable food for people in need.

## **Needs Inc. Peanut Butter Collection**

Congregation donates jars and jars of peanut butter throughout the month, and then Priest blesses it before it is delivered to NEEDS.

## **USI (UNACCOMPANIED STUDENTS INITIATIVE)**

Provides a safe and stable home to develop sustainable independence for students aged 16-20 experiencing homelessness. 100% graduation rate of teenagers who chose to complete the USI program.

# Community Ministries

---

St. Mark's is dedicated to the Cheyenne community and offers many Community/Outreach programs.

Daughters of the King  
Dinner Groups  
Girlfriends Unlimited Women's Ministry  
Lit 'n' Latte

Sew & Sews  
Reflections Women's Group  
Women's Retreat  
Hospital Ministry

*“ We are very thriving church community and we are involved in a number of very good outreach activities.”*



# Note from the Governor

November 21, 2023

It was an amazing honor to have the service for both our inaugurations at St. Mark's Church. It is a beautiful and venerable building suffused with Christ's Spirit. It invites reflection, refines the notes of our most glorious hymns, and glorifies God as a house of worship tied to the history of Wyoming. These words from the Gospel help to ground me whenever I enter St. Mark's church. Mark 8:36: "For what shall it profit a man if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul." St. Mark's is truly blessed with benevolent and conversant parishioners as a community.

Mark and Jennie Gordon  
Governor and First Lady  
of Wyoming



# How to Apply

---

Interested candidates should send their CV/resume, OTM profile and a cover letter to:

Canon Jessica Reynolds  
Canon for Finance and Administration & Transitions Officer  
The Episcopal Church in Wyoming  
123 S. Durbin St.  
Casper, WY 82601

(307) 265-5200

Email: [jessica@episcopalwy.org](mailto:jessica@episcopalwy.org)



*the Episcopal Church  
in Wyoming*

*“A wonderful  
opportunity  
to work with  
amazing  
people.”*

