



# The Viewpoint

November 2009

Volume 56 No. 11

## Stewards of God's Grace

By: Pastor Rebecca Shjerven

When I was in my early twenties, I shared a house with two other women who were also in their twenties. Each Sunday night one of these women called her parents, who lived out of state, just to say hello and keep in touch with them. My house mate was from a high-achieving family. She had collected many trophies and awards in college and had a promising career. Yet after her weekly phone call, she always felt discouraged. It seemed that nothing she accomplished was ever quite good enough for her parents. I watched her as she processed her conversation each Sunday night, determined that this week she would do more, she would do better, so that the sunlight of her parents' love would shine on her. She was in such bondage, trying to win her parents' approval.

Sometimes the subject of stewardship can seem this way—the never-ending list of *shoulds* associated with the faith. We should give more money. We *should* be more disciplined in our faith. We *should* volunteer to do more things. From this perspective, God is the parent who is never quite pleased enough, and the pastors and church leaders are those who express God's *shoulds* and God's disappointment. It is no surprise, from this vantage point, that people don't feel the joy of being a steward. It is a type of bondage.

Our life as stewards begins, not with *shoulds*, but with the good news that, out of God's great storehouse of grace, we have been chosen to be God's agents in the world. God chooses us, not because of our laundry list of accomplishments, not because we have somehow earned divine approval. We have been chosen simply by the grace of God. We have been freed from a life devoted to personal advancement and gain. God's vision has been planted in us, a vision of

divine love and grace, healing and reconciling the world through Christ Jesus... a vision of life lived not only for self, but for others.

We have been called to proclaim this good news through our words and our actions. We do this by sharing those things that are most valuable to us. We share our time and treasure, not because the Church needs them in order to run a program or meet a budget obligation. We give of our time because we know how precious it is.

We give our money because we know how much power it has—power to bind up or to set free. We share what this world values most in service to what God values most—the mending of the universe. We share what is most valuable to us because it expresses and embodies God's character and behavior—the giving of God's very self for the life of the world.

As the focus on stewardship sharpens this month, do so with a spirit of thanksgiving and joy. Appreciate how blessed you are to be called into God's marvelous generosity.



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## Wednesdays at St. Mark's

Dinner will be served continuously from 5:15-7:00 p.m. Come at whatever time works best for you and your family.

Nursery care will be provided from 4:30-8:00 p.m. for children 3yrs and younger.

Time	Title	Location
4:45-5:15 p.m.	Babies of St. Mark's	Music Wing Choir Room
5:15-5:45 p.m.	Joyful Noise Choir (4yrs - 1st Grade)	Music Wing Choir Room
5:45-6:30 p.m.	Jubilation Choir (2nd Grade - 5th Grade)	Music Wing Choir Room
6:00-7:15 p.m.	JR ALYVE (1st & 3rd)/SR ALYVE (2nd & 4th)	Youth Room
	Adult Study	Fireside Room
	Faith Journey	Parish Commons Classroom 1
	Children's Faith Journey	Children's Faith Center
6:00-7:30 p.m.	Worship Team	Sanctuary
6:30-7:15 p.m.	Chimes Choir	Music Wing Bell Room
7:15-8:00 p.m.	St. Mark's Ringers	Music Wing Bell Room
7:30-8:00 p.m.	Prayer Around the Cross	Parish Commons
8:00-8:30 p.m.	Devotional Classics Discussion	Parish Commons Classroom 1

## christian Education

### Preschool News

By: Laura Ollerich, Preschool Director

We are having a wonderful Fall in our new Preschool Space. We have added 2 new students, and we still have room for more in our Pre-K class. If you know anyone still looking for a Preschool, send them our way.

Coming up this month, we have the letters G, H and I and our themes are God and Creation, Hibernation Thanksgiving and Advent.

We will be continuing our Cell Phone Fundraiser throughout the school year. The preschool can earn 50 cents to \$30 per recycled phone. If you have any old cell phones lying around the house, or if you are upgrading to a new phone, please consider donating your old phone to us. The money will be used for science supplies, furnishings and Family Nights.



### Inter generational Sunday School

**Sunday, November 29— 9:45-10:45 a.m.** in the Parish Commons. 1st Sunday in Advent! Join us as we hear the story of the Jesse Tree and make our own Jesse Tree's to take home.

# Adult

## Faith Formation

### Sunday Mornings

	Time	Title	Leader
November 1	8:30 a.m.	Book of Faith Bible Study	Pastor Otto Tollefson
	9:45 a.m.	Bread For the World Letter Writing	Peace & Justice Team
	11:00 a.m.	Parents of Preschoolers Brunch	Ingelaurie Lisher
November 8	8:30 a.m.	Book of Faith Bible Study	Pastor Otto Tollefson
	9:45 a.m.	Consumerism	
	11:00 a.m.	Parents of Elementary Students Brunch	Pastor Rebecca Shjerven
November 15	8:30 a.m.	Book of Faith Bible Study	Pastor Otto Tollefson
	9:45 a.m.	War and Peace	Bo Stivers
	11:00 a.m.	Parents of Teenagers Brunch	Ingelaurie Lisher
November 22	8:30 a.m.	Book of Faith Bible Study	Pastor Otto Tollefson
	9:45 a.m.	War and Peace	Pastor Jan Ruud
	11:00 a.m.	No Class	

## Tuesdays

Time	Title	Leader	Location
10:00 a.m.	Making Difficult Decisions	Dick Rodning	Mordvedt Center TLH*
5:30 p.m.	"Fully Alive" Women's Bible Study	Sheri Maiura	Fireside Room (childcare in the nursery)

## Wednesdays

	Time	Title	Leader	Location
	9:30 a.m.	Women's Study	Ruth Leistikow	Parish Commons Classroom 1
	12:00 p.m.	Revelation	Pastor Rebecca Shjerven	Forza Coffee 21st & Pearl
	6:00 p.m.	Ephesians	Pastor Rebecca Shjerven	Parish Commons Classroom 1
Nov. 4	8:00 p.m.	Bernard of Clairvaux	Pastor Rebecca Shjerven	"
Nov. 11	8:00 p.m.	Francis Fenalon	"	"
Nov. 18	8:00 p.m.	Augustine	"	"

## Thursdays

Time	Title	Leader	Location
1:30 p.m.	Lutheran Women Today Bible Study	Sonja Yeager	Mortvedt Center at TLH*

\*TLH: Tacoma Lutheran Home

For more information, see descriptions on Page 4



## Adult Faith Formation Descriptions

(All Sunday classes meet in Parish commons Classroom 1)

### Book of Faith Bible Study

Old Testament Characters, hosted by Pastor Otto Tollefson

### Adult Forum:

#### Consumerism

How does one's faith connect with the pressing issues of the day? Find out through lively conversation and fellowship.

### Parent Brunches

Connect with others who are engaged in the joys and challenges of parenting.

### Revelation

Meet at Forza Coffee Shop at N. 21st and Pearl for a time of bible study, conversation and prayer.

### Ephesians

A closer look at the God's cosmic reconciliation and the Church's role in God's plan.

### Devotional Classics (8 p.m.)

A discussion group for those reading "Devotional Classics", edited by Richard Foster. Anyone can join at anytime throughout the year.

## Youth Faith Formation

Confirmation Schedule November (Chapter: Food):  
1st and 2nd year students:

- November 1—Worship together at 9:45 a.m.
- November 8, 15, 22—Small groups
- November 29—Intergenerational Sunday School

### 3rd year students:

Congratulations to the youth who Affirmed their Baptism on Sunday, October 25th Allison Kocott, Aubrey Bowen, Sela Neils, Noah Compton, Anna Grudzien, Antonio Patrick, Emma Parkins, Regan Stewart, Helena Laubach, Justin Oellerich, Evan Indahl and Madeline Shjerven.

Thanks to all who served as their faith mentors—Mary Jo Larsen, Jacquie Crenshaw, Tony Daniels, Linda Wimberley, Matt Oellerich, Jon Shaffer, Danielle Lemieux, Caresse Lemieux Robertson, Shelly Hutson, Ray Shjerven, Ingelaurie Lisher, and Bruce Sadler. Thanks also to the Sweeney/ Nettles family for letting us hold our final retreat at your home.



**6th Grade Sunday School** will be held in Parish Commons classroom 2 from 9:30-10:45 a.m. each week. The class will be led by Bruce Sadler and Eric Williams, Jr.

**High School Sunday School** led by John Summerour is for youth grades 9-12th. This class meets in the Fireside Room from 9:45-10:45 a.m. Thanks to Tom Hulst and Brian Compton for leading the discussion on Creation and the Environment on October 18 and 25th.

## Parish Nursing Notes

1. **HAND HYGIENE:** The flu season is here. The flu virus often is transmitted through hand-shaking and improper covering of coughs and sneezes. Throughout the church hand sanitizers are mounted to the wall and located on the table outside the nave of the church for your use. Please use your judgment during the "Passing of the Peace" as to whether you want to shake hands or avoid handshaking. Alternatively, touching a clothed arm or just bowing with hands folded could be used. Avoid touching your face after shaking hands is good practice. Using your arm to cover coughs and sneezes is also advised. Advice from your Parish Nurses.

2. **GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP:** All persons having difficulty dealing with loss are invited to attend the Grief Support Group beginning Nov. 2nd at 9:30-11:00 in the Fireside Room. These sessions will be held by Pr. Paul Baughman and Nurse Susan Valenti.



### Blood Pressure Screening

Sunday is **November 22nd**. Parish Nurses will be in the narthex all morning to take blood pressures. If you haven't had your blood pressure taken recently, consider seeing them.

## Women's Advent Brunch

By: Elaine Rodning

December 5 is our Women's Advent Luncheon. Each year this is such a special event. This year the program will center on a Lutheran World Relief trip to Central America. Carol Fossum will tell us about her experiences with Lutheran World Relief in this part of the world. Tickets will be sold for this luncheon so be sure to come and enjoy. Contact Linda Cerbone at 253-627-4036 for more information.



Women  
of the  
**EVANGELICAL  
LUTHERAN  
CHURCH  
IN AMERICA**

## Thank Offering

By: Elaine Rodning

November is Thank Offering month and we have so much for which to be thankful. November 22 is the Sunday we will receive our Thankoffering at all three services. Our offerings make so many worthwhile things happen that can only be done when many women work together. These include: Women of the ELCA publications, scholarships which help women all over the country complete their higher education, or grow in leadership, grants with other organizations such as Lutheran World Relief, Lutheran Disaster Response, the Women's Funding Network, and ministries of the larger ELCA, such as World Hunger and Global Mission, and much more. We are grateful that our Thankofferings make this possible.



# Diabetes Overview

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By: Joan Torfin, Parish Nurse

November is American Diabetes Month. Many of us know friends and family members who suffer from diabetes. It is an increasingly common disease.

Mayo Clinic offers some help with symptoms description and advise on when to consult your physician.

Diabetes symptoms are often subtle. Pay attention to the clues your body is giving you.

Early diabetes symptoms can be subtle or seemingly harmless, if you have them at all. You could have diabetes for months or even years and not have any diabetes symptoms.

In the United States alone, more than 6 million people don't recognize the symptoms, making them unaware that they have the disease according to the American Diabetes Association. But you don't need to become a statistic. Understanding possible diabetes symptoms can lead to early diagnoses and treatment, and a lifetime of better health. If you are experiencing any of the following symptoms, see your doctor.

## Excessive thirst and increased urination

Excessive thirst and increased urination are classic diabetes symptoms.

When you have diabetes, excess sugar (glucose) builds up in your blood. Your kidneys are forced to work overtime to filter and absorb the excess sugar. If your kidneys can't keep up, the excess sugar is excreted into your urine along with fluids drawn from your tissues. This triggers more frequent urination, which may leave you dehydrated. As you drink more fluids to quench your thirst, you urinate even more.

## Fatigue

You may feel fatigued. Many factors can contribute to this. They include dehydration from the increased urination and your body's inability to function properly, since it is unable to use sugar for energy.

## Weight Loss

Weight fluctuations also fall under the umbrella of possible diabetes symptoms. When you lose sugar through your increased urine output, you also lose calories. At the same time, diabetes may keep the sugar from your food from reaching your cells, leading to constant hunger. The

combined effect is potentially rapid weight loss, especially if you have Type 1 diabetes.

## Blurred Vision

Diabetes symptoms sometimes involve your vision. High levels of blood sugar pull fluid from your tissues, including the lenses of your eyes. This affects your ability to focus.

Left untreated, diabetes can cause new blood vessels to form in your retina, the back part of your eye, as well as damage old vessels. For most people, these early changes do not cause vision problems. However, if these changes progress undetected, they can lead to vision loss and blindness.

## Slow-healing sores or frequent infections

Doctors and people with diabetes have observed that infections seem more common. Research in this area, however, has not proved whether this is entirely true, nor why. It may be that high levels of blood sugar impair your body's natural healing process and your ability to fight infections. For women, bladder and vaginal infections are especially common.

## Tingling hand and feet

Excess sugar in your blood can lead to nerve damage. You may notice tingling and loss of sensation in your hands and feet, as well as burning pain in your arms, hands, legs and feet.

## Red swollen, tender gums

Diabetes may weaken your ability to fight germs, which increases the risk of infection in your gums and in the bones that hold your teeth in place. Your gums may pull away from your teeth, your teeth may become loose, or you may develop sores or pockets of pus in your gums, especially if you have a gum infection before diabetes develops.

## Take your body's hints seriously

If you notice any possible diabetes symptoms, contact your health care provider. The earlier the condition is diagnosed, the sooner treatment can begin. Diabetes is a serious condition. With your active participation and the support of your health care team, you can manage diabetes while enjoying an active healthy life.

# Classic Film Night

Sunday, November 8th, 6:30 p.m.  
*Lilies of the Field*



Sidney Poitier broke racial barriers and took home an Oscar for his 1963 portrayal of an ex GI who encounters a group of German nuns in the Southwestern United States.

Watch the movie in the new Parish Commons on the big screen. Bring pillows, popcorn or whatever you'd like to share.

Discussion will follow. Contact Pastor Rebecca Shjerven for more information, 752-4966.

## outreach Ministry

### The "Welcome Center" Serves People In Many Ways

By: Pastor Jan Ruud

You may have noticed that our newly remodeled Narthex features a Welcome Center where people can come on Sunday mornings for information about many things and where we can reach out to them with hospitality and love. This is a good place for visitors to learn basic things like what is happening in our congregation and where events are taking place that day. We can give them a map and show them how to get to a Sunday School room or an adult forum. We can talk to them about Faith Journey or about how to get involved in some form of ministry at St. Mark's. This is also a good place for members of

St. Mark's to come with questions or to make connections with others. If you would like to serve as a Sunday morning host at the Welcome Center, please let us know and we will gladly add you to the team! All you need is a warm and welcoming spirit and desire to help others feel at home among us. We are looking to expand the number of people who serve in this way, so please give it some thought in the weeks ahead.



# Peace & Justice Ministry

## Adopt a Family for Christmas

By: Judy Droubay

The Viewpoint

Again this year St. Mark's will be sponsoring families in our midst and in our community who are in need of food for Christmas dinner and gifts for family members. Please prayerfully consider giving two gifts to an individual (or individuals if you wish) or a cash contribution to help purchase food.

you are helping to buy food, please place your donation in one of the envelopes provided.

Buy and wrap the two gifts and be sure to TAPE the person's ornament number on each gift. We will put tags on your gifts with the person's name on it. We will deliver all food and gifts on the morning of Dec. 21. Please have gifts to church no later than Sunday Dec. 20th. Questions? Judy Droubay 759-6720 or Mary Jo Holum 752-3304

No. 11

Toward the end of November look for the wooden Christmas tree. You'll see it covered with paper ornaments. Each ornament shape denotes a family and each individual has a number (for privacy reasons). Each ornament has information on one family member and a "wish list" of gifts that person would enjoy. These are suggestions only. If you wish to buy gifts for an individual or individuals take the top ornament sheet off the tree. Put your name and phone number on the ornament underneath and place it in the manila envelope on the wall. If



## Zimbabwe: Food For Today, Seed For Tomorrow

By: Norm Orth

St. Mark's Friends of the hungry in the world. (You are: thanks) Every other month our Hunger Offerings go to the ELCA World Hunger Fund.

Each month in The Viewpoint I seek to tell you the story of one of the many places where the ELCA Hunger Fund brings life to the impoverished. So, this story is about Zimbabwe.

From Life Lines: "In 2008 POLITICAL, CRISIS CAUSED a complete economic collapse in Zimbabwe destroying the country's health and agricultural infrastructures. In some areas 90% of the population faces hunger. The ELCA pledged \$1 million in funds from the Disaster Appeal to provide emergency assistance to four hospitals of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Zimbabwe and seeds and fertilizers to rural communities facing food shortages. According to the Rev. Benyam Kassahun -- program director for Southern Africa, ELCA Global Mission -- the Lutheran hospitals in Zimbabwe 'represent life and death.' The ELCA is working to equip these hospitals with medical supplies drugs and food.

The aid to hospitals is saving lives. Several trucks were purchased to serve as emergency vehicles, transporting

patients to a hospital from remote villages. Food is being purchased for both patients and hospital staff, whose salaries are worthless as a result of the currency collapse. This food keeps patients alive and enables doctors, nurses and orderlies to keep working, delivering babies treating cholera, tending people who are injured in politically motivated attacks on poor neighborhoods The distribution of seeds and fertilizers is complete. We've provide 90 metric tons of seed and fertilizer, and when you put this together with all other agencies and organizations that got involved, over 200 metric tons of seeds have been distributed and planted. This is benefiting 20,000 families. Your gifts to ELCA World Hunger will continue to provide support for additional agriculture, clean water, and health projects in Zimbabwe"

Yes, folks, what a story of Christian love in action. Our action of walking forward each Sunday can help to repeat the above story in many other poverty stricken countries.

Yes, and there are many. Keep walking! Thanks for your past support. In September our offerings went to the ELCA Hunger Fund to continue the work described above. Again, Thanks.



By: Vangie Billingsley

### God's Love Gift Wrapped

"God gives all people dignity, but for children living without homes and families fleeing conflict simple necessities like clean water and soap can make an enormous difference."

The Lutheran World Relief Headquarters is alerting us especially to the great need for Health Kits. Thanks to the response of the women who attended our Spring Luncheon and brought supplies so that many Health Kits could be assembled we are able to send 124 on Nov. 6th. Each kit needs 1 bath size soap, 1 tooth brush, 1 nail file or clipper with file, 1 lg. tooth comb, 1 wash cloth and 1 hand towel. All items are wrapped in the towel and secured with ribbon or yarn. After this shipment we will begin gathering the needed items for our May shipment so please watch for bargains .

### Our shipment date is Nov. 6th

Besides our Health Kits we will have 123 school kits, 80 layettes, and some sewing kits to ship. For that we are grateful. We would love to be able to send more soap so if this touches all our hearts to this need we could also send a nice shipment of soap

### Quilts? Our biggest need is willing hands on Monday morning

We desperately need a couple more who are willing to come between 9:00 a.m. and 12:00 p.m. and tie quilts. We have two machines and two to sew if we can keep them busy. If you are not able to stay for the whole session and can give an hour or so it would be appreciated Can you help? Requests for quilts continue to grow.

## FAIR TRADE HOLIDAY BAZAAR

at St. Mark's Lutheran Church by The Narrows

TWO SUNDAYS

November 29th and December 6th

9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

in The Parish Commons

**Save the Dates** - St. Mark's Fair Trade Team is hosting their annual Holiday Bazaar on the first and second Sundays in Advent. Start your holiday shopping by purchasing unique gifts you will be proud to give and that support farmers and artisans from around the world.

Shop for:

Festive ornaments, Nativity sets and holiday decor

Unique jewelry

Hand-crafted baskets, textiles and ceramics

Toys, puzzles and musical instruments

Chocolates, teas, and coffees—and a limited number of chocolate Advent calendars.

L'Arche and Jubilee Traders will again join us for an added selection of handcrafted jewelry, scarves and handbags.

By buying Fair Trade, you are helping to build a more just economic system for artisans and farmers in third world countries, supporting responsible stewardship of the earth, and subsidizing St. Mark's commitment to serving only Fair Trade coffee and tea at all events. We purchase our Fair Trade products through Lutheran World Relief, further extending the reach of your benevolence.

For questions, contact Christine Harris (Christine@raincity.com or 253.503.4862), Melanie Summerour (summerour@msn.com), or Susan Newsom (susan\_newsom@comcast.net or 253.202.4119).

Food Bank  
Suggestions  
November  
Hot or Cold Cereals

### Alternative Giving

This year, again, you will be given the opportunity for alternative methods of giving Christmas Gifts. Our Synod Global Mission Committee has prepared a catalog of local and world wide giving opportunities. These will be available in November so you can begin your planning early. We will also have a Heifer Project and ELCA alternative giving catalog available. We thank God for every opportunity to serve others in our giving.

# November 2009

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed
<p>1 8:30, 9:45 &amp; 11 Worship 9:30 Sunday School 8:30 Bible Study 9:45 Adult Forum 11 Preschool Parent Connect 11:45 Youth Event to "Joseph" Bread for the World—Letters Quilt Sunday</p>	<p>2 9:00 Quilters 9:30 Grief Support Group 7:00 Boy Scouts</p>	<p>3 10 Bible Study @ Mortvedt 1:00 Staff Meeting 5:00 Worship &amp; Music Team 5:30 Fully Alive Bible Study 6:30 Preschool Board Mtg. 7:00 Bells of St. Mark's</p>	<p>4 9:15 Preschool Parents Coffee 9:30 Women's Bible Study 10 Preschool Chapel Noon Bible Study @ Forza Church Night (See Box) 6:00 JR ALYVE</p>
<p>8 Daylight Savings Time Ends 8:30, 9:45 &amp; 11 Worship 9:30 Sunday School 8:30 Bible Study 9:45 Adult Forum 11 Elementary Parent Connect Stephen Minister Comm.</p>	<p>9 9:00 Quilters  7:00 Boy Scouts</p>	<p>10 10 Bible Study @ Mortvedt 1:00 Staff Meeting 5:30 Fully Alive Bible Study 6:30 Support for Families of Incarcerated (@ Peace Lutheran) 7:00 Bells of St. Mark's 7:00 Outreach Team</p>	<p>11 <i>Veterans Day</i> 9:00 Visitation Team 9:30 Women's Bible Study 10 Pastor's Fellowship Noon Bible Study @ Forza Church Night (See Box) 6:00 SR ALYVE</p>
<p>15 8:30, 9:45 &amp; 11 Worship 9:30 Sunday School 8:30 Bible Study 9:45 Adult Forum 11 Parents of Teens Connect New Member Sunday  6:30 Film Night 5-7 Children &amp; Youth Faith Formation Team</p>	<p>16 9:00 Quilters  6:00 Gay Straight Alliance Potluck Dinner 7:00 Boy Scouts</p>	<p>17 9-2 Staff Retreat 10 Bible Study @ Mortvedt 1:00 Staff Meeting 5:30 Fully Alive Bible Study 6:00 Church Council 7:00 Bells of St. Mark's</p>	<p>18 9:15 Preschool Parents Coffee 9:30 Women's Bible Study 10 Preschool Chapel Noon Bible Study @ Forza Church Night (See Box) 6:00 JR ALYVE</p>
<p>22 8:30, 9:45 &amp; 11 Worship 9:30 Sunday School 8:30 Bible Study 9:45 Adult Forum Thankoffering Sunday Blood Pressure Screening  5:30-7:00 JR/SR ALYVE Thanksgiving Dinner</p>	<p>23 9:00 Quilters 7:00 Boy Scouts</p>	<p>24 10 Bible Study @ Mortvedt 1:00 Staff Meeting 5:30 Fully Alive Bible Study NO Bells of St. Mark's</p>	<p>25 9:30 Women's Bible Study 10 Preschool Chapel Noon Bible Study @ Forza  6-7 Worship Team Practice (choir room) 6:30 Massed Choir Practice (Sanctuary) 7:30 Thanksgiving Eve Service (@ St. Mark's)</p>
<p>29 1st Sunday of Advent 8:30, 9:45 &amp; 11 Worship 9:45 Inter generational Sunday School Advent Craft No Regular Classes  Blood Pressure Checks today Fair Trade Bazaar</p>	<p>30 9:00 Quilters 7:00 Boy Scouts</p>		

# St. Mark's Lutheran Church by The Narrows

Thu	Fri	Sat	
<p>5</p> <p>5:30 Youth Music Drama 7:30 Chancel Choir</p>	<p>6</p> <p>LWR Quilts packed &amp; sent to Seattle 9-noon Group Health Meeting (in sanctuary)</p>	<p>7</p> <p>9-noon Council Retreat @ St. Mark's</p>	<p>Weekly Parish Nurse Hours:</p> <p>Sunday - 9:30-11:00 a.m. Wednesday-4:00-7:30 p.m. Thursday - 9:00—noon</p>
<p>12</p> <p>10:00 Caregivers Meeting 5:30 Executive Committee 5:30 Youth Music Drama 7:30 Chancel Choir</p>	<p>13</p> <p>Global Mission Event in Olympia →</p>	<p>14</p> <p>New Member Brunch</p> <p>Mission Event (cont.)</p>	<p>Weekly Nursery / Childcare is offered: Sundays — 8 a.m.-12:15 p.m. Wednesdays—6:00-8:30 p.m.</p> <p>Beginning 9/23 Wednesdays - 5:00-8:00 p.m.</p>
<p>19</p> <p>5:30 Youth Music Drama 7:30 Chancel Choir</p>	<p>20</p>	<p>21</p>	<p>Exercise Class for Seniors</p> <p>10 a.m.—Monday, Wednesday, and Friday</p>
<p>26 THANKSGIVING DAY</p> <p>Office Closed</p> <p>No Youth Music Drama No Chancel Choir</p>	<p>27</p> <p>Office Closed</p>	<p>28</p> <p>12:30 Serve at Nativity House</p>	<p>Wednesday Church Night Activities</p> <p>5:15-7:00 p.m. dinner 5:15 Babies of St. Mark's 5:15-5:45 Joyful Noise Choir 5:45-6:30 Jubilation Choir 6:00 Worship Team 6-7:15 JR/SR ALYVE 6:00-7:15 Faith Journey 6:00-7:15 Adult Bible Study 6:30-7:15 Children's Chimes 7:15-8:00 St. Mark's Ringers 7:30 Prayer Around the Cross 8:00 Bells of St. Mark's 8-8:30 Devotional Classics Disc.</p>

# Stewardship Ministry

## Learning To Walk: *The First Four Steps Of A Joyful Steward*

By: Pastor Jan Ruud

Learning to walk is never easy! We take steps and we stumble, and then we get up and try again. But when we experience the joy and freedom of really walking, we are never the same. And, as we go forward, walking becomes something we just do- without thinking. My goal for every one of us at St. Mark's is that our lives as joyful stewards will follow this pattern! For some of us, it will be like learning to walk for the first time. For others, it will be the challenge of getting steady on our feet and learning to put the steps together in a forward motion. And, of course, for some, it will be the joy of going beyond this to skipping and leaping! The good news is that God is there like a loving parent for all of us to hold our hand and to steady us as we learn to walk in faith. With God's help, you are capable of making every step described here, so I urge you to trust that promise and to step forward in confidence in the new year ahead of us!

**Step One: Daily Thanksgiving.** Like all of the steps that follow, this is a spiritual practice that not only inspires is to give thanks when something especially good happens to us, but one that orients our whole life around gratitude and praise, even when we are going through hardship or pain. And, like walking in general, this will not look the same for every one of us. The key is that we each find a way to give thanks on a daily basis that fits who we are and how we pray, serve, etc.

**Step Two: Proportional Giving.** A common practice for many Christians is to give a thank offering that varies every month based on things like how it fits in with other purchases, how anxious the person is feeling about money, and even what they happen to have in their wallet or purse when the offering plate is passed. Proportional giving is nothing like that. It is a spiritual practice that helps us connect our daily thanksgiving with a pattern that is faithful and consistent. Jewish practice in Old Testament times was to give 10% of everything that could be considered income as a thank offering. Today, many joyful stewards give over and above that, but this 10% (tithe) has always been considered a good benchmark for all of us.

**Step Three: Making a Plan for Giving.** This step involves the spiritual practice of being very intentional with regard to how and when you will make your thank offerings, and to whom they will be given (church, charity, non-profit ministry, etc.) It means being just as focused as you are with things like your mortgage, or your rent, or your utilities, or whatever other necessities you budget for on a monthly basis. In fact, faithful stewards put this Plan for Giving above everything else as they order their lives around gratitude and praise. This step also involves sharing your Plan for Giving with the church or organization that you are supporting so that they can plan ministry with this in mind.

**Step Four: Developing an over-all budget that truly reflects your core values and beliefs.** Let's say that you plan to give 10% of your income as a thank offering. That still leaves 90% of your income to be spent and saved in a myriad of ways. Faithful stewards see every penny of their income as a gift from God, and they are therefore very intentional about how it is dispersed. This step involves taking time every year to ask truly important questions as you develop a budget for you or your family. "Does this budget reflect what matters most to me in life?" "What does it say about my habits of consumption and my commitment to other people?" You may come up with important questions of your own. The important thing is to ask pose them and to reflect on them in a truly honest way!



# The Depth and Breadth of Stewardship Theology

By: the Rev. Michael Meier

Self-care and vocational fulfillment, the stewardship of our lives In biblical times our modern concepts of personal freedom and individuality were virtually unknown. People cared for themselves and fulfilled their callings by being attentive to their assigned roles in the community. The communal fabric was intended to provide direction, supervision and support for the individual's life. Individuals were expected to trust the wisdom of the community and live in obedience to the community's expectations.

Today, in Western culture, we have huge opportunities for personal freedom and individual expression. For many the dictates of the surrounding community have a limited effect on their lives. Many feel free to "do their own thing." If one does not like the disapproval of a community, one can move and find another. In fact, many of us have moved from the neighborhoods where we grew up to neighborhoods which we view as being more tolerant of our individuality. We change jobs if the culture of our workplace impinges on our lifestyle. We change friendships, join or leave various groups, take up hobbies in pursuit of our individual goals.

Such freedom leaves us with great responsibility. The surrounding culture assumes that choices for healthy care of self and vocational responsibility come largely from within ourselves. How are those choices shaped?

A Christian approach to self-care and vocational fulfillment is marked by obedience to and dependence upon God and God's plan. Knowledge of God and God's plan, however, need not be limited to our individual wisdom. Here again, the living organism of the church, the Body of Christ, is able to provide more than we can supply from within our individual selves. Other people of faith, expressing the intentions of the Holy Spirit, can assist us by providing some level of direction, supervision and support for our individual lives.

The stewardship of our individual lives will be shaped by our understanding of God's plan as revealed through our individual quest and through the collective wisdom of the people of faith.



## September Stewardship Report

General & Benevolence Fund	September		
	Actual	Budget	Diff
Total Gen. & Benevolence Income	\$54,649	\$55,535	<b>-\$886</b>
Planned Benevolences	\$3,634	\$7,624	<b>-\$3,990</b>
Congregational Care Expense	\$493	\$401	\$92
Christian Education Expense	\$1,159	\$458	\$701
Outreach Expense	\$0	\$50	<b>-\$50</b>
Stewardship Expense	\$0	\$54	<b>-\$54</b>
Worship & Music Expense	\$1,357	\$1,086	\$271
Youth & Family Expense	\$378	\$441	<b>-\$63</b>
Administration Expense	\$3,107	\$4,872	<b>-\$1,765</b>
Property Expense	\$3,489	\$3,108	\$381
Staff Expense	\$37,145	\$42,950	<b>-\$5,805</b>
Total Gen. & Benevolence Expense	\$50,762	\$61,044	<b>-\$10,282</b>
Operating Difference	\$3,886	<b>-\$5,509</b>	

YTD Through Sept. 30		
Actual	Budget	Diff
\$473,575	\$515,626	<b>-\$42,051</b>
\$36,927	\$50,866	<b>-\$13,939</b>
\$5,198	\$3,609	\$1,589
\$5,544	\$4,122	\$1,422
\$738	\$450	\$288
\$2,152	\$486	\$1,666
\$6,055	\$9,774	<b>-\$3,719</b>
\$4,476	\$396	\$507
\$39,988	\$44,448	<b>-\$4,460</b>
\$36,014	\$27,972	\$8,042
\$374,666	\$386,550	<b>-\$11,884</b>
\$511,758	\$528,673	<b>-\$20,488</b>
<b>-\$38,292</b>	<b>-\$16,620</b>	

# Worship & Music Ministry

## Worship & Music Schedule: November 2009

Sunday, November 1	8:30 Service: ST. MARK'S RINGERS ring (7:30 a.m. set-up/warm-up); JOYFUL NOISE sings (8:10 warm-up) 9:45 Service: ST. MARK'S RINGERS ring 11:00 Service: JUBILATION & CHIMES sing/ring (10:30 warm-up, choir room)  YOUTH attend Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat (must have signed up; details TBA)
Wednesday, November 4	Children/Youth music groups will have a substitute leader
Sunday, November 8	JUBILATION sings at the 9:45 service (9:00 warm-up, Fireside Room)
Wednesday, November 11	FAMILY NIGHT for children/youth music groups
Sunday, November 15	JOYFUL NOISE sings at the 9:45 service (9:15 warm-up, Fireside Room)
Thursday, November 19	Youth Music Drama Team Leaders meeting, 7:30 p.m.
Sunday, November 22	8:30 & 9:45 Services: BELLS OF ST. MARK'S play (7:30 a.m. set-up, 8:00 a.m. warm-up) 11:00 Service: ST. MARK'S RINGERS (10:00 a.m. warm-up in the bells room)
Wednesday, November 25	- NO children/youth music practices - WORSHIP TEAM practice, 6 p.m. in Choir Room - Thanksgiving Eve Service, 7:30 p.m. (Massed Choir rehearsal, 6:30 p.m.), St. Mark's Sanctuary

## Thank You From The Worship and Music Team

By: Karen Grams

The response we received from our request for volunteers for worship assistants was overwhelming. Many of you indicated your interest in continuing to serve as ushers, greeters, communion assistants and lectors, and many of you are brand new to this role in our congregation. You all have received a schedule for the Sundays through December. We hope to rotate all of you through the schedule in a predictable manner. We appreciate that you are willing to try this new system, but we also realize that many of you have circumstances or preferences that would be helpful to us in filling in the schedule. For each service, there are one or two contact names. These are the people who

want and need your feedback, the people who can assist you and answer your questions. The contact names are:

**8:30 a.m.** - Marcia Moe, moeandmoe@comcast.net or Janet Grant, janetgrant@hotmail.com

**9:45 a.m.** - Darren Kerbs, darren@smlutheran.org

**11:00 a.m.** - Karen Grams, kgrams@nventure.net or Rolf Morstad, rolf-mor@harbornet.com

We are still working on finding volunteers and recruiting help in the areas of altar guild and acolytes. These two additional roles will eventually be part of the overall schedule.

Again, thanks to all of you who are willing to give of your time and talent to the enhancement of our worship experience here at St. Marks.



# November Worship Highlights

**Sunday, November 1:** All Saints Sunday Join us on this festival day as we give thanks for all the faithful people, living and dead, who have touched our lives and for God's amazing grace that transforms all of us sinners into saints on a daily basis!

**Sunday, November 8:** Commissioning of Stephen Ministers We will be commissioning our new Stephen Ministers at all three morning worship services. These are people from our congregation who have been trained to be one-on-one caregivers in the way of Christ. We give thanks this day for their desire to serve and for their unique gifts which equip them to be ministers.

**Sunday, November 15:** New Member Sunday We

will be receiving new members into our congregation at all three morning services. This is an impor-

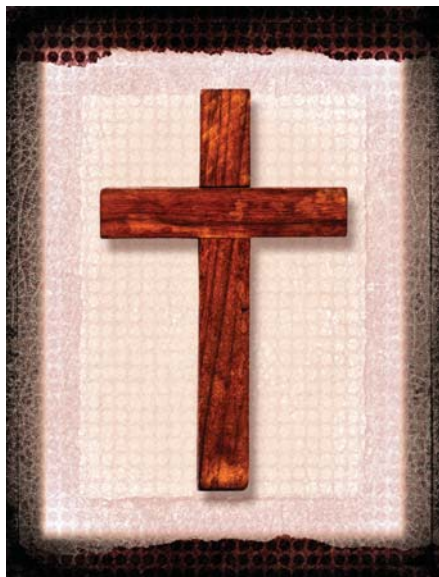
tant time for all of us as we practice the ministry of hospitality and as we celebrate the gifts of baptism and affirmation of baptism together.

**Sunday, November 22:** Commitment to Giving/Thanksgiving On this Sunday before Thanksgiving, every member of St. Mark's is asked to bring their Plan for Giving in 2010 and place it in a basket as an offering of thanks and praise. These Plans for Giving in 2010 will be mailed to you ahead of time so that you can prayerfully consider the four steps to joyful stewardship outlined by Pastor Ruud and the Stewardship Ministry Team at St. Mark's. If you cannot be here that day, please mail your Plan for Giving to the church office or bring it the following week.

**Sunday, November 29:** First Sunday in Advent Our journey to Bethlehem begins as we enter into this holy season of watching and waiting together. The Advent Wreath moves to the center of our worship life as a symbol of this hope-filled expectation that God will come to us in new ways as we prepare a place for Christ in our lives.



## Wednesdays In November



**November 4,11,18:** Prayer Around the Cross at 7:30 p.m. If you have not yet experienced this peaceful service in the middle of your busy week, let this be the month that you come and see what it is all about. We gather in the new Parish Commons around a cross that is surrounded by candles. The music is easy to follow and the Bible readings each week follow stories of healing from the Gospel of Mark. We also receive the gift of prayers and saying from saints who are remembered in the life of the church during that particular week. All ages are welcome.

**Wednesday, November 25:** Thanksgiving Eve Worship Service at 7:30 p.m. St. Mark's will join with members of Skyline Presbyterian Church and Grace Baptist Church for a service of thanksgiving which will be held at St. Mark's. The offering will go towards the alleviation of hunger in our community. For those interested in being part of the massed choir, practice with the other church choirs will begin at 6:30 p.m. on the November 25th in the Sanctuary. Please contact Cooper Sherry for more information, 752-0554.

# Youth & Family Ministry

## Middle School Ministry: JR ALYVE

6-8th Grade (2009-2010 school year)

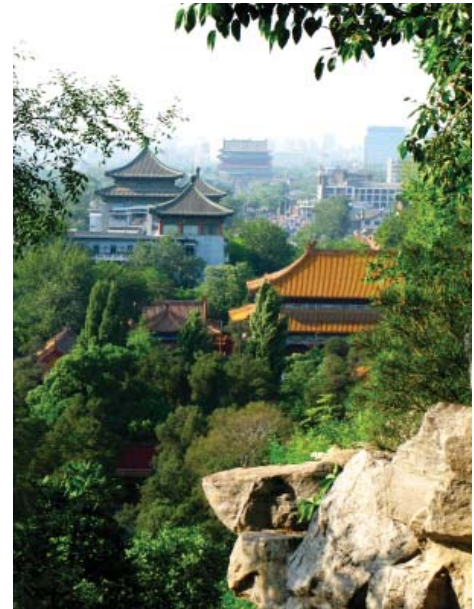
- **JR ALYVE Youth Group Night** 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of each month in the Youth Wing. Fall dates: Nov. 4 and 18, Dec. 2 and 16. Thanks to Linda Wimberley for coordinating and leading this group.
- **Thanksgiving Dinner Sunday, November 22nd**, Prep Crew please arrive at—4:00 p.m., Dinner at 5:30 p.m. Don't forget to bring an item or two for the food bank.
- **Dinner and a Movie Saturday, December 19th**, 5:30-8:00 p.m. Don't forget to bring your pillow and wear your comfy clothes and/or PJ's.
- **Montana Mission Trip—July 9-16, 2010.** Cost: \$500.00 per person (parent/youth contribution \$250.00, fund raise \$250.00). Informational meeting for youth and parents Sunday December 6th at 12:15 p.m. in Fireside Room. This trip is for youth grades 6-8th (completed June of 2010). Applications and a \$50.00 deposit per person will be due by January 3rd.

## CHINA CONNECT

(High School Youth and Adults)

July 14-29, 2010

Applications are available from Ingelaurie for youth (grade 9 completed to adult) interested in going with a group to China this summer. Cost breakdown: \$1200 for (lodging, meals, in country transportation, etc). \$165.00 for Visa, \$1000.00 for airfare, \$200.00 for spending \$\$\$. Fund raising opportunities will take place to help fund this trip. Applications are due December 1 with a \$100.00 down payment to reserve your spot. Please contact Ingelaurie Lisher with any questions.



## Fall Nursery/Childcare Schedule

Sundays:

8:00 to 12:30 p.m. (During Worship)

Tuesdays:

5:15-7:00 p.m., during Women's Bible Study

Wednesdays:

5:00-8:00 p.m., during Church Night

3rd Monday of Each Month:

6:00-8:00 p.m.

1st Saturday of each month:

9:00-11:00 a.m.

\*Please contact Nursery Co-Coordinators Cindy Johnson or Teresa Handy regarding nursery hours and times. Free will donations are gladly accepted to help subsidize cost of the youth who work in the nursery during the week.

## High School Ministry: SR ALYVE

9-12th Grade (2009-2010 school year)

- **SR ALYVE Bible Study and Discussion group**--This group meets the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of each month in the Youth Room. Fall dates: Nov. 11 and Dec. 9.
- **Thanksgiving Dinner Sunday, November 22nd**, Prep Crew please arrive at—4:00 p.m., Dinner at 5:30 p.m. Don't forget to bring an item or two for the food bank.
- **Dinner and a Movie Saturday, December 19th**, 5:30-8:00 p.m. Don't forget to bring your pillow and wear your comfy clothes and/or PJ's.

# Let Justice Roll

By: Ruth Young

I had the privilege of going to Let Justice Roll, in Holden Village with Kirsti Ruud and Derek and Lisa Lindholm. We talked about how we can do something about issues the world faces. "For just as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is also dead." James 2:26

Retired Pastor George Johnson was the speaker at this event, and he has devoted his life to helping solve some of the problems in the world and turning them into justice. He said we should desire to work towards justice over charity. The key is that we need to make the problems sustainably better, as opposed to temporarily fixing the injustice. Charity is temporary, while justice is lasting.

All of the change needed in the world cannot be done over night; it can take years to even start. It is a long term process, not a quick fix. Compared to what is being done, it takes time to change peoples views on what should be done. Along with it being a long term process, change also takes many people working together for this, no one person can fix all the problems of the world.

Pastor Johnson inspired us, not to necessarily stop charity work, but to think of the justice that needs to be seen in the world, and act on this. He told us, as youth, that we have a voice for justice and we can do something about the wrongdoings in the world. We must first establish what the crisis is, and ask ourselves what the issues is, and where is the hope? Then we need to embrace our faith and take actions on it. Getting help from others is essential; also, find and use new and old resources. And finally, announce the hope found and still to come.



On our last day, we went into small groups and talked about what we can do as youth of the world. We shared what we are passionate about that is not right in the world and what we can do about it. We all have a voice against inequality and faults in this imperfect world, no matter your age.

By doing justice in the world, we are doing God's will. Of course it can be hard, but what is life without challenges. One of the songs we sang was called "Ubi Caritas", it said "ubi caritas et amour, ubi caritas deus ibi est". In english, this translates to "where love and caring are there is God". We all can do something about inhumane treatment in the world; we just need to take the first step.



## PARENT CONNECT BRUNCHES

Sundays, 11:00

Parish Commons Classroom

We are so blessed to have so many young families at St. Mark's! Here is a monthly opportunity for you to meet each other over coffee and bagels and juice.

November 1st—Parents of Preschoolers

November 8th—Parents of Elementary Kids

November 15th—Parents of Teenagers

The focus of this time together is not information—no lectures or presentations. Rather, it is a time for CONNECTION—a time to share stories of the joys and the challenges of being a parent. If you have questions about the groups, please contact Pastor Shjerven ([rebecca@smlutheran.org](mailto:rebecca@smlutheran.org)) or Ingelaurie Lisher ([Ingelaurie@smlutheran.org](mailto:Ingelaurie@smlutheran.org))

## November Birthdays

November 1	Jacque Crenshaw Bernice Friend Malinda Miller	November 14	Brian Laubach Rhonda Patrick
November 2	Valeri Hall Violet Thompson	November 15	Galen Morstad Regan Stewart Victoria Terrill
November 3	Kim Johnson Jeanne Smith	November 16	Natalie Whiteley Zephyr Gough Everett Holum Samuel Stenger Alex Wiley
November 4	Mark Hamburg Alan Neils	November 17	Breanna Bonner
November 5	Jim Aho Paul Baughman Kelly Holme Kaelen Hoseth Glen Postovoit James Smith	November 18	Mardi Krusemark Abby Lawver
November 6	Kristi Gaimster David Ostrander	November 19	Anna Hoiland Alesia Torres
November 7	Mary Jane Knold Sue O'Neill Carol Paulson	November 21	Brooke Paulson
November 8	Carol Avery Andy McWilliams Kirsti Ruud Jason Smith Carolyn Floyd Trimble	November 22	Lauren Jones
November 9	Robert Hall Nathan Webers	November 24	Danielle Lemieux Annika Nelson
November 12	Dana McConnell Pamelia Olson Sherri Owzarski Traci Richards Dick Zatkovich	November 25	Liz Comstock
November 13	Sam Christian Derek Lindholm James Schauble	November 26	Lauren Gaimster Diane Hillman Dottie Kent Matt Taylor Brooke VanRavenswaay
		November 27	Mary Olsen Arlyn Saathoff
		November 28	Hanna Frazier Elaine Hansen Owen Huelsbeck Carter Wickert
		November 29	Sharon Norman Jessica Wilson
		November 30	John Avery

## Pastoral Acts

### Baptism:

Kailer William Smith

Born: July 8, 2009

Baptized: October 18, 2009

Parents: Jason & Jeanne Smith

Sponsors: Steve and Jennifer Wolbrecht

## From the Office

Address Changes:

### Joe McWherter

1301 N. Highlands Pkwy, Apt. 205

Tacoma WA 98406

## November Anniversaries

November 5	Liz & Neal Sobania
November 6	Camille & Jason Conley
November 8	Chuck & Nadine Carroll
November 14	Ron & Eileen Tellefson
November 17	Jean & Carl Steingrebe
November 25	Rolf & Shirley Morstad
November 28	Lori & Eric Augino
November 29	Carol & Jim Nettles

## Council Members June 2009 through May 2010

PRESIDENT	Kim Meade	759-9817
VICE PRESIDENT	Martin Duenhoelter	565-5634
SECRETARY	Rolf Morstad	759-0563
TREASURER	John Wascher	503-6765

### CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

John Frazier, 312-9313

### CONGREGATIONAL CARE

Karen Grams, 389-1886

### OUTREACH MINISTRY

Elaine Rodning, 761-9198

### PEACE AND JUSTICE

Paula Friedmann, 759-3881

### STEWARDSHIP

Everett Holum, 752-3304

### WORSHIP & MUSIC

John Avery, 759-6365

### YOUTH & FAMILY

Ben Summerour, 857-8872

## Staff

- General Office Email—office@smlutheran.org
- Pastor Jan Ruud—jruud@smlutheran.org
- Pastor Rebecca Shjerven—rebecca@smlutheran.org
- Pastor Otto Tollefson—otollefson@aol.com
- Ingelaurie Lisher, Director of Youth & Families—ingelaurie@smlutheran.org
- Danielle Lemieux—Director of Music for Children & Youth—danielle@smlutheran.org
- Jan Pence, Office Manager/Administrative Assistant—janpence@smlutheran.org
- Lisa Lindholm, Publications—lisa@smlutheran.org
- Pat Buck, Financial Recording Secretary—pbuck@smlutheran.org
- Laura Oellerich, Director of Preschool—preschool@smlutheran.org
- Becki Christian, Custodian and Hospitality Coordinator—beckic924@hotmail.com
- Mike McKeller, Bookkeeper—bookkeeper@smlutheran.org
- Darren Kerbs, Director of Music for Contemporary Worship—darren@smlutheran.org
- Caresse Robertson, Youth Music Drama Team Leader—caresse@smlutheran.org
- Phyllis Bachman, Organist/pianist
- Cooper Sherry, Director of Music for Traditional and Blended Worship
- Adam Manley, Sound Technician
- Craig Cootsona, Musician
- Spencer Crenshaw, Facilities Assistant
- Ruth Saathoff, Parish Nurse
- Karen Grams, Parish Nurse
- Helen Bache, Parish Nurse
- Joan Torfin, Parish Nurse
- John Wascher, Interim Parish Administrator

## October 2009 Church Council Highlights

By: Paula Friedmann

The Council met on October 19, 2009 from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. Following are highlights of the meeting:

All members are encouraged to pick up the "Learn, Serve and Grow" booklets which are available in the narthex. If you know people who have not filled them out, please encourage them to do so. Staff members will follow up with postcards of thanks and acknowledgement and pass on information to the appropriate ministry team leaders.

The remodeling project is nearing completion. There is a good chance that there will be adequate resources to proceed with kitchen remodeling, thanks to money left in the Grace Upon Grace fund and additional designated donations.

Pastor Jan presented a plan for the Grace Upon Grace Second Capital Campaign, starting with a proposed brainstorming group to be contacted in the near future. A planning team will be formed in Dec./Jan. and make recommendations to the Council at the January Council Meeting. The Council will then bring those recommendations to the January 31 Congregational Meeting.

John Wascher reported that seven people were interviewed this month for the half-time Parish Administrator position. Of these, 2-3 were good candidates and one was outstanding. That person will have a second interview this week with a possible hire date of Nov. 1.

John Avery reported that Leadership Development Team continues to work on defining the Coordinator

of Ministry position. Congregational Care is seen as a priority need, including increased need for pastoral care and support for the Stephen Ministry. The current proposal is to hire a ¼ time pastor to focus on these needs and defer the hiring of a half-time Coordinator of Ministry until May 1010. This will be impacted by budget concerns and whether or not the current deficit has been resolved by then. The long-term vision includes an offer of orientation and training of small group leaders by Tom Hulst, to be planned starting this November.

The budget continues to be an issue of concern. Income is still down around \$40,000 for the year to date in spite of expenses being kept below what was projected. Pr. Jan stated that a letter was sent to all members Oct. 1 expressing the need to maintain and increase giving as we are able.

# St. Mark's Lutheran Church by The Narrows

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*A Place for Grace*

## Our Mission Statement

*St. Mark's is a people and place for God's grace. We are a baptized and believing people claimed by Christ. Therefore, we call all people to Worship and Witness, Learn and Serve, Share God's Word and Sacraments, Reach Out with Words and Deeds of Love.*

### Worship Opportunities at St. Mark's

*Holy Communion is celebrated every Sunday at our morning services.*

#### **Sunday, 8:30 a.m. —**

This worship service draws on a wide variety of musical traditions for both hymns and special music - from Scandinavian Folk Tunes to Asian or Latin American songs of praise; from medieval chants to African American Spirituals - celebrating the rich variety of music that God has given to the Church.

#### **Sunday, 9:45 a.m. —**

The singing at this service is led by a band which includes piano, drums, bass guitar, and often another lead guitar or acoustic guitar, blending contemporary music with historic elements of worship that are in all of our services.

#### **Sunday, 11:00 a.m. —**

People often call this the "traditional" worship service because we sing well-known hymns from our new Evangelical Lutheran Worship Hymnbook. The Chancel Choir leads the singing, with organ and piano.

#### **Wednesday, 7:30 p.m. - Prayer Around the Cross**

Wednesday evening prayer service will be one which is suited for people of all ages who enjoy a time of singing, praying, lighting candles, and being nourished by the Word of God.

