



Semi-Annual Congregational Meeting

**Sunday, May 18 at
12:15 p.m.**



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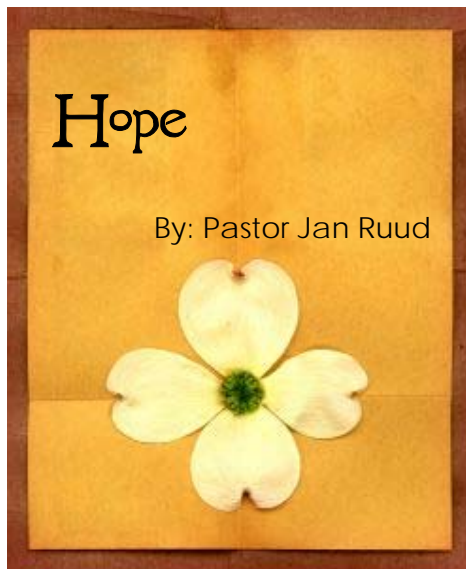
(Ministry Teams are
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The Viewpoint

Volume 55 No. 5

May 2008



"I have not yet done that for which I was made." Those words from a prayer by St. Anselm stirred up some good conversation among our Church Council members last month. They found them to be both hopeful and challenging. One person asked, "How old do you think Anselm was when he said that?" Another person observed that this open-ended way of looking at his calling may have been a reason why Anselm lived so many years beyond the life-expectancy of his time.

As we approach the day of Pentecost (May 11), I am thinking about these words again. I am hearing them along side of another observation by St. Paul that the simple purpose of our whole life is to do good works. "For we are what God has made us," Paul writes, "created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand to be our way of life." (Ephesians 2:10) When I hear Paul and Anselm together, I feel like I have a lens through which I can see the big picture. Paul helps us to see that every

good work we have done is already a fulfillment of God's purpose within us. In that sense, we have done that for which we were made. Anselm keeps us leaning forward into the future, and into the new plans God has for us, no matter how old we are.

I will carry both of these truths into this year's celebration of Pentecost, and into the Congregational Meeting on May 18. This congregation is fifty four years old. When we look at the good that has been done in and through us in the last fifty four years, we can joyfully say, with Paul, that we have done that for which we were made. Even looking at the last few weeks and months, we can see signs of that everywhere. At the congregational meeting, as we live into the vision of linking our ministry and our facilities, as we vote to call a new pastor and to appoint new leaders to our Church Council, I feel that Anselm's prayer is also fitting for us. It opens our hearts and our minds to see that there is still so much ahead of us, and that God's plans for us are always unfolding in new and unexpected ways. To put it another way, Anselm's words remind us that we are always becoming who God made us to be, and that gives me deep hope!



Semi-Annual Meeting

Please join us for the semi-annual meeting of our congregation on **Sunday, May 18 at 12:15 p.m.**

All members of St. Mark's are asked to attend this very important meeting. A light meal will be served ahead of time by the Youth of St. Mark's. Child Care and activities for children will also be offered during the meeting. At the meeting, we will:

- ✚ Vote to call a new pastor
- ✚ Elect congregational leaders
- ✚ Hear the most recent updates from our Building Committee, Financial Task Force, and Grace Upon Grace Capital Campaign Team
- ✚ Review our financial status after the first four months of the year and respond to any recommendations brought forward by our Church Council
- ✚ Say "Thank You" to outgoing Church Council members, to our Call Committee, and to Pastor Charlie Mays for his ministry with us during this interim period.

Generation 2 Generation: *Hope*

By: Ingelaurie Lisher—Director of Youth & Family Ministry

In Pastor Ruud's opening article he speaks of hope and looks at what we have done "that for which we are made" and what we are becoming "who God made us to be" reflected from the words of St. Anselm. I too believe that these words give us hope. They remind me that my call to serve is not yet complete and that God's work in my life is also not yet complete.

Our theme for the year of Generation 2 Generation is also not yet complete and there is hope that this way of living into our baptismal covenant as a congregation will continue for years to come as we grow in ministry and doing the work of God.

Last spring, the Youth and Family Ministry Team proposed to the staff the idea of spending the year focused on generational ministry, or to put it better, congregational ministry. This theme has been embraced by the con-

gregation and it has been exciting to see how each of us lives out our baptismal covenant of welcoming each other into the Lord's family and how what we have done for Christ helps shape who we are becoming in Christ.

Our Generation 2 Generation theme has taken on many forms this past year from our Women's Advent Brunch, participating in the Southwestern Washington Synod's Global Missions Event and even spending a weekend the mountains together with children, youth and adults at Trollhaugen just to name a few. Throughout the month of May we will continue to live into this theme as once again we enjoy the Women's Spring Luncheon on May 3, watch our children in their musical on May 11 and come together as a congregation for our semi-annual meeting on May 18. A time in which we will once again help define who we are



becoming as a congregation. And in all of this I find great hope for not only the future of St. Mark's but also for the present.

I have hope in all that we, as the body of Christ, have done but I ultimately have hope in what we are becoming because of Christ. And as the words to the song, "My Hope is Built on Nothing Less" by Edward Mote keeps running through my mind, I know that "when all supports are washed away. He then is all my hope and stay." Amen.

Christian Education

Sunday Adult Forums: *Environmental Degradation*

The Care of Creation Committee will continue to bring its concerns about environmental degradation and what we can do about it to our attention with a four week adult forum series in May.

During the first two sessions professor Bob Stivers will lead discussions of the dominant attitudes and values we bring to our thinking about nature. Tracing how these attitudes and values developed in American life, he will also show how they have played a role in the current crisis. He will conclude by suggesting a set of alternative attitudes and values that are more earth friendly.

In the third session, professor Stivers will tell environmental stories to illustrate the attitudes and values and seek the reaction of the class. In the fourth session, members of the Care of Creation Team will form a panel to discuss what St. Mark's can do.

May 4: Professor Bob Stivers on dominant attitudes and values toward nature.

May 11: Professor Bob Stivers on alternative and more earth friendly attitudes.

May 18: Professor Bob Stivers on environmental stories.

May 25: Care of Creation Committee panel led by Tom Hulst on what St. Marks can do.

Sunday School

By: Linda Wimberley

Help wanted!! We need someone to teach Kindergarten for a few Sunday's at the end of the year. The class usually has about 4 kids, but can be as big as 7. We have two weeks in May and one week in June open. If you could teach one or more classes please contact Linda Wimberley at 988-6882.

We will not have Sunday school on Memorial Day weekend.

Vacation Bible School is still looking for supplies. Keep bringing in shoe boxes with lids, paper towel tubes, coffee cans with lids and wooden picture frames (5X7 or 8X10). Thanks to everyone who has already dropped off items. Mark your calendars for August 4th through 8th. We will need teachers, assistants, site leaders and more to keep us swinging through the week. Keep in mind that if you can't be with us the whole week, we can use anyone that has some time to spare. We will find you a place where you can help – even if it's only for a day.



God Loves the World

Travel with the Summer Sunday School to all parts of the globe!

Children and their guides will learn about many parts of God's Great Big Wonderful World this summer. Children preschool-third graders will be guided by adults and young guides (4th grade and up). Summer Sunday School will begin on Sunday, June 22 and end on Sunday, August 24, from 9:45 a.m.—10:45 a.m.

Needed: Adult and young guides,
Come by the Summer Sunday School / Vacation Bible School table in May and sign up to teach a class.

Choose a Sunday and a country.

Lesson plans will be provided or make your own.

For more details, contact Linda Faaren 779-0439.

Bon Voyage!

Confirmation Ministry

May Theme: Grieving
May 4—5:45-7:15 p.m.
May 28—5:45-7:15 p.m.
June Theme: Play
Dates and times TBA

Preschool News

By: Anne Bettger—Preschool Director

Our last month of school will be a busy one for the preschoolers. We will start the month by planning and preparing for our annual Mother's Day Brunch to be held on May 8th and 9th, and then we will visit Pt. Defiance Zoo on May 21th and tour the Asian Exhibit.

We are also looking forward to our year end picnic to be held on May 22 at the school. We will also find time to review what we have learned about numbers, colors, shapes and the alphabet.

A reminder: It's not too late to register your child (or share the news with family and friends) for fall 2008. We have space available in the 2 1/2 class and Pre-K class, and only a few in the 3 1/2 class. Call the preschool office at [752-4929](tel:752-4929) for more information.

Congregational Care

Call Committee Update and Invitation

By: Char Leone

St. Mark's Congregational Call Committee has completed prayerful and thoughtful deliberations over the past two months and has now decided on a candidate to recommend to the congregation to fill the vacant position of Associate Pastor. The requirements for this position were previously studied by the Leadership Development Team, who identified the need for it to be filled by an experienced Pastor who would have leadership duties and responsibilities to oversee the Christian Education, Youth and Family, and Peace and Justice Ministries of the congregation, in addition to the regular pastoral duties. The Leadership

Development Team created a position description that outlined these qualifications, with the job title of Pastor. This new position description was shared with the congregation through a series of forums in January, and served as a primary basis for the work and reflection of the Call Committee.

It is with joy and enthusiasm that the Congregational Call Committee announces that we have a recommendation for call who we believe has outstanding personal and spiritual qualities and excellent experience to fill this position. By now, each member household of St. Mark's will have received a letter in the mail **introducing you to the recommended pastoral candidate**. The congregation will

vote to approve the recommendation at the Semi-Annual Meeting to be held on Sunday, May 18th, following the 11:00 worship service.

To help prepare the congregation for this vote we are inviting congregation members to meet the candidate for call to the position of Pastor at a reception to be held on Sunday, May 4th at 3:00 p.m. in St. Mark's Fellowship Hall. Our candidate as well as members of the Call Committee will be present. We hope you all will be able to join us.

Call Committee Members: John Avery, Joe Buck, Vic Holme, Sheri Kurishima, Char Leone, Ben Summerour, Kristina Williams

Nisqually River Delta

Come and join us for an easy going walk on the Nisqually River Delta on Saturday, June 7th! This is a nature walk that is on a flat gravel pathway. You will see displays of biologically rich and diverse habitats on this wildlife refuge! Doug Crowe will lead the walk, and Tom Hulst will talk

about the abundant plant life and different bird species that are plentiful on this walk. The Nisqually Delta is just off I-5 south of Tacoma, and north of Olympia, and only takes about 1/2 hour to get there. We will also all share in a potluck in the parking lot at the Delta after the walk. We can all

meet at the church at between 9:30 a.m., and, leave about 10:00 a.m. Lets all get out our favorite walking shoes and your favorite potluck dish and go for it! There will be a sign up sheet in the reception area starting on May 25th!

Victoria Clipper Special

Join Dawne and Jim Aho on a special trip arranged for Tacoma Lutheran Retirement Community and the St. Mark's Lutheran Church Fellowship Team. You will travel to Victoria, B.C., Friday Harbor and take an Amtrak train ride. There will be a motorcoach pick-up at TLRC and then take the Victoria Clipper for a one night stay in Victoria followed by a night in Friday Harbor. From there we will travel to Bellingham

to catch an Amtrak train back to Seattle to board the motorcoach to TLRC. The dates are June 16th through 18th. Included in the cost is transportation, one meal, baggage handling, two nights lodging, and escorts. The cost is \$485 per person double occupancy, \$625 for a single, \$435 (pp triple) or \$400 (pp quad). We need 22 people to sign up by April 28th. Call Dawne Aho (253-759-9304) for details or to sign up.

A Special Coffee & Dessert Gathering

to meet the

Pastoral Candidate for Call

Sunday, May 4, 2008

3:00 p.m. in St. Mark's

Fellowship Hall

Growing in Love and Grace

Join us for The Women of St. Mark's Spring Luncheon.

Saturday, May 3rd

10 o'clock a.m.

St. Mark's Fellowship Hall

The program will begin before the luncheon this year. We will be honoring generations of members of St. Mark's. We will also have elections and installation of officers for next year and the revealing of secret sisters. Children will be given a special gift. Plan to spend this May 3 morning for a very special time with our church family.

Upcoming Women of St. Mark's Events



May 3: Spring Luncheon "Growing in Love and Grace" 10:00 a.m. at St. Mark's

July 26: Family Summer Picnic at the Paulson's Beach Home on Harstene Island.

September 20: Fall Retreat at the Paulson's Fircrest home 9:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

November 1: The Holiday Bazaar at St. Mark's

December 6: The Advent Brunch at St. Mark's

Bible Study Opportunities

Women interested in a Bible Study Group remember there are several available:

Last Thursday of the month at noon at the Mortvedt Center

Second Wednesday of the month at the Evergreen Room of the Tacoma Lutheran Home at 1:30 p.m.

Every Tuesday evening at 5:30 p.m. in the Fireside room at St. Mark's

Every Wednesday morning at 9:30 a.m. in the conference room at St. Mark's

Feel free to drop in at the one that is convenient for you.



The Best Treatment is Prevention

Helen Bache—Parish Nurse

The best treatment for dehydration is prevention. Drink fluids in comfortable amounts. Pay attention to your fluid intake if you are sick, during warm weather and before physically exerting yourself. Thirst as a signal to drink more water can become unreliable in older people and those who have some medical conditions.

Are you making very frequent trips to the bathroom? Eight glasses of water a day may be a good guideline but perhaps not for you. In the absence of prostate trouble or urinary incontinence, frequent trips to the bathroom may be a problem for people who overdo it with fluid intake. Many factors influence how much water you need every day and include, body size, age, diet and level of activity. Pay attention to your own body and find the level of fluid intake right for you.

Can someone drink too much water? It is rare but possible to flood your body with too much

liquid, causing the loss of essential minerals and putting stress on systems like the heart and lungs. Read the list of foods with high water content and plan ways to include them in your daily diet. Add them to your food shopping list. Include them as you pack school and work lunches. If your children pack their own lunches, have these foods available for them to put in their lunches. Tell them about choosing foods for nutrition and water content. Remind them that lots of sugar in food and drinks will dehydrate their body. (It is easier to think clearly and remember math facts and formulas when your body has enough water.)

Foods with high water content:

Over 90% water	80-90% water
Watermelon	Carrots
Strawberries	Oranges
Tomatoes	Apples
Celery	Grapes
Iceberg lettuce	Cantaloupe
Radishes	Gelatin
Broccoli	Cooked Cereal

If the foods on the list take too much money from your food

budget, think about eating "in season" when there is an abundance of local fruits and vegetables available.

Share and save money by buying in bulk, dividing up that big box of apples and splitting the cost as well.

Do you have more ideas about this topic? Bring them to the Parish Nurse Office or leave a message and the ideas can be shared.

"Real Age, Inc." 1996-2007 was the source of much of this information. One article has useful summary points to remember.

- ☞ Drink fluids in comfortable amounts.
- ☞ Pay special attention to your fluid intake during warm weather, times of physical exertion and sickness.
- ☞ Pay attention to your own body. Learn what you need to know about your physical signs and symptoms of mental, emotion and behavior change.
- ☞ Monitor your signs and symptoms of dehydration and of those who depend on your care and assistance.
- ☞ Supplement your diet with high water content foods.
- ☞ Avoid following advice that is not appropriate to your body and environment!

**Parish Nurses'
Blood Pressure
Sunday is May
25th after each ser-
vice in the offices.**

Blood Drive: *June 1st*

By Lori Neptun—Parish Nurse

Here's your chance to save a life! On Sunday, **June 1st**, St. Mark's will be hosting a Blood Drive. A blood mobile from Cascade Regional Blood Center will be parked outside St. Mark's. Watch for flyers about how and when to sign up! Or contact a Parish Nurse.

Why should I donate blood?

- ☞ Every three seconds someone needs blood
- ☞ One out of every four people entering a hospital needs blood
- ☞ 60% of the US population is eligible to donate – only 5% do on a yearly basis
- ☞ There is no substitute for human blood

Who can give blood?

You can give if:

- ☞ you are in good health
- ☞ weigh at least 110 pounds
- ☞ are at least 18 (ages 16-17 may donate with a parent permission slip)
- ☞ you are age 76+, you will need a doctor's note

What can I expect at the time of donation?

A mini-physical: pulse, blood pressure, temperature and testing your hemoglobin, the iron level in your blood.

Can I be on different medication(s) and still donate?

Yes. You must be off antibiotics for 72 hours (three days) before donating blood. Antibiotics taken in low dosages for preventative treatment for acne may be okay. Hormones, antidepressants, chole-

sterol and some blood pressure medications are acceptable as long as you are feeling well. If you have a medical question, please call (253) 383-2553. Bring a list of all of your medications and dosages with you at the time of donation.

What are the blood components?

Red blood cells: used to increase oxygen carrying capacity in patients during surgery or trauma. People who have been in car accidents and suffered massive blood loss can need transfusions of 50 units or more of red blood cells.

Platelets: used to control or prevent bleeding in leukemia, cancer, surgery and trauma patients. Cancer, transplant and trauma patients, and patients undergoing open-heart surgery require platelet transfusions to survive. The average bone marrow transplant requires 120 units of platelets and about 20 units of red blood cells. Severe burn victims can use 20 units of platelets during their treatment.

Plasma: used to increase the level of clotting factors in patients who are deficient and patients with severe burns

When can I donate again?

You can donate every eight weeks (56 days).

Are there travel restrictions?

Travel to tourist areas in most parts of the world is acceptable. You may be deferred if you have traveled to a malarial area.

Learn more about blood donation at <http://www.cascadebloodcenters.org/>

Want to talk about being a parent? *May 3rd 5:00-7:00 p.m.*

It is clearly the most important job we have - and sometimes can be a little frustrating. What could be better than getting together with other parents and discussing how we want to raise our kids? Let's talk about what we do well and where we can be supported. What traditions and values to we want to pass on to our children? What are the core qualities that we want our discipline style to support?

Kim Meade will facilitate our dis-

cussion, loosely based on a theory of Positive Discipline. Her degree is a MA in Marriage and Family Therapy. She has been a practicing therapist for 10 years. She has experience over the past 13 years teaching:

- ☞ Love and Logic (teachers and parents)
- ☞ Partner's Parenting, based on The Incredible Years (parents)
- ☞ 21 Keys to Highly Effective Teaching and Learning (parents and staff)

☞ Achieving Your Potential through Education (elementary students K-5) Last in a 3 part series, but if you missed the other 2 you can still join us. Saturday, May 3rd. Adult conversation, pizza and quality childcare. Hope to see you there! For more information contact the church office [752-4966](tel:752-4966), Christine Harris, or any member of the Youth and Family Team. Please RSVP to the office for a pizza head count, but all are welcome even if you don't call.

Outreach Ministry

Elbe Lutheran Church

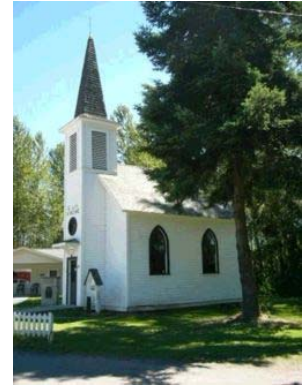
By: Pam Olson

Want to spend one day this summer visiting with people from around the U.S. and the world? You can do that without getting a passport or traveling outside of Pierce County!

The Elbe Lutheran Church, which is a responsibility of all Lutheran Churches in our Synod, needs volunteers to open the National Historic Site for the summer tourists. Please help by spending one day of your summer at Elbe greeting the visitors. We ask hosts to arrive about 10:00 a.m., with their lunch, pick up the key at the designated place, and open the

doors. Enjoy the facilities of the Pfarrhaus and getting acquainted with travelers from many countries and all parts of our country. By 4:30 or 5:00, it is time to close the buildings and return the key, reminiscing as you drive home about the interesting people you met.

You can meet the other volunteers and learn more at our annual complimentary breakfast: May 17th at 9:30 a.m. at Prince of Peace Lutheran Church in Lakewood. Joanne Flom will give a presentation on her experience with the China Service Ven-



ture program. Questions? Call Pam Olson [752-7525](tel:752-7525). Please let us know if you plan to attend the breakfast by calling Doris Gadley, [846-2743](tel:846-2743), or Kathy Mettler at [360-832-4922](tel:360-832-4922) (do not dial 1 before the 360).

The Viewpoint Goes Green

By: Lisa Lindholm

Over the past 2 1/2 years it has been my pleasure to layout *The Viewpoint*. I have the opportunity to interact with a large number of congregation members, get the first hand scoop on upcoming activities and announce exciting new things happening in our parish. It is a fulfilling job to say the least. This is why I am proud to say that *The Viewpoint* is "going green."

Each month I print over 520 copies of *The Viewpoint*. On average the newsletter is 20 pages long. I use 11" x 17" paper thus requiring over 5 reams of paper. That is 2600 sheets of paper. We do our best to find paper at the best prices, but the sheer quantity of paper used is staggering.

The majority of our readers recycle their *Viewpoints* when they are finished. However, some end up in our landfills. Paper makes up the majority of the waste in our local landfills. 14.4% to be

more accurate. This is paper that could be recycled.

The Outreach Team has agreed that we should be better stewards of our environment. We have a significant number of email addresses on hand of congregation members. It was proposed that instead of mailing 2600 pieces of paper, we email it. Email creates no paper waste. If we have email addresses for 200 households that would save 1000 sheets of paper.

In addition to less paper in the landfill, those who receive an electronic version of *The Viewpoint* will be privileged to the following benefits:

- ☞ *Larger Print.* The Adobe Reader used to view *The Viewpoint* allows you to read articles enlarged as big as you like.
- ☞ *Full Color.* I have worked to include high quality color images in each Viewpoint edi-

tion. Our printing ability only allows us to print black and white. With the electronic version you will see *The Viewpoint* as it is originally intended.

- ☞ *One less thing to throw away* and one less thing cluttering your mailbox.
- ☞ You will be able to print single pages. If you need a reminder about an upcoming event at St. Mark's and are, like me, in need of a visual reminder, you can print the page you need and put it in a place you will see it often.

The change for our electronic *Viewpoint* won't take place for a few months yet. We would like all our readers to have the opportunity to opt out of this new system. If you know the church has your email on file and you would like to continue receiving a paper copy of *The Viewpoint* please email me at lisa@smlutheran.org or you may call the church office at 752-4966.

Peace & Justice Ministry

Invitation to Dinner: *Cinco de Mayo*

By: Pastor Jan Ruud



Our Mexico Mission team will host a dinner and auction on "Cinco de Mayo" (**May 5th**) for the purpose of raising money to build four houses for needy families south of the border. Mark this date on your calendar now and plan to join us for this fun event, which begins at 6:00 p.m.

There will be live music, delicious food catered by Il Fiasco and many wonderful things to purchase at the auction. The team is also inviting people to donate items or special services for the

auction. This can be everything from gift baskets to gift certificates.

Tickets for the event will be available Sundays in April or at the door. \$5 for adults and \$3 for children.

If you have something you would like to donate, please contact Candie Gustafson at whtmtncmg@aol.com or by phone at 253-756-8088.

We look forward to dining with you.

Hunger Walk—*Godfrey's Gift*

By: Norm Orth

This is a fascinating story about a young man, 15 years old, living in Bukoba, Tanzania. It is told by Kathryn Sime, Director of ELCE World Hunger, when she was visiting here.

We were visiting Huyawa, a ministry of the Northwestern Diocese of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania serving 35,000 orphaned or vulnerable children in this region. Godfrey (15 years old) and his younger brother lost their parents to AIDS; Godfrey is now head of the household. Our ELCA World Hunger Appeal gifts designated for Stand With Africa help fund the Huyawa program; the weekly visits and care provided by the Huyawa field representative help keep Godfrey and his brothers in their home and school.

As we sat and talked with Godfrey, he held a squirming chicken

on his lap. At the end of our visit, Godfrey whispered nervously in our host's ear. She smiled and said to us, "Because you have given gifts, Godfrey has a gift for you. He would like you to have this chicken."

"Godfrey," we asked, "just how many chickens do you have?"

His answer stunned us. "Just two," he replied.

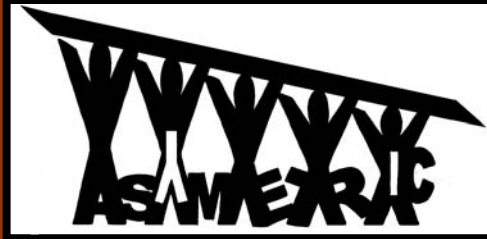
Godfrey, this child of God with all the responsibility of an adult, was going to give us nearly 50 percent of his potential household income, 50 percent of his bank account. Nearly half of all he owned was wrapped up in this bedraggled and beautiful chicken.

"Truly I tell you, this poor widow has put in more than all those who are contributing to the treas-

ury." Jesus' words from Mark 12:43b. Godfrey and the widow from Mark's Gospel both gave gifts from their heart. Gifts that defy understanding. God blesses and multiplies even our humbler offering, for they, too, come from the heart. Together we stand with Godfrey and all our African brothers and sisters; together we Stand With Africa. Thanks be to God.

Our May offerings will again go to the ELCA World Hunger Fund. Our hunger offerings go to this ELCA fund every other month. On alternate months, the offering goes to a locally designated group.

Thank you Hunger Walkers, your March gifts totaled \$778.85. This also went to the ELCA World Hunger Fund.



A Successful Youth through MEntoring & Tutoring Refugees In our City



You are cordially invited to:

The St. Mark's
Somali Bantu Tutoring Program: ASYMETRIC

"End of the Year Celebration"

Wednesday May 7th, 2008 at 6:00 p.m.

At Normanna Hall
1106 S 15th St
Tacoma, WA 98405

For dinner, entertainment and celebrating the accomplishments
of our students and tutors!

Please RSVP
at somalibantututoring@gmail.com

For more information about the program or the Celebration contact:

Kerri
Greenaway at
somalibantututoringprogram@gmail.com or
509.429.3815

Donations for the 2008-2009 Tutoring Year (books, school & studying supplies) will be gladly accepted.

Thrivent® Builds

with Habitat for Humanity®

By: Tom Geary

St. Mark's has designated May 18 as "Habitat for Humanity Sunday," when we recognize the Christian-based, house-building work of Habitat for Humanity. This year, the Tacoma/Pierce County Habitat affiliate has several opportunities for members of St. Mark's to be involved, including two "Thrivent Builds" houses (built with the support and involvement of our local Thrivent Financial for Lutherans chapter) and a "Building on Faith" house (constructed in

partnership with local churches and members of the faith community).

Funds raised during our annual Habitat for Humanity appeal, as well as funds from our regular benevolence budget, will go to support the "Thrivent Builds" houses. St. Mark's members who want to get directly involved in helping to build houses are invited to volunteer for either of these projects – or on any other Habitat house (we build year-round!). For the Thrivent Builds houses, construction will begin in early May and continue through October, while the Building on Faith project will be a compressed build that takes place during three weeks in September. So, as you can see, there are plenty of opportunities

to participate for anyone who is interested! Please visit the display area in the narthex on May 18 to obtain more information, to sign-up as a volunteer, or to make a monetary donation. As always, if you have any questions about Habitat's activities in our area, please contact Tom Geary at 549-2668. He is a member of St. Mark's who also serves on the Habitat Board of Directors.



Stewardship Ministry

Building Committee Update

By: Jim Pence



The Building Committee is on a bi-weekly meeting schedule as we near the completion of design plans. Several subcommittees are at work preparing recommendations for the full committee on components of the design:

- ☞ A Kitchen Subcommittee continues to work with the kitchen consultant and St. Mark's members to finalize the layout of the kitchen, including a recommendation on equipment to be purchased.
- ☞ A Sanctuary Improvements Subcommittee continues to investigate ways to improve sound and lighting in the sanctuary, as well as finalize plans for changes to the sacristy and vesting room.
- ☞ A Technology subcommittee

is looking into networking, computing, and telephone needs for new and remodeled space.

- ☞ A Remodeling Subcommittee is working with the architect to bring clarity to the do-it-yourself portions of the project.

The contractor is finalizing the guaranteed price for the new construction, which will be shared with the congregation at the semi-annual meeting on May 18.

The first anniversary of the Grace Upon Grace Capital Campaign to link ministry and facilities will also be celebrated on May 18. Look for a mailing updating the pledges and income, along with additional information about the campaign.

THE LUTHERAN MAGAZINE

has been delivered to every member of St. Mark's in the past through an all-congregation subscription. As a budget cutting measure, we are no longer providing that subscription to the congregation. If you wish to subscribe to the magazine, you may do so individually (many members have received letters this past week about their subscriptions). You may also subscribe online at www.thelutheran.org.

Time To Apply For Scholarships

Scholarship forms for those students attending Lutheran colleges and universities in 2008-2009 are available in the church office. Applications, including two current letters of reference and a current essay are due back in the church office by May 31st. Please contact Steve Titus (253.970.7977) or Janeen Smith (253.752.4966) with questions.

Stewardship (Mar-Apr 2008)

DATE	ATTENDANCE	AMOUNT
March 20 (Maundy Thurs.)	146	\$ 264.00
March 22 (Easter Vigil)	~300	\$ 1,418.75
March 23 (Easter)	670	\$15,378.00
March 30	276	\$13,808.89
April 1*		\$ 560.00
April 6	334	\$15,363.38
April 13	320	\$11,305.83
April 15*		\$ 3230.00

*Simply Giving Receipts

Food Bank Suggestions for April:

Canned Vegetables



Care of Creation Activities Planned for Summer 2008



The Care of Creation Team has planned a number of activities, in concert with other groups within the church, for the summer of 2008. These activities are described below, include the dates of the event, for whom the trip is targeted, and necessary equipment that will be needed. A sign up sheet will be available in the narthex on Sundays in May and June for St. Mark's members and friends to communicate their intent to participate.

June 7, 2008 Hike along the Nisqually River Delta

The church Fellowship Team in conjunction with the Care of Creation Team is sponsoring a nature-walk around the Nisqually River delta on June 7. This river delta is located eight miles east of Olympia and displays biologically rich and diverse habitats in south Puget Sound. Drag your walking shoes out of the closet, grab your binoculars, and get ready for a wonderful morning with church friends and family. A poster board is set up in the foyer to sign up for this nature-walk to the Nisqually River. This event is geared for all ages. Walkers will leave the church at 9:00 a.m. in car pools and return after lunch. Bring a lunch to share with others and join us on this visit

to one of the region's premier wildlife areas.

July 25-27 2008 Family Camping Trip to Ohanapecosh

Reservations have been confirmed for the annual church family camping trip July 25-27 at Ohanapecosh Campground, located in the southeast corner of Mt. Rainier National Park. It is a great location with many possible activities close by, including a visit to the Grove of the Patriarchs (really large old-growth trees) and several routes for possible day hikes. Five individual campsites have been reserved. Each site can have 6 people, and four of the five sites can accommodate two tents, so the maximum number of people is 30. This trip is intended for families of all ages and will require traditional outdoor camping equipment. The sign-up sheet for this event is on an easel in the foyer together with the sign-up for the backpacking trip to Holden Village.

August 20-24 2008 A Trip To Holden Village With A Different Twist

Care of Creation is planning an outing to Holden Village this August. Early planning and reservations are necessary since the village can fill up early for the sum-

mer season.

Two forms of transportation are proposed, your choice, either by boat via Lake Chelan or by foot (two night backpack trip) via Spider Gap. The planned schedule is as follows:

- ☞ Wednesday Aug. 20--
Backpackers travel to trail head & camp in Spider Meadow
- ☞ Aug 21--Backpackers cross Spider Gap & camp at upper Lyman Lakes
- ☞ Aug 22--Backpackers & lake travelers arrive at Holden for two-night stay
- ☞ Aug 23--In Holden
Sunday Aug 24--Return to Tacoma

The backpack schedule is fixed; however, lake-travelers may elect to arrive prior to the hikers for their stay in Holden Village. A single adult, two night stay costs \$123 which includes room, meals and a 13 mile bus trip from/to the Lucerne boat landing. More information is available and reservations can be made on the web site www.holdenvillage.org/. Care of Creation will hold a few Holden reservations for the schedule date; so, you may contact Tom Hulst for availability prior to making your own. The 20 mile backpack route gains 3600 feet to Spider Gap (7100 feet elevation) then descends 3800 feet to Holden. Expect to hike on some snow at the higher elevations. Ice axes and crampons are not required; however, good physical conditioning and some backpacking experience are recommended.

For more information about these activities contact Tom Hulst (460-2683); if you have questions about the camping trip contact Tom Geary; if you want further details on the hike to Holden please contact Rod Hanke (460-5921).

Worship and Music Ministry

- Thursday, May 1st:** Youth Music Drama Team – NO PRACTICE
- Saturday, May 3rd:** Celebration Ensemble practice, 9:00-11:00 a.m. (Sanctuary)
- Monday, May 5th:** Chancel Choir – NO PRACTICE
- Thursday, May 8th:** Youth Music Drama Team end-of-year party (w/ run-through of Pentecost reading) – 5:30—7:30 p.m., St. Mark's Fellowship Hall Dinner Provided,
- Saturday, May 10th:** Jubilation and Joyful Noise dress rehearsal for spring musical, 9-10:30 a.m. (Sanctuary).
- Sunday, May 11th:** Youth Music Drama Team reads processional gospel at the 8:30 and 9:45 a.m. services. Meet at church at 8:00 a.m. to go over reading and languages.
- Children's singing choirs meet in the Fellowship Hall at 10:15 a.m. for warm-up and costumes. Musical will begin at the 11:00 a.m. worship service.
NO Chancel Choir.
- Sunday, May 18th:** Children's Chimes plays for the 8:30 service – warm-up at 8 a.m. in the Sanctuary.
- St. Mark's Ringers play for the 11:00 service – warm-up in the Fellowship Hall at 10:30 a.m.
- Monday, May 19th:** Chancel Choir end-of-year potluck – place TBA.
- Tuesday, May 20th:** **End-of-year parties:**
Joyful Noise, Jubilation, Children's Chimes Choirs: 5:15-6:30 p.m. (Fellowship Hall);
St. Mark's Ringers, Bells of St. Mark's: 7:00-8:30 p.m. (Fellowship Hall)

Summer Music Opportunities

By: Danielle Lemieux—Director of Music Ministry

Summer is the perfect time to get that small group together to sing or play something for worship or to bring out a solo that you've been wanting to sing or play on your instrument! If you'd like to serve in worship with your musical gifts, please contact Danielle Lemieux (danielle@smlutheran.org / 752-4966 x105) to schedule a Sunday!

An additional way to participate in music this summer is to join the St. Mark's Summer Choir. The summer choir is open to ALL AGES, from children to 92-year olds! Just make sure you can make the practice (you will need to attend the practices to sing on Sunday morning). Here is the Summer Choir schedule!

- JUNE CHOIR** Saturday practice, June 14th (10:00-11:00 a.m.) – Sanctuary
Sunday, June 15th, 11:00 a.m. (10:30 a.m. warm-up)
- JULY CHOIR** Saturday practice, July 26th (10:00-11:00 a.m.) – Sanctuary
Sunday, July 27th, 11:00 a.m. (10:30 a.m. warm-up)
- AUGUST CHOIR** Saturday practice, Aug., 16th (10:00-11:00 a.m.) – Sanctuary
Sunday, Aug. 17th, 11:00 a.m. (10:30 a.m. warm-up)

THANK YOU to all who made the Youth Music Drama Team production of *Snoopy!!!* Possible. We had a blast and look forward to presenting more shows in the upcoming years!

Do you enjoy music?
Do you have a passion for worship?

St. Mark's
Worship & Music Ministry Team is looking for people who love serving Christ and are interested in sharing their talents and vision on the Worship and Music Ministry Team.

Then you may be the person we are praying for.
Contact Kim Bucklin at

Peanuts and Prayer: *Part 2*

In the April *Viewpoint* Peanuts & Prayer article, the Youth Music Drama Team “became” their characters and said some very creative and unique prayers. The second part of this devotion they did was looking at themselves – they looked at their strengths, their weaknesses and told what they would pray for and how. Because of the sensitive nature of these self-revelations, no names will be used.

The youth were asked to list their strengths first – adjectives they used included the following: *kind, open-minded, funny, loyalty, like to act and sing, making friends, caring, nice, loving, being a good friend and person, independent, stubborn, funny, fun to be around, good leadership, listen well, understand others’ problems, give good advice, am a good mentor.* Then their weaknesses: *need to project my voice more, can be a bit close-minded, have difficulty accepting others’ opinions, get nervous onstage, clumsiness, not physically strong, can be judgmental, not the most forgiving person, gossiping, judge people before I meet them, see the worst in people, guarded, feel constantly judged, don’t talk about how I really feel.*

They were then asked to formulate a prayer to help them in their faith journeys – as you will see, they were very straightforward and honest in their feelings:

- ☞ *God, please help me see better in the world. Thank you for everything you have given me. Amen*
- ☞ *Honestly I can’t think of a “miracle prayer.” I think God has already set out our journey, things happen to us for a reason. Why pray to change that?*
- ☞ *Dear God, please help everyone be able to remember the songs, blocking, and lines [for “Snoopy!!!”] before April. And thank you for letting us all get together and do this play. Amen.*
- ☞ *Dear God, I just wanted to thank you for helping me be an overall good person and making and keeping lots of friends. Please help me to stop focusing on drama and social things and please help me to be kind and caring to everyone. Amen.*
- ☞ *Dear God, I ask you to be with me on this journey in life. I also ask you to help me with my struggle to sing louder on stage and to help me practice my lines and instrument more often. Amen.*
- ☞ *Dear God, Thank you so much for all the blessings in my life. Thank you for helping me to be the best [“Snoopy” character] I can be and help me with all the things I could do to make the show better. Amen.*
- ☞ *Uh... Dear God, please help me to better myself in my attitude. Sometimes I say the wrong things*



and I feel really bad and wish I hadn’t, but I can’t take it back. I also sometimes feel as though I’m losing myself, getting too caught up in life, perhaps. So please help me with these things and I thank you for the many gifts you’ve given to me throughout my life. Amen.

- ☞ *Dear Lord, Thank you for me being able to laugh and be happy, but please help me be able to make more new friends. Amen.*
- ☞ *Dear Lord, Please help me to see past other people’s blindness and to see that I am blind in my own way. I must be kind to others and not be so harsh on people’s views. Thank you for my wit, my humor as deep as my grandfather’s, my vocabulary, music and the most amazing mother [!] could ask for. She truly is a blessing. Amen.*

Finally the youth were asked to pray about something they’ve always wondered about. Here are a few of those prayers:

- ☞ *Dear God, I’ve always wondered if there’s a meaning in the rain. I know there are the obvious reasons.. like watering the plants and soil, but I wonder if there’s more to it than that. What were you feeling when you invented rain? It’s a way to nourish the life you created, so it sometimes seems as though you put some of your Spirit in the rain. Rain is a way of healing the earth and there’s a feeling I can’t describe that I feel when I watch the rain. Maybe peace? It’s truly a special way for me to know that you are watching over me. Is that what you meant? In the story called The Smell of Rain, the little girls says that you smell like the rain. The smell of freshly watered earth. Do you live in the rain? In V for Vendetta, Evey says, “God is in the rain.” Is it true, I wonder? Amen.*
- ☞ *Dear God, I don’t know how my life will be after I graduate high school. I still don’t know what career path I would like to follow or what college to go to. I hope I’ll make the right choices. Amen.*
- ☞ *Dear God, Help... me to understand more and know more about Zoology. I’ve always wondered about extraterrestrial life and creatures like Bigfoot and the Loch Ness Monster. Amen.*
- ☞ *Dear God, I was just wondering that if I or we do something wrong or don’t act very good, then we pray for something good to happen, if you don’t help that prayer come true because of the way we’ve been acting lately? Amen.*
- ☞ *Dear God, If You give us everything that we need in life, then why do some people go hungry? Amen.*
- ☞ *Dear God, You have control over everything to take away sin. It’s in your power. Why don’t you use it? Amen.*

Kid's Club, JR ALYVE, SR ALYVE

- Kid's Club! (grades 2-5) takes place on Tuesday from 5:15-5:40 p.m. in the Youth Room. Kid's club will run through May 20th and then will be on break until next fall.
- JR ALYVE Youth Group (grades 6-8th) will meet **Sunday, May 4th 1:00 p.m.** BBQ at the Oellerich's—please bring a side dish and then again on **Tuesday, May 20th from 5:45-7:00 p.m.** in the youth room. Pot-luck dinner—bring something to share. Last JR ALYVE night of the school year—Tuesday, June 3rd location and time TBA.
- SR ALYVE Youth Group (grades 9-12th) Dinner and a Movie—**Friday, May 16th 6:00 p.m.** at Lisa and Derek's. Sign up on the Youth Board by May 11th if you are attending.

Graduation Sunday—*Sunday, June 8th at 11:00 a.m.*

followed by a luncheon in the fellowship hall. Our records show the following youth graduating from High School: Kelsi Burkhart, Jamie Martelli, Shannon Merchant, Sonja Ruud, Rachael Simmons, Lauren Smith and Roger Willis. Please contact the church office ASAP if we have left your son/daughter out.

Thanks to Kris Moor for all of her hard work on the Family Fun Night last month! Thanks also goes out to Adam Manley, Linda Faaren, Jody Smith, Mary Jo Larsen and Bruce Sadler for helping out with the 8-12th Grade Lock-Out April 4-5th. This annual synod event had 162 participants from around the Tacoma/Olympia area for a night out of fun. And to Carol and John Grudzien for the donation of our breakfast meats for our annual Easter Breakfast.

Western States Youth Gathering Upcoming Fundraisers!

- **Parents Night Out! Friday, May 9th 6:00-10:00 p.m. and Friday, June 6th 6:00-10:00 p.m.** Child care and activities will be offered at the church by our youth for a free -will donation to this trip. Please contact the office by the Wednesday before to sign up. 752-4966 or at ingelaurie@smlutheran.org.
- **A Quick Bite to Eat**—Lunch will be provided before the annual meeting for all those planning on attending on Sunday, May 18th from 11:45 a.m.-12:15 p.m. Free-will donations will be accepted to help the youth attend the Western States Youth Gathering.

**Confirmation Ministry:
See Page 4
for details**

Youth & Family Ministry

Middle School Mission Trip to Montana July 12-20th, 2008

Next meeting date—Tuesday, May 27th 6:00 p.m. in the Youth Room. We have the following youth and adults attending this trip: Noah Compton, Cullen Daniels, Anna Grudzien, Charlean Hays, Morgan Hayes, James Kennedy, Sela Neils, Justin Oellerich, Josh Steele, Ruth Young, Devon Watterson, Tony Daniels, Carol Grudzien, Ingelaurie Lisher and Bruce Sadler. If you would like to make a financial contribution to this trip please contact Ingelaurie at ingelaurie@smlutheran.org or at 752-4966.

Parenting Workshop

May 3th, 5:00—7:00 p.m.

Join the Youth and Family Ministry Team as they present a workshop about what it takes to be a parent. For more information see page 7.

May Birthdays

May 1 Caroline Laubach
 May 2 Joe Bauer
 Lora Gross
 Virginia Zoutte
 May 3 Gayle Martelli
 May 4 Deborah Thomas
 May 5 Barb Finch
 Jim Peterson
 May 6 Barbara Ostrander
 Jason Myklegard
 May 7 Kristin Bowden
 Kendyl McCarthy
 Amanda Morstad
 Dick Moe
 David Stenger
 Sarah Stenger
 May 8 Duncan Stewart
 May 9 Brendan Bartanen
 Shirley Chu
 Riley Jornlin
 May 10 Mary Jo Holum
 Jayden Patterson
 Kirk Stenger
 May 11 Brandon Kurashima
 Luke Neuberger
 May 12 Dan Conroy
 May 13 Cynthia Chaney
 Jered Kurashima
 Sarah McCarthy
 Marty McClelland
 Janet Ruud

May 14 Linda Couch
 Zachary Jornlin
 Eric Williams, Jr.
 May 15 Jennifer Anderson
 Peter Berg
 Tim Neuberger
 May 16 Pat Geary
 Joe Handy
 Frank Hruza
 May 18 Genevieve Boer
 David Huseh
 Mel Lund
 Warren Sadler
 May 19 Emma Merchant
 Lily Oellerich
 May 21 Phyllis Bachman
 Judy Summers
 Stuart Vogel
 May 22 Lori Augino
 Madison Larson
 Cory Pedersen
 Eric Vogel
 May 23 Karen Grams
 Maren Tobiassen
 May 24 Deena Gray
 Thomas Harris
 Eileen Tellefson
 May 25 Erin Albaugh
 Bernie Pratt
 Erik Iverson
 Martin Iverson
 May 29 Rob Willis
 May 30 Lee Whiteley
 May 31 Camille Sullivan

Pastoral Acts:

Change of Address/Phone/etc.

Don & Julia Brink
 1301 N. Highlands Pkwy, #235
 Tacoma, WA 98406
 Phone # 253.756.7764

McWilliams/Gonder household
 New Phone # 253.565.2861

Glenda Larsen
 New Phone # 253.858.4414

Ann Miller
 7309 Onyx Dr.
 Lakewood WA 98498
 253.589.3631

Susan Valenti –
 Should be University Place
 (not Tacoma)

Baptism:

Lilly Joy Miller --
 daughter of Greg & Malinda Miller
 born October 18, 2007
 baptized April 20, 2008

Death:

Byron Stensen – died March 14, 2008
 Memorial service March 22, 2008

We forgot to list:

Donna McWilliams (joined March 22, 2008)
 2220 Westridge Ave W #C104
 Tacoma, WA 98566

New Members Received:

April 20, 2008

Sally Dorland

2216 Mtn View Ave W
 University Place WA 98466

Roger & Cindy Iverson

Soren, Martin, Erik, Kirsten
 4418 N. 32nd St.
 Tacoma, WA 98407

April 27, 2008

Christine Brass

9710 52nd St W #B
 University Place WA 98467

Steve & Barb Olson

2102 Lafayette St.
 Steilacoom WA 98388

Catherine & Jack Terrill

Caterina, Victoria, Sophia
 724 North "I" Street
 Tacoma WA 98403

Welcome to:

Gracie May Smith, daughter
 of Jason & Jeanne Smith
 Born October 18, 2008

Lily Kathleen Hren, daughter
 of Zachary & Dani Hren
 Born April 16, 2008

May Anniversaries

May 4 Debra McQueen & Alan Neils
 May 5 Deborah & Mark Baespflug
 Shelley & Stephen Hutson
 May 6 Patricia & David Berg
 Char & George Leone
 May 8 Michele Bench & Cory Pedersen
 May 12 Judy & Jim Summers
 May 26 Melanie & John Summerour
 May 31 Erin & Andy Albaugh

COUNCIL MEMBERS MAY 2007 THROUGH MAY 2008

PRESIDENT	JOHN SUMMEROUR	857-8872
VICE PRESIDENT	BARBARA OSTRANDER	208-6828
SECRETARY	SUSAN NEWSOM	759-1417
TREASURER	SCOTT MOOR	566-4927
	(interim)	

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

AUDRY HANDY, 759-5242

CONGREGATIONAL CARE

KIM MEADE, 759-9817

OUTREACH MINISTRY

MARTIN DUENHOELTER, 565-5634

PEACE AND JUSTICE

KEVIN HAYES, 460-1795

STEWARDSHIP

SCOTT MOOR, 566-4927

WORSHIP & MUSIC

SONJA YEAGER, 761-3018

YOUTH & FAMILY

ALICIA LAWVER, 396-1214

STAFF

General Office Email—office@smlutheran.org (253-752-4966)

Pastor Jan Ruud—jruud@smlutheran.org

Pastor Otto Tollefson—otollefson@aol.com

Pastor Charlie Mays—Charlie_mays@msn.com

Janeen Smith—Coordinator of Ministry—janeen@smlutheran.org

Ingelaurie Lisher, Director of Youth & Families—ingelaurie@smlutheran.org

Danielle Lemieux—Director of Music Ministry—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

Anne Bettger, Director of Preschool

Becki Christian, Custodian and Hospitality Coordinator

Caresse Lemieux, Youth Music Drama Team Leader

Phyllis Bachman, Organist/pianist

Cooper Sherry, Organist/pianist

Adam Manley, Sound Technician

Craig Cootsona, Musician

Teresa Handy, Nursery Attendant

Chuck Droubay, Maintenance Manager

Linda Wimberley, Sunday School Coordinator

Spencer Crenshaw, Facilities Assistant

Lori Neptun, Parish Nurse

Ruth Saathoff, Parish Nurse

Christie Merry, Bookkeeper

St. Mark's Lutheran Church by The Narrows

6730 North 17th Street
Tacoma, WA 98406

Phone: 253-752-4966

Fax: 253-752-4990



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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. —

Taizé Prayer Service: a quiet service centered in contemplative singing and prayer. Candlelit, meditative, renewing, restful peace in the midst of your busy life! The name of the service comes from a community in France, where Christians from all over the world gather for renewal.

