



## 2009-2010 Theme: *A Story For All People*

By: Pastor Rebecca Shjerven

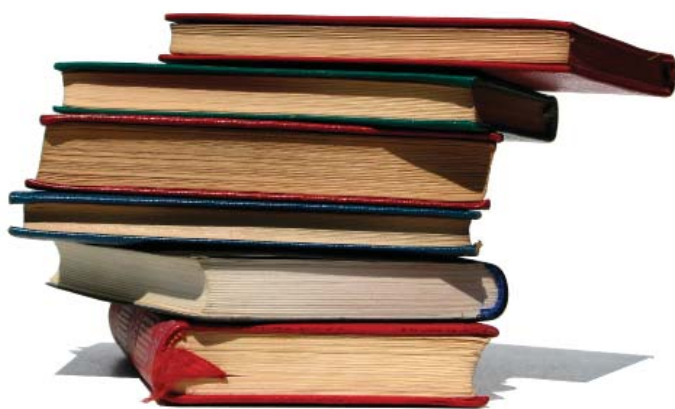
*We come into your presence with hope and joy restored.  
With eager hearts we listen, and gather 'round your word.  
We watch and wait your coming and pray for greater trust,  
To know that while we wait for you, you watch and wait with us.*

--"A Story for All People", Worship and Praise Hymn #2 (Augsburg Fortress)

We come into life hearing stories. Grown-ups sing songs and read to us as we fall asleep. We hear the story of our family, of grandmas and grandpas and aunts and uncles. We put names with faces and find our place in a circle of stories. As we begin our formal education we not only hear and read stories, we learn about stories. They have a beginning, a middle and an end. They make some sort of sense (if not, we should stop and read the words again and ask questions until they do). There are characters and a plot, a crisis and some sort of resolution. As we are able, we learn to write stories. And eventually, with maturity and with grace, we come to realize that we live within a story, that our life is part of a narrative arc much bigger than our own. We are part of God's story.

This coming year at St. Mark's we will live together under the theme, "A Story for All People". Throughout the year we will explore the many stories that bind us together as a community of faith. We will have expanded opportunities to enter into the biblical story using a variety of resources, appropriate for variety of ages and learning styles we found in our community. We will have the chance to hear the stories of the saints who have gone before us, using book of devotional classics. Those who are musically inclined will sing and ring and play the story for us throughout the year, as the Spirit leads them. And we will all have extra opportunities to share our stories as we come together for worship, learning and community life. All of these events and activities will present us with essential questions: What does it mean to be a person/a community called into God's story? How is my/our story shaped by God's activity? Does my story make sense? What does it mean? Who are these people who are part of my story? What story are we writing together here at St. Mark's? How do we tell God's story/our story? How are all people part of this story? All creation?

I invite you to participate in the ongoing conversation throughout the year. I trust that the Holy Spirit will guide us and that we will be enriched as we enter more deeply into one another's stories, and into the divine story. . . a story for ALL people.



# The Viewpoint

September 2009

Volume 56 No. 9

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# Christian Education

## Children's Faith Journey

**F**aith Journey for children begins on Wednesday, September 23. As families gather at St. Mark's on Wednesday evenings for Bible study, music programs, youth programs, worship, or Adult Faith Journey, elementary children age 4 through 5th grade are welcome to participate in "Kids Path"; a children's journey of faith encompassing play, wonder, and reflection. Children gather from 6:00 to 7:15 p.m., following dinner. We'll meet in the new Children's Faith Cen-

ter. We'll use Godly Play Bible stories to help kids experience Bible stories, learn prayers to use in daily lives, and discover how symbols and seasons help our awareness of the presence of God in our lives. This faith nurturing approach helps to make room for children to grow in their relationship with God and have the assurance of Jesus' love as they experience friendship and belonging at St. Mark's. "Kids Path" is lead by Char Leone.

## Adult Faith Formation

See descriptions of programs on page 4.

### Sunday Mornings

Time	Title	Leader	Location
8:30 a.m.	"A Gardener, Two Travelers and a Cheat"	Pastor Otto Tollefson	Parish Commons Classroom 1
9:45 a.m.	<b>Adult Forum Series on the Environment</b>	Pastor Jan Ruud and	"
11:00 a.m.	<b>ELCA Social Statement</b> "Human Sexuality: Gift and Trust"	Pastor Rebecca Shjerven	"

### Tuesdays

Time	Title	Leader	Location
	<b>Making Difficult Decisions</b>	Dick Rodning	Mordvedt Center at TLH*
5:30 p.m.	"Fully Alive" Begins in October	Sheri Maiura	Fireside Room

### Wednesdays

Time	Title	Leader	Location
9:30 a.m.	<b>Women's Study</b> Begins October 14	Ruth Leistekow	Parish Commons Classroom 1
12:00 p.m.	<b>Revelation</b>	Pastor Rebecca Shjerven	Forza Coffee 21st & Pearl
6:00 p.m.	<b>Church Night Bible Study</b> "Galatians"	Pastor Rebecca Shjerven	Parish Commons Classroom 1
8:00 p.m.	<b>Devotional Classics Discussion</b> Online discussion group available	Pastor Rebecca Shjerven	

\*TLH: Tacoma Lutheran Home

## Devotional Classics

“It is important at the outset to reclaim the words devotional and classic. For many people today devotional means ethereal, otherworldly, irrelevant. To still others it implies sentimentality, superficiality, and an unwillingness to face the hard realities of life. In point of fact, genuine devotional writings have nothing to do with these modern misconceptions. Rather, they are writings that aim at the transformation of the human personality. They seek to touch the heart, to address the will, to mold the mind. They call for radical character formation. They instill holy habits”. (pg. 1, *Devotional Classics*)

Pastor Shjerven invites you to join her in a year of intentional reading of classic devotional writings from Julian of Norwich and Teresa of Avila to Soren Kiekegaard and Annie Dillard. This 52 week journey begins by purchasing the book, “Devotional Classics: Selected Readings for Individuals and Groups”, edited by Richard Foster and James Bryan Smith. You may order this online at

[www.renovare.org](http://www.renovare.org); the cost is \$17.00 (plus shipping) or find it on the spirituality shelf at Borders. On Wednesday, September 23rd we will kick off this reading journey as part of Church Night, at 8:00 p.m. You are welcome to read on your own, join in the Wednesday night discussion group OR be part of the online discussion group (details will follow). Please consider enriching your spirit this year by reading along.



## Sunday School Teacher's Workshop

**Saturday, September 12,  
9:30 - 11:30 a.m.**

This workshop will orient our children's Sunday School teachers to our fall program of Sunday morning ministry with children. Teachers will learn how we'll use our new space and classrooms and become familiar with child safety procedures. Through hands-on preparation, teaching teams will experience our new children's SPARK curriculum and become acquainted with others involved as part of our children's teaching staff. Continental breakfast will be served.

## Children's Sunday School Starts September 13th

By: Char Leone

Children from age 3 through grade 5 are welcomed to gather each Sunday morning for Sunday School classes led by teaching teams for the following age and grade levels:

Preschool Ages 3 & 4 (children who are 3 years of age by 9/1/09)  
Kindergarten-age (including pre-K)  
Grades 1 & 2 combined  
Grade 3  
Grade 4  
Grade 5

Children will meet in their classrooms at 9:30 a.m. and then gather together for 15 minutes in a large group for singing, praying, serving and sharing. The children are then back in their classrooms. The Sunday School curriculum is lectionary-based meaning the lesson corresponds to the Sunday worship and all grades explore the same story

each week while focusing on the Bible in age-appropriate ways. It is called SPARK and is designed to help kids engage and interact with their Bibles and Bible stories.

St. Mark's Sunday School is a welcoming place of God's grace for children and their families. In our Sunday School ministry we strive to teach, nurture and celebrate faith with children as they grow spiritually. With our new space for classes and activities we now have a beautiful new Children's Faith Center for intentional ministry with children. We are excited for this new start in new spaces beginning September 13th! We invite families to register children for Sunday School by completing a registration form which has been mailed to families and is also available at St. Mark's weekdays and on Sunday mornings leading up to our Sunday School start date.

## Sunday Mornings (classes begin September 13th)

*All classes meet in the adult classroom space at the south end of the Parish Hall.*

8:30 a.m. "A Gardener, Two Travelers and a Cheat"

Meet Adam, Abraham, Sarah and Jacob as you have never known them before in this four session encounter with People of Faith (a Book of Faith series; for more information, check out [www.bookoffaith.org](http://www.bookoffaith.org)). Bring your questions and your sense of humor. . .no biblical expertise is required. Grab a cup of coffee and join the conversation.

9:45 a.m. Adult Forum Series: The Environment

Each week we will celebrate God's creation and be challenged in our role as stewards of that gracious gift. Topics range from Biblical Spirituality and Creation to Environmental Ethics and Public Policy. Check "Parish Life" each week for Sunday's topic and teacher. All are welcome.

11:00 a.m. "Human Sexuality: Gift and Trust"

For several weeks we will examine and discuss the latest ELCA Social Statement, adopted at the 2009 Churchwide Assembly in August. Sessions will include conversation about scripture and Lutheran theology, marriage and social structures that enhance trust in relationships, sexuality and moral discernment. The discussions in this class will seek to model trust and respect in public deliberation, preparing us to be "salt" and "light" for conversation in society. You may download a copy of the ELCA Social Statement at [www.elca.org/WhatWeBelieve](http://www.elca.org/WhatWeBelieve). Copies will be available at the sessions.

## Midweek Studies (note start dates for each class)

Tuesday, 10:00 a.m. "Making Moral Decisions"

Begins Sept. 8

This course of study meets at the Mortvedt Center at Tacoma Lutheran Retirement Community (enter on Vassault and travel 1 block) The theme is based on a book by Paul Jersild, and the group will follow his outline. Everyone interested is welcome to the course, taught by Dick Rodning. Come for discussion and fellowship. There are no ironclad answers.

Tuesday 5:30 p.m. "Fully Alive" Women's Bible Study (Fireside Room)

Begins Oct. 6

Each week we will celebrate God's creation and be challenged in our role as stewards of that gracious gift. Topics range from Biblical Spirituality and Creation to Environmental Ethics and Public Policy. Check "Parish Life" each week for Sunday's topic and teacher. All are welcome!

Wednesday 9:30 a.m. Women's Bible Study (Parish Hall Classroom 1)

Begins Oct. 14

Ruth Leistikow leads a study and discussion of various books of Scripture. All women are cordially invited to attend!

Wednesday noon Bible Study at Forza Coffee Shop, N. 21st and Pearl

Join Pastor Shjerven and others as we study the mysterious book of Revelation and hear the clear message of hope that is found within its pages. Bring your own bible and any \$\$ you might want to spend on goodies.

Wednesday 6:00 p.m. Church Night Study (Fireside Room)

This fall we will turn our attention to Paul's letter to the Galatians, "the Magna Carta of Christian liberty". Come for a simple supper before or after class and a time of learning with Pastor Shjerven. Childcare provided in the nursery; music and youth programs take place throughout the evening.

Wednesday 6:00 p.m. Devotional Classics Discussion Group

This is the weekly gathering for those who are reading "Devotional Classics: Selected Readings for Individuals and Groups" (edited by Richard Foster and James Bryan Smith). Together we will reflect on the questions of the text and share our own questions and observations. For more information on this resource, or to order yourself a copy, please check out [www.renovare.org](http://www.renovare.org).

# congregational cave



## 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 5:00-8:00 p.m. for children 3yrs and younger.

Time	Title	Location
5:15-5:45 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/SR ALYVE (opposite weeks)	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

## August 2009 Church Council Highlights

The full-time Coordinator of Ministry position vacated by Janeen Smith will be filled by two half-time employees, a parish administrator and a ministry coordinator. John Avery, speaking for the Leadership Development Team (LDT), presented a revised parish administrator job description and proposed compensation package which were discussed and approved by the council. He also reported that the LDT will meet in September to review a draft job description for the ministry coordinator.

The council voted to expand the responsibilities of the LDT to include developing a uniform benefits policy which will provide for a fair, consistent and efficient recruiting and hiring process.

John Wascher, speaking for the Search Committee, reported that there are currently three applicants for the parish administrator position and that interviews will begin the week of August 24th.

Elaine Rodning presented information on a Global Formation Event to be held Nov. 13-14 in at Good Shepherd in Olympia. The event will train church leaders on global mission goals, including cross-cultural skills and energizing and renewing congregations' commitment to global ministry. Ministry teams at St. Mark's are receiving information on the event and each will be encouraged to send one or two people.

John Wascher reported on the facility remodeling project. Sewer problems in the new space which became evident during VBS have been resolved. Decisions about remodeling other parts of the building are ongoing. Some Saturday workdays were suggested as a way to involve more members in the process.

Pastor's Update: Pr. Shjerven reported that staff is gearing up for expanded Wednesday night programs, including music and youth programs, adult Bible study and a continuous serve supper.

Treasurer's Report: John Wascher reported that income was poor in June and July, August somewhat better. He said the current balance is about \$20,000 below what we would expect at this point in the year.

# Dealing with Dementia

By: Karen Grams, Parish Nurse



One of the foremost fears we have as we age is that of losing our mental faculties or dementia. Dementia can be as simple as being "pleasantly confused" or the more devastating condition of having no idea who or where you are. Of the millions of Americans over the age of 65, one in ten has dementia. The older we get, the higher the percentage. Dementia can be the result of aging or of other health conditions. It can also be due to Alzheimer's Disease.

How do you know if your mother's memory discrepancies, your brother's occasional confusion or disorientation, your wife's behavior changes is a common sign of aging, or a warning sign of early Alzheimer's. It's normal for us to forget, on occasion, where we put our keys. If we forget what keys are for, we have a serious problem.

There is no cure for Alzheimer's, nor is there an easy and foolproof way to diagnose it. There are medications that can slow it's progress and tests that can rule out other

problems. Researchers are discovering more every day about how the brain works; why and how the brain pathways falter, causing the changes in memory and behavior that we call Alzheimer's. Because it is fairly predictable in it's progress, there are ways to help and support the people who are trying to cope with it.

If you have noticed behavior changes or progressive memory loss in someone you love and are wondering what to do next, St. Mark's Parish Nurses are offering a program that may be just what you need. An experienced caregiver and expert in the field of dementia, Francy Saunders, will be speaking at St. Mark's on Sunday, Sept 20th, at 3 p.m.. Through the sharing of her stories, her program will provide answers to frequently asked questions about dementia, as well as helpful ways of coping with the problems dementia creates. Alzheimer's is a frightening and stressful diagnosis, and families who are affected by it need information, support and resources. We would like to provide all three. Please mark your calendar and plan to attend.

**F**or those of you who have been to Carol Paulson's home, 517 Monterey Lane, for the women's retreat, you know how much fun it is to get to know each other better in her lovely home. On Saturday, October 3, we will arrive there about 9:30 for coffee and visiting. This year our speaker is Pat

Levis, a former missionary and teacher at LBI (Trinity College). She will speak on her recent trip to Ecuador.

Bring a dish for our pot luck lunch and enjoy the fun and fellowship. For more information or rides, call Elaine Rodning 761-9198

## Blood Pressure Screening



Sunday is September 27th. Parish Nurses will be in the Parish Hall all morning to take blood pressures.

## Blessing of Teaching and Learning

*Sunday, September 6th, all*

*3 worship services*

As we turn the corner into the new school year our community of faith will bless all who are involved in teaching and learning. Students, please bring your backpacks or bookbags. Teachers, please bring your workbags. This simple rite of blessing will include the school bags that will be shipped around the world with Lutheran World Relief.

## Women's Bazaar

Due to the fact that there is no coordinator for the Bazaar this year, it has been cancelled. Perhaps you have ideas we can use for the mission work these funds provided.

# Sleep

By: Helen Bache, Parish Nurse

This is the final article in the series about sleep.

## Getting Up in the Middle of the Night

Most people wake up one or two times a night for various reasons. If you find that you get up in the middle of night and cannot get back to sleep within 15-20 minutes, then do not remain in the bed "trying hard" to sleep. Get out of bed. Leave the bedroom. Read, have a light snack, do some quiet activity, or take a bath. You will generally find that you can get back to sleep 20 minutes or so later. Do not perform challenging or engaging activity such as office work, housework, etc. Do not watch television.

## A Word About Television

Many people fall asleep with the television on in their room. Watching television before bedtime is often a bad idea. Television is a very engaging medium that tends to keep people up. We generally recommend that the television not be in the bedroom. At the appropriate bedtime, the TV should be turned off and the patient should go to bed. Some people find that the radio helps them go to sleep. Since radio is a less engaging medium than TV, this is probably a good idea.

## Other Factors

- Several physical factors are known to upset sleep. These include arthritis, acid reflux with heartburn, menstruation, headaches and hot flashes.
- Psychological and mental health problems like depression, anxiety and stress are often associated with sleeping difficulty. In many cases, difficulty staying asleep may be the only presenting sign of depression. A physician should be consulted about these issues to help determine the problem and the best treatment.
- Many medications can cause sleeplessness as a side effect. Ask your doctor or pharmacist if medications you are taking can lead to sleeplessness.
- To help overall improvement in sleep patterns, your doctor may prescribe sleep medications for short-term relief of a sleep problem. The decision to take sleeping aids is a medical one to be made in the context of your overall health picture.
- Always follow the advice of your physician and other healthcare professionals. The goal is to rediscover how to sleep naturally.

# Peace & Justice Ministry



By: Vangie Billingsley

We are so grateful for all of you who stepped forward to complete the school bags. Most were available on Sunday, August 16th for those who wished to fill them with school supplies.

The 144 school kits we sent last November and the 50 we sent in May have reached many children in countries where the lack of supplies would have made their school attendance impossible.

Thank you to all of you who were generous in your financial gifts and

in the supplies needed in each school kit.

## September 14th – Back to work

The quilters and LWR committee will resume their Monday morning work sessions. We begin at 9:00 a.m., take a coffee break at 10:30 a.m. and then work from 11:00—12:00 noon. There are many tasks involved in the quilt making and kit assembly. We would be delighted if new people would like to join us. No experience is necessary!

If you are unable to join us on Mondays maybe you would be willing to sew quilt tops, or sew on extensions to backs which are not quite big enough.

Layettes need diapers and receiving blankets. The committee making these needs help too.

If you have questions, please call Vangie Billingsley (756-7766).

# September 2009

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu
		1 1:00 Staff Meeting  6:30 Music Ministry Team — Potluck (in Parish Commons)	2 6:00 Worship Team 7:00 Support for Incarcerated—Planning Team Mtg.	3 5: 6: to 6:
6 Blessing of all Teaching & Learning 8:30, 9:45, 11-Worship NO Sunday School 9:45—Adult Forum	7 <b>LABOR DAY</b> <b>OFFICE CLOSED</b>	8 Preschool Begins 10:00 Bible Study @ Mortvedt 1:00 Staff Meeting	9 9:00 Visitation Team 10:00 Pastors Fellowship 5-7:30—Luth. Comm. Foundation /TLRC / SMLC 6:00 Worship Team 6:00– 7:15 Conf./Middle School —BBQ (TBA)	10 5: Le 7:
13 Ministry Fair 8:30, 9:45, 11-Worship 9:30—Sunday School 8:30, 9:45, 11 Adult Classes 9:45 Confirmation Welcome 11:00 Confirmation Call to Renewal 12-1:30 Nursery Caregiver Training & Orientation	14 9:00 Quilters  7:00 Boy Scouts	15 <b>Viewpoint Deadline</b> 10 Bible Study @ Mortvedt 1:00 Staff Meeting  6:30 Church Council	16 Music Open House 4:30 Worship & Music Comm. 6:00 Worship Team 8:00 Bells of St. Mark's	1 5: 7:
20 8:30, 9:45, 11-Worship 9:30—Sunday School 8:30, 9:45, 11 —Adult Classes 12:15 Faith Journey 3:00 Forum-Dealing with Dementia 5-7 Children / Youth Faith Formation Team Potluck & mtg.	21 9:00 Quilters  6:00 Gay / Straight Alliance Potluck Dinner 7:00 Boy Scouts	22  10 Bible Study @ Mortvedt 1:00 Staff Meeting	23 Noon—Bible Study@Forza Church Night (see box) Special music activities	24 9: 5:
27 8:30, 9:45, 11-Worship 9:30—Sunday School 8:30, 9:45, 11 —Adult Classes 12:15 Faith Journey Blood Pressure Sunday	28 9:00 Quilters  7:00 Boy Scouts	29  10 Bible Study @ Mortvedt 1:00 Staff Meeting	30  Noon—Bible Study@Forza Church Night (see box) Children's & Bell Groups begin	

# St. Mark's Lutheran Church by The Narrows

Thu	Fri	Sat	
<p>30 Executive Comm. 30 Preschool Back School Night 30 Chancel Choir BBQ</p>	4	5	<p>Weekly Parish Nurse Hours:  Sunday - 9:30-11:00 a.m. Wednesday-4:00-7:30 p.m. Thursday - 9:00—noon</p>
<p>30 Youth Music Drama Leaders Mtg. (YMDT) 30 Chancel Choir</p>	11	12	<p>Weekly Nursery / Childcare is offered: Sundays — 8 a.m.-12:15 p.m. Wednesdays—6:00-8:30 p.m.  Beginning 9/23 Wednesdays - 5:00-8:00 p.m.</p>
<p>30 YMDT begins 30 Chancel Choir</p>	18	19	<p>Exercise Class for Seniors  10 a.m.—Monday, Wednesday, and Friday</p>
<p>30 Viewpoint Assembly 30 YMDT</p>	25	26	<p>Wednesday Church Night Activities 5:15-7:00 p.m. dinner Babies of St. Mark's (TBA) 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>

# World Hunger to Top One Billion People

By: Norm Orth

Please Read Prayerfully: This month I am sharing with you an article from the Summer issue of Lifelines, the quarterly publication of the ELCA World Hunger ministry. It has inspiring stories about what is being done in many nations, including the USA. The story gives an overall view of this critical issue for everyone. The title above is the title of this report.

June 19, 2009; Rome -- World hunger is projected to reach a historic high in 2009 with 1.02 billion people going hungry very day, according to new estimates published by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations.

The most recent increase in hunger is not the consequence of poor global harvests but is caused by

the world economic crisis, which has resulted in lower incomes and increased unemployment. This has reduced access to food by people who are poor, says the FAO.

"A dangerous mix of the global economic slowdown, combined with stubbornly high food prices in many countries, has pushed some 100 million more people than last year into chronic hunger and poverty," said FAO Director-General Jacques Diouf. "The silent hunger crisis -- affecting one sixth of all humanity -- poses a serious risk for world peace and security. We urgently need to forge a broad consensus on the total and rapid eradication of hunger in the world and to take necessary actions."

"The present situation of world food insecurity cannot leave us indifferent," he added. Poor countries, Diouf stressed, must be given the development, economic, and policy tools required to boost their agricul-

tural production and productivity. Investment in agriculture must be increased, because for the majority of poor countries a healthy agricultural sector is essential to overcome poverty and hunger, and is a prerequisite for overall economic growth."

The Rev. Daniel Rift, director of the ELCA Hunger Appeal, said the FAO report is a call to action for those who care for people living in poverty. Lutherans "are well positioned to respond to the call," he said. "Seed banks, water projects, livestock sharing, small loans, and market assistance are hallmarks of our work."

Again, thank you for your generous support in July of \$825.20, which also went to the ELCA Hunger Fund. (Every other month offerings go to this fund, the in between months to local charities such as Nativity House in Tacoma.)

## News From ELCA Assembly

By: Pastor Jan Ruud

It was a real privilege for me to be a voting member in August at the national assembly of our Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. Above all, I came away with a deep respect for our Presiding Bishop, Mark Hanson, and for the open and honest process of making decisions together that will shape the nature of our ministry and the quality of our life together in the years to come. Some of the areas where we had a high level of agreement included: Full communion with the United Methodist Church in America, the inclusion of more youth and young adults in the decision-making bodies of our church, the desire to create a new Social Statement on Justice for Women and the shared commitment to fight HIV/AIDS around the world and malaria in sub-Saharan Africa. A Social Statement called "Human Sexuality: Gift and Trust" was adopted by a margin of 67% to 33% and four recommendations related to ministry were also adopted by a majority vote. The first, and perhaps most important one of all, which passed with a margin of 77% to 23%, commits us as a church to a posture of "bearing one another's burdens, love of neighbor, and respecting the bound conscience of the other." This affirms that there is room at the table for all of us in this Church, and that we will treat differences of opinion with honor and respect. Everyone agreed

## Food Bank Suggestions

### September

### Juice & Cookies

that this was an essential agreement to make before voting on the three remaining ministry policies which related to gay and lesbian ELCA members and clergy who live in "publicly accountable lifelong, monogamous, same gender relationships." In effect, the assembly voted to open the door for congregations and Synods to honor and affirm these partnerships among their members and also among their rostered leaders. This is not a mandate for all, but an open door for those who choose to move in this direction. I am eager to talk with you about all of this and to listen to your questions and responses. Therefore, I am hoping that you will join me on Wednesday, September 2nd at 7:00 p.m. in our new Parish Commons for a conversation about the high points of the assembly. As always, my commitment to you is to preserve St. Mark's as a safe and welcoming place for all perspectives and for faithful conversations around all matters of importance to us as people who have learned what it means to bear each other's burdens, to love one another, and to respect the bound conscience of others in this place for grace.

# Stewardship Ministry

## The Theology of Stewardship

By: the Rev. Michael Meier, from *The Depth and Breadth of Stewardship Theology*

Service to others is stewardship. If the first commandment is to love God, the second, Matthew 22:39, "... is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself." The model of Jesus is obedience to God and care of God's people. In Luke 4:16-21, we read of Jesus in the synagogue in Nazareth standing to read from the prophet Isaiah and announcing "Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing." The scripture he read proclaims:

*The Spirit of the Lord is upon me,  
because he has anointed me  
to bring good news to the poor.  
He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives  
and recovery of sight to the blind,  
to let the oppressed go free,  
to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor.*

The life of Jesus was marked by his persistent care for and healing of the people who surrounded him.

**Deeds of caring** In Matthew 25:31-46, Jesus describes the last judgment, where the sheep and the goats are divided. The six deeds of caring service to others described there are part of our response to God. Those six deeds are feeding the hungry, providing drink for the thirsty, welcoming the stranger, clothing

the naked, taking care of the sick and visiting the prisoners. In medieval times these six were joined by a seventh—providing comfort to the bereaved.

Today, these seven acts of mercy provide a template for our activities on behalf of others. We follow the example of Jesus and in obedience to the God whom we worship, we serve the needs of others. If worship of God is the highest form of stewardship, then care of and for the people created in the image of God must be the next most important expression of stewardship. What we do must serve the lives of others or it is not honoring God. It is the plan of God that we should serve the people in our local and global community with the gifts of our selves, our time and our possessions. We are to do this as individuals in our homes, neighborhoods and workplaces. But, we do this especially well when we join with others in the living organism we call the Body of Christ, the Church, where the whole is larger and more effective than the sum of its parts.

Again, we offer the caution that our best service does not earn us God's favor, but rather reflects the favor of God already bestowed upon us.

## July and YTD Finance Report

General & Benevolence Fund	July	YTD to July 31
Total Gen & Benev Fund Income	\$44,098	\$368,315
Planned Benevolences	\$2446	\$30,438
Ministry Team expenses	\$1667	\$16,598
Administrative expenses	\$3949	\$29,909
Property expenses	\$5016	\$28,950
Staff expenses	\$41,886	\$294,162
Total Gen & Benev Fund Expenses	\$54,963	\$400,056
Operating Difference	(\$10,865)	(\$31,741)

## Prayer at the Cross

Beginning on Wednesday, September 23rd our 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. We will gather in the new Parish Commons from 7:30 p.m.-7:50 p.m. around a large cross which will be laying on a low table in the middle of the room. There will be candles to light all around the cross, and pillows to kneel on. Participants in this service can sit or lie on the floor, sit in a chair, or kneel with the help of one of our Taize-style wooden stools. Childcare will be provided in the Nursery, but please feel free to bring your children to the service.

# Worship & Music Ministry

## Worship & Music Schedule: September 2009

Thurs. September 3rd	- CHANCEL CHOIR Welcome back potluck, 6:30 p.m., S. Valenti's house
Sat. September 5th	- MEN'S CHOIR practice, 9:00-10:30 a.m.
Sunday, September 6th	- MEN'S CHOIR sings at the 8:30 a.m. service
Thurs. September 10th	- YMDT leaders meeting (5:30-7:30 p.m.); - CHANCEL CHOIR practices begin (7:30 p.m.)
Sat. September 12th	- MINISTRY FAIR set-up
Sun. September 13th	- Men's Choir sings at the 9:45 and 11:00 a.m. services (warm-up at 9:15) - MINISTRY FAIR at all services
Wed. September 16th	- MUSIC OPEN HOUSE, 5:00-7:00 p.m. in the new Music Wing (upper level of former Sunday School wing); 7:00-8:00 Bell Choir sight reading (youth grades 6-12 and adults)
Thurs. September 17th	- YMDT begins, 5:30-7:30 p.m. (Parish Commons) *parents need to attend
Tues. September 22nd	- BELLS OF ST. MARK'S practices begin, 7:00-8:30 p.m.
Wed. September 23rd	- WEDNESDAY NIGHT CHURCH NIGHT KICKOFF - Special Music Group activities (5:15-6:30 p.m. - children through 5th grade; 6:30-7:15 p.m. - youth grades 6-12) - Stations at the Cross Prayer Service (Parish Commons), 7:30 p.m.
Wed. September 30th	Music Groups begin practices (Music Wing) - 5:15-5:45 p.m.: BABIES OF ST. MARK'S and JOYFUL NOISE CHOIR - 5:45-6:30 p.m.: JUBILATION CHOIR - 6:30-7:15 p.m.: CHILDREN'S CHIMES - 7:15-8:00 p.m.: ST. MARK'S RINGERS - 8:00-9:00 p.m.: BELLS OF ST. MARK'S

## Tuesday Night Music for Children and Youth Changes to Wednesdays

All groups, except Bells of St. Mark's, that have previously practiced on Tuesday evenings are now moving to Wednesday evenings to be included in "Wednesday Church Night." This is an effort to reduce the number of evening commitments to allow for more time for families at home. Here is the schedule for music groups on Wednesday Church Night (please see pg. 5 for inclusion of bible studies and other youth activities):

- 5:00-8:00 p.m.: Nursery Care available
- 5:15-7:00 p.m.: Light Dinner served in Kitchen
- 5:15-5:45 p.m.: Babies of St. Mark's (0-3 years with parents, Cry Room) and Joyful Noise Choir (4 yr-old to 1st grade, Music Wing)
- 5:45-6:30 p.m.: Jubilation Choir (Grades 2-5, Music Wing)
- 6:00-7:30 p.m.: Worship Team (Adults, Sanctuary)
- 6:30-7:15 p.m.: Children's Chimes Choir (Grades 2-5, Music Wing)
- 7:15-8:00 p.m.: St. Mark's Ringers (Grades 6-12, Music Wing)
- 7:30-8:00 p.m.: Stations at the Cross Prayer Service (Parish Commons)

## Youth Music Drama Team

Youth Music Drama Team for 6th-12th graders begins practices on Thursday, September 17th from 5:30-7:30 p.m. in the Parish Commons. This meeting will include information about the entire year, so parents need to attend. This year we are doing a full-length musical and have decided to do *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*. All 6-12th graders with an interest in acting, backstage crew, technical crew (lights/sound), and band are welcome to attend this first practice with their parents. Commitments to the entire 2009-2010 year will be made the following Thursday.

Are you an adult that would like to be more involved with this drama group? We always need extra helpers and would love to hear what your special skills are (sewing, organization, chaperoning a theatre outing, etc.). Please contact Danielle Lemieux at [danielle@smlutheran.org](mailto:danielle@smlutheran.org) or 752-4966 x105.

# Youth & Family Ministry

No. 9

The Viewpoint

Page 13

## Open Nursery Hours: September to December 2009

### Sundays:

8:00 to 12:30 p.m.

12:30-2:00 p.m.

Beginning Sunday September 20, when Faith Journey begins

### Tuesdays:

5:15-7:00 p.m. beginning October 6

### Wednesdays:

6:00-8:00 p.m. August 19-September 16

5:00-8:00 p.m. beginning September 23, when "church night" begins

### 1st Saturday of each month:

9:00-11:00 a.m.

## Middle School Ministry: JR ALYVE

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

- Confirmation and Middle School Youth Ministry BBQ. Wednesday, September 9th, 6:00-7:15 p.m.
- JR ALYVE Youth Group Night moves back to Wednesday nights beginning October 7th 6-7:15 p.m. This group will meet the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of each month. Fall dates: Oct. 7 and 21, Nov. 4 and 18, Dec. 2 and 16.

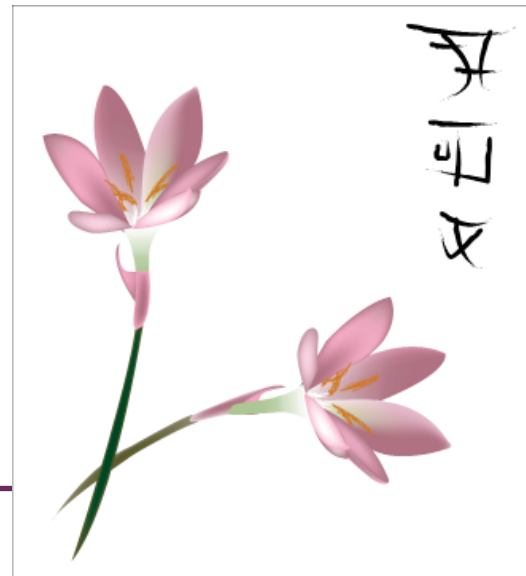
We welcome our new Nursery Co-Coordinators Teresa Handy and Cindy Johnson. Welcome aboard.

September 13th 12:00-1:30 p.m. Nursery Caregiver training and orientation. Lunch will be provided. If you are interested in working in the nursery, please email Ingelaurie Lisher at [ingelaurie@smlutheran.org](mailto:ingelaurie@smlutheran.org)

## High School Ministry: SR ALYVE

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

- SR ALYVE Bible Study and Discussion group resumes Wednesday, September 23rd from 6-7:15 p.m. This group will meet the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of each month. Fall dates: Sept. 23, Oct. 14 and 28, Nov. 11, Dec. 9.
- Synod wide Servant Event—September 25-26th Chehalis WA. Please sign up by Sunday, September 6th if you are attending.
- Let Justice Roll-Hearts4Justice event at Holden Village, October 3-5(Saturday-Monday). Cost: \$150.00 per person. We can take 3 youth grades 10-12th and 1 adult. Please let Ingelaurie know by September 19th if you are interested in attending.
- Adult leaders are needed for the Synod Servant Event. Please contact Ingelaurie if you are interested in attending.



## China Service Ventures 2010 Trip

July 14-29

Informational Meeting with Pastor Steve Ray

**Sunday, October 18** immediately following the 11:00 a.m. service. This event will be for youth and adults grades 9 and up. We would like to have a 2 youth per 1 adult ratio for this trip to be a go.

## From the Office

### Address Changes:

#### Megan Gerke

3206 N. Gove St.  
Tacoma WA 98407

#### Don Hattendorf

6601 S. 8th St. Apt. A1  
Tacoma WA 98465-2081

#### Dena Hedegaard

9215 56th Ave S #5  
Seattle WA 98407

#### Leischen Moore

407 S. Sheridan Ave.  
Tacoma WA 98405

#### Janeen Smith

HCO Box 2  
Chelan WA 98816  
neenigal@gmail.com  
staffing@holdenvillage.org

## September Anniversaries

September 4	Katie & Ryan Jones
September 5	Barbara & Rod Boyd Hildegard & Joe Filar Andi & Howard Shouse Leslie & Mark Young
September 8	Marcia & Dick Moe
September 9	Mardi Krusemark & Mike Erkinen Cindy & Mike Nelson
September 10	Marcy & Martin Duenhoelter
September 11	Traci & Justin Richards
September 12	Christine & Karl Anderson Melissa & Brian Laubach
September 14	Gayle & Carl Martelli
September 18	Donna & Bob Chapman
September 19	Lora Gross & Bob Stivers Ladena & Richard Larson Nancy & Marty McClelland
September 23	Anne & Dave Bettger
September 28	Karen & Shane Silverthorn
September 30	Karin & Tom Huelsbeck

## September Birthdays

September 1	Laura Spaulding	September 11	Victor Gehring	September 23	Sophia Augino
September 2	Brian Berg Sara Titus	September 13	Andy Albaugh Krissy Gala Joe McWherter		Sally Dorland Ted Hoiland Annika Hoseth Mikey Menefee Audrey Sonnen
September 3	Carolyn Flynn Leslie Young	September 14	Ren Gallier Teresa Handy Ann Hillman Ryan Jones	September 24	Becki Christian Davis Hartman Ann Miller Jan Ruud
September 4	Tim Bunch Alison Gray Eleanor Larson Lauren Meade Moniece Mueller Ruth Saathoff	September 15	Madeline Floyd Marjorie Kellogg Ryan Metcalf	September 25	Pat Buck Marni Hamburg Alaina Spaulding
September 5	Arlyn Anderson Brian Ronich John Szentesi	September 16	Parker Merchant Jeffrey Spaulding	September 27	Mark Meade Tish Steigerwald Kate Wiley
September 6	Julie Frazier	September 17	David Anderson Virginia Armstrong Cameron Dennis	September 28	Vic Holme Roger Jones Cooper Sherry
September 7	Ivan Larson Maizie Orth Cheryl Smith	September 19	Christine Anderson	September 29	Kristin Bergh Benjamin Gonder Roger Leuck-Mammen Greta Myklegard Jerry Paulson
September 8	Leah McConnell	September 20	Helen Huseth Michael Kander Grace Laubach Marv Peterson		
September 9	Eddie Lawver, Jr. Jordan Patterson Stephen Spaulding Lily Titus	September 21	Martin Jung Carol Lichtenberg John Thomas		
September 10	Noah Compton James Reuter Joseph J. Zelazny, Jr.	September 22	Roger Jones Jean Steingrebe		

## 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 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
- 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, Worship Team Director—darrenkerbs@hotmail.com
- Caresse Robertson, Youth Music Drama Team Leader—caresse@smlutheran.org
- Phyllis Bachman, Organist/pianist
- Cooper Sherry, Organist/pianist
- 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

## Pastoral Acts

Baptisms:

**Elizabeth Wylie Busch-Conway**

Baptized August 9, 2009

**Lucille Elaine Whittall**

Baptized August 18, 2009

Correction:

Otto and Barbara Tollefson

1707 N. Vassault St., #6-6

Tacoma, WA 98406-2566

Phone: 301-0764

e-mail: Otto [Otollefson@comcast.net](mailto:Otollefson@comcast.net)

Barbara: [tollefson.barbara@comcast.net](mailto:tollefson.barbara@comcast.net)

# St. Mark's Lutheran Church by The Narrows

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Tacoma, WA 98406-1902

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office@smlutheran.org

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Tacoma, WA  
Permit NO. 525

Return Service Requested



*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. - Prayers 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.

