



The Viewpoint

Volume 56 No. 1

January 2009

Upcoming Events

Plan to join us for the
Sem-Annual Meeting of
the congregation on
Sunday, January 25th at
12:15 p.m.



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(Ministry Teams are Highlighted
in Bold Print)

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Epiphany

By: Pastor Rebecca Shjerven

Epi-phany (noun); *an illuminating realization or discovery, often resulting in a personal feeling of elation, awe or wonder.*

One of the joys of being a parent occurs in the "a-ha!" moments that children experience as they develop. I suspect this joy is familiar to teachers and grandparents and all who are involved in the lives of young people. I can almost see the light shining in my kids' eyes when they suddenly realize the deeper meaning of a picture or a poem, an activity or a concept. It thrills me every time.

As Christians who live in the ancient rhythm of the Church Year, we are entering the season of "a-ha!". The Epiphany of our Lord is actually a day, not a season. However, the brilliant star that guided the magi to the Christ child shines its light on us throughout these early winter days. Each Sunday, as we gather around the gospel reading, we are present with those who witnessed the light of God shining through the person of Jesus—at his baptism, in his preaching and teaching and healing, at his transfiguration.

The funny thing is, for the most part, they didn't get it. In the texts we read during this season of enlightenment, there is very little enlightenment occurring. There is drama and dazzle, but the crowds who surrounded Jesus, including his closest companions, often seem more confused than enlightened as his divine power and authority are revealed. Moments of

deeper understanding come later for Jesus' loved ones-- at the foot of the cross, in the garden outside an empty tomb, behind locked doors in the midst of fear, around a kitchen table or on a beach, in the breaking of the bread.

I find this strangely comforting because these "a-ha!" moments sneak up on me. It is not always in the beauty of worship or the holiness of communion that I have an epiphany about Christ. He is revealed to us in Word and in Sacrament just as he promised. Although, like the first disciples, I come to a deeper understanding of what that means for me, for us, as we live our daily lives--in times of suffering and times of fear, in times of wonder and awe, in the simple joys and struggles of being a human being. As we travel together on this path of discipleship, we share these epiphanies with each other—these "a-ha!" experiences. It is a thrill every time. We become light-bearers for one another, calling each other more deeply into the divine mystery, and inviting others to "come and see" this one in whom the unfailing light of God shines so brightly.



Semi-Annual Congregational Meeting: *Sunday, January 25th, 12:15 p.m.*

All members of St. Mark's are asked to attend this very important meeting when we make plans for ministry in 2009. The agenda for the meeting will include: 1) Consideration of a new Ministry Goal for our congregation that is being proposed by the Youth and Family Ministry Team. 2) Vote to extend a formal call to Ingelaurie Lisher to continue serving with us as an Associate in Ministry of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. 3) Reports from our Building Committee and Grace Upon Grace Capital Campaign 4) Appointment of a Nominating Committee. 5) Review

of 2008 the Financial Report and adoption of the Ministry Funding Plan for 2009.

In preparation for this meeting, you are invited to attend one of the following opportunities for "Coffee and Conversation" with staff and congregational leaders about all of the above agenda items:

- Sunday, January 18 at 9:45 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. in the Fireside Room
- Saturday, January 24th at 10:30 a.m. in the Fireside Room

2008 Annual Reports, which have all the information you need as you prepare for the meeting, will be available on January 18th. You can pick one up at church that day, or stop by the church office during the week.

For more information about the new ministry goal being proposed by our Youth and Family Ministry Team and the call of Ingelaurie Lisher to serve as an Associate in Ministry, please go to page 12 of this newsletter.

December Council Report

By: Rolf Morstad

St. Mark's council met from 6:15 to 8:15 p.m. Tuesday, December 9 after a potluck at 5:30 p.m.

Ministry reports included Outreach (Kevin) reporting the gradual redevelopment of the church website. Check it out at <http://www.smlutheran.org/> and offer suggestions to Janeen or Lisa at lisa@smlutheran.org.

Stewardship (John W.) is looking into new envelopes and wants everyone to be aware of all options for giving including direct deposit, stocks for tax purposes and endowments. He thanks those who gave presentations leading up to Commitment Sunday.

Pastor Rebecca noted that the majority of the Sunday School teachers are women this year and it would be good to have additional men consider doing this as well. She is getting involved in a program of adult faith formation.

Pastor Jan says he is appreciating the freedom that he has with more staff taking some of his former obligations. Pastoral care and visitation are things he now has more time to do. As the two current faith journey groups are closing he is looking forward to new groups starting in February. He mentioned the staff reviews that occurred this fall.

Budget planning was covered by John Wascher (stewardship) and Steve Titus (treasurer). Pledging from Commitment Sunday is generally positive. We are still

looking for more pledges from those who pledged last year. Pledges from new members and those who didn't pledge before are encouraged. We hope to overcome a lean year and realize that a poor economy may have opportunities for our congregation. Ministry teams have performed well while tightening their budgets. Our new building will cost more to maintain and insure. We plan to have two open forums on the annual report and budget before the semi-annual Congregational meeting in January.

Kevin Hayes and Alicia Lawver offered to organize the formation of the Nominating committee (for new council members) for next month.

It was moved and approved to put Ingelaurie Lisher's call to Associate in Ministry on the agenda for the Congregational meeting in January.

Kim Meade and Alicia will help Pr. Rebecca and Ingelaurie look for a replacement for the nursery attendant position.

Janeen, Steve and John W. will look for a replacement for the bookkeeper position.

Steve Titus (treasurer) reported that expenses are still under budget, income was up for November but still \$27,000 behind for the year. We hope to catch up this month.

Christian Education

Adult Education

Sunday 9:45 a.m. Forum

January 4 and 11—Fireside

"Healthy New Year"

Join the Parish Nurses and others as we explore habits that create and support health.

January 18—Fireside

"Coffee and Conversation"

Take a guided look through St. Mark's ministry plans and priorities through the lens of the proposed 2009 budget.

January 25—February 22—Fireside

"Ending Well"

This five week series will give us a chance to gather together as a community of learning and support around end-of-life issues.

Sunday 11:00 a.m. Bible Study

January 4-25

"From Jesus to Christ"

Travel through history with Pastor Shjerven and Pastor Ruud to look at the person of Jesus and how Christianity took root and grew within the Roman Empire. We will utilize material from the PBS "Frontline" series of the same name.

Pastor Shjerven's Wednesday Bible Studies

Noon—Forza Coffee Shop (21st and Pearl)

"Paul's Letter to the Romans"

6:15 p.m.—Fireside Room

"Job: the Wisdom of God"

Bible studies begin January 7th

Women's Bible Study Opportunities Throughout the Month

"Fully Alive" Tuesday Women's Bible Study 5:30 p.m.

Fireside Room, Leader: Sherry Maiura

Childcare provided in the nursery

Starts January 13th

Wednesday Women's Bible Study 9:30 a.m.

Conference Room, Leader: Ruth Leistikow

Starts January 7th

Wednesday Monthly Rachel Circle

Game Room, Tacoma Lutheran Home—1:00 p.m.

Leader: Elsie Fagerlin

Starts January 21

Thursday Monthly Women's Bible Study

Last Thursday of the month Mortvedt Center—1:00 p.m.

Leader: Sonja Yeager

Starts January 29th

Confirmation:

Epiphany--Life and Ministry of Jesus

- Jan. 4--No Class
- Jan. 22--Class 9:45-10:45 a.m.
- Jan. 18--Class 9:45-10:45 a.m. (we will walk to FORZA Coffee).
- Jan. 25--Class 9:45-10:45 a.m. (MORTVEDT Center)
- Feb. 1--Worship together at 9:45 a.m.
- Feb. 8 and 15 Class 9:45-10:45 a.m.

Education Team

Our education team needs more members. Anyone who has a passion for kids is welcome. If you are interested or have questions about what we do, please, contact Pastor Shjerven.

Sunday School

Thank you, Sunday School students for the GREAT singing and reading at the Christmas Program in December. You did a fabulous job.

Sunday School begins again on January 4th. Students will all meet in the sanctuary at 9:45 a.m. and be dismissed after the children's sermon. Please note: There have been some classroom changes due to class sizes. This has only affected the lower grades that meet upstairs. The doors have been marked.

We still need Sunday School teachers. We are several months into the school year and we still have some slots to fill. There are opportunities to share classes to do part time teaching. Yes, it is some work – but ask any current or past Sunday School teacher and they will tell you it's worth it. Maybe you aren't interested in teaching, but would be willing to help organize the classes on Sunday morning? We could use your help. If you are interested in being a part of the fun on Sunday mornings call Linda Wimberley at 988-6882.

Congregational Care

Humor Your Health

By: Ruth Saathoff—Parish Nurse

There 's nothing like a good old-fashioned belly laugh. But laughter not only is fun—it also promotes good health. Consider these benefits:

Laughter reduces stress chemicals. In fact, one study found that simply anticipating “mirthful laughter” increases the release of feel-good chemicals (endorphins) in your brain and reduces the levels of three different stress hormones.

Laughter helps your heart and lungs. A good laugh enhances your intake of oxygen-rich air and stimulates your heart, lungs and blood vessels.

Laughter improves your immune system. Laughing has been shown to strengthen immunity.

Laughter helps relieve pain. A hearty laugh helps your body produce natural painkillers.

Laughter improves your quality of life. It has the power to help you relax, and it can make it easier to get through difficult situations.

Don't laugh at the expense of others. In fact, one study shows that this type of humor—called aggressive humor—actually increases stress levels. Use your judgment to discern a good joke from a hurtful one.

Have fun in the New Year and laugh a lot.

From the Mayo Clinic Health Solutions

PLU Corporation

By: Barbara Boyd

Did you know that St. Marks Lutheran by the Narrows is part owner of Pacific Lutheran University? Did you know that once a year corporation delegates convene to receive a report from PLU, recommend nominations for the PLU Board of Regents, and recommend resolutions to the Regents?

St. Marks is an owner of PLU and there was a PLU Corporation meeting in early September. Pacific Lutheran University, Inc has corporation delegates from the Alaska Synod, Eastern Washington/Idaho Synod, Montana Synod, Northwest Washington Synod, Oregon Synod, and the Southwestern Washington Synod. Along with Rev. Mark Woldseth from Gloria Dei Lutheran, I have been privileged to represent the Southwestern Washington Synod and you on this corporation board. There are 18 other delegates from our Synod.

Our role is to represent the church to PLU and PLU to the church, serving as an advocate for the University and to help educate and recruit students for the university. Being a PLU graduate, it is always fun

to return to campus, look at the dorm where I lived and just remember the place and the long ago times.

We heard reports of new and exciting happenings on the campus and we had important business to attend to. We heard from some of PLU's leadership about the present state of the University, the current capital campaign, and participated in electing members to the Board of Regents, the Nominating Committee, the Resolutions Committee and the Advisory Council. The following resolutions came before the delegates and were passed:

- The 2008 Comprehensive self-study report to the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities
- The establishment of the Kurtis R. Mayer Professorship in Holocaust Studies

At lunch time we met the Admission Counselors who link with families and students in our areas. I was impressed to learn that PLU students benefit from more than \$67.6 million of financial aid from all sources. Over 95% of PLU students

receive some form of financial assistance and the average financial aid package totals more than \$22,842 in the form of scholarships, grants, low-interest loans and campus jobs.

St. Marks is a PLU Partner Congregation and we receive the following benefits:

- Pastor, youth workers or lay leaders may receive a discount to attend a continuing education event or training event
- Library card for area pastors
- \$1,000 renewable Confirmation Scholarship for confirmands
- Special group arrangements and pricing to attend PLU events (concerts, sports events, etc)

At the end of the day I was impressed with the tremendous energy for learning that is at PLU each day, not only in the students, but in the faculty and staff as well.

Check out these web pages: www.plu.edu and the Congregation Relations web page www.plu.edu/rel

Peace and Justice Ministry

Support Habitat for Humanity through ReStore

The ReStore is a home improvement outlet benefiting Tacoma/Pierce County Habitat for Humanity's mission to build affordable housing in partnership with families in need.

Their goal is not only to raise money for new homes, but to make home improvements affordable for all of their

neighbors. By supplying new and gently used materials at reduced prices, the ReStore offers the public the opportunity to save money while improving their own homes and neighborhoods.

The ReStore recycles overstocked, discontinued, new and gently used items donated by manufacturers, stores, contractors, and individuals. These donated items are sold to the public or used in Habitat for Humanity house construction. Revenue from sales go to the local affiliate in support of its home building program.



Store Location: 505 Puyallup Ave.; Tacoma, WA 98421
Phone: [253-779-8149](tel:253-779-8149)
Store Hours: Tuesday – Friday: 10 a.m. – 6 p.m.
Saturday: 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.

100 Words from China Service Ventures

By: Steven F. Ray—Developer

2009 Service Opportunities in China: What will you do in the New Year?

Where has the year gone? What did I do this past year? I ask myself these questions every year around this time. With 2009 is just around the corner, have you planned how you might like to serve in God's world mission? Well, China Service Ventures, a Lutheran 501 (c) (3) charitable organization has some ideas for you to consider.

CSV needs volunteer English teachers to serve in rural Xinyang, Henan Province. The goals of this program are to provide intensive oral English language training for rural Chinese English teachers, to raise the level of English taught in the rural countryside, and to build relationships

with the people of China. The cost is \$1,200 excluding airfare and visa. July 5-August 3.

CSV's Youth Servant Project needs youth from Lutheran churches to serve the poor in rural China. The Youth Servant Project brings together American and Chinese youth to serve those less fortunate in the rural areas. Past projects have included painting a rural school, cleaning nursing homes, and repairing a road. The cost is \$1,140 excluding airfare and visa. July 15-30.

Make 2009 the year that you and members of your congregation participate in God's global mission in China. Next year when you say

to yourself, "Where has the year gone?" or "What did I do?", you will be able to reminisce about your service experience in China.

For more information contact Kelly O'Brien, CSV Office Manager at chinasserviceventures@hotmail.com or [651.659.1396](tel:651.659.1396). Come with us to China and serve God's people.

For more information about China Service Ventures visit their website at www.newsoundsinchina.org.



The ELCA Hunger Fund

By: Norm Orth

We begin this new year with millions of people being added to the poverty and hunger list in the USA and the world. Our Sunday hunger offerings become increasingly important. In January, these gifts will be given to the ELCA Hunger Fund. This fund does much abroad and at home for people in need. The following is a story about what this fund has done in a small community in Ghana.

From ELCA Life Lines publication: **"In the village of Asemtem** in the Central Region of Ghana, Cecilia Appianim is a member of Kuapa Kokoo, an innovative Fair Trade chocolate cooperative for cocoa growers. In addition to being a local recorder—the person in the village who weighs farmers' cocoa beans—as well as a volunteer firefighter, Cecilia was recently elected to the Executive Committee of Kuapa Kokoo.

Leaders like Cecilia exemplify Kuapa's commitment to empower women. Women and men in the cooperative are allowed equal access to elected positions and are recognized equally as valuable managers in their communities. ELCA World Hunger gifts are at work supporting Kuapa Kokoo through its partnership with Lutheran World Relief. Fair Trade helps cocoa producers use their skills and expertise to break out of the cycle of poverty."

Kathryn Sime, Former director of the ELCA World Hunger and Disaster Appeal writes in her parting words from that position: "You've seen it in the news; escalating food prices are causing widespread hunger and civil unrest. The food and hunger crisis threatens to cause an additional one million people to die from starvation. It's a frightening tragedy."

She continues: "Thankfully, generous giving to the ELCA World Hunger Appeal allows new and additional investments in our global and domestic partners for programs that address the crisis through income generation and sustainable development. Your gifts make new life-saving efforts possible, such as five deep wells in Ethiopia, seven new wells in Mauritania, and 12 rain harvesting tanks in Rwanda."

Thanks to the many "hunger walkers" coming forward each Sunday. The offering last November amounted to \$1229.69, which went to the local Salvation Army's important ministry. This was a record breaking amount in a non-December month. Let's keep walking forward with great generosity.




**Lutheran
World Relief**

To others, through others.

We continue to accept donations of fabric and supplies for health kits and school kits. For more information contact Vangie Billingsley at 756-7766

**Food Bank Suggestions
for January:
Pasta, Sauce, Rice and
Macaroni & Cheese**

Stewardship Ministry

Family Movie Night: *January 23, 2008 at 6:00 p.m.*

Co-sponsored by the Youth and Family and Care of Creation Teams

Come and enjoy a movie night with members of your family—and members of the church family—on Friday, January 23, 2009. The Care of Creation and Youth and Family Teams are joining forces to sponsor films with an emphasis on environmental stewardship while encouraging parenting and family-focused activities.

Movies will be shown to children and adults that continue the emphases on the care of God's creation and preservation of the environment. A children's movie with an environmental theme—Wall-E—will be shown to youngsters ages five to thirteen and childcare will be provided for the little ones.

The documentary entitled *The 11th Hour* will be shown to adults that evening. Produced in 2007 it provides a comprehensive status on



the health of the planet including information on soils and food production, landforms, water, forests, global warming and more. Additional information about this film can be accessed at www.11thhouraction.com. The film will be followed with a brief discussion on some of the principal ideas presented in the documentary. The goal is to integrate a discussion of core values as parents and people of God with those of environmental

stewardship and spirituality.

The Youth and Family Team will also distribute copies of "Last Child in the Woods" by Richard Louv that evening, which will be used in a book discussion at the parenting gatherings on February 27 and March 20.

The book will be available to those who have ordered it and orders may be placed with Christine Harris by January 9th, for a 20% discount. For more information contact Christine at Christine@raincity.com.

Please come and join us for this great evening together at the church. Pizza, salad, and drinks will be provided starting at 6:00 p.m. and show time will begin at 6:45 p.m. An opportunity will be provided for those interested to help defray the cost of the pizza. Please feel free to call Tom Hulst at 253-460-2683 if you have any questions.

Financial Report

A complete year end financial statement will be included in the annual report. Annual reports will be available January 18th.

Baptism into Christ

S. Anita Stauffer

The tinsel is discarded,
the colored lights put away,
and some of the gifts already forgotten.

Christmas has come and gone once again,
the celebration of Christ
given to the world.

If that gift, too, is not to be forgotten,
Christ must be given not just to the world
but to each of us,
one by one,
personally.

Untitled

Rod McKuen

Out of the sad mistaken belief
that as a man
I must behave
as all men do,
I've turned my back a time too often.

God,
help me keep
a resolution I make today
not to walk head high
even one more time
past some I can help.

Worship and Music Ministry

January Music Schedule

- Sat., Jan. 3rd: WORSHIP TEAM New Year’s Party, 7:00 p.m.,
at Darren’s House
- Tues., Jan. 6th: WORSHIP TEAM practice (1st of new year!), 6:00 p.m.
- Wed. Jan. 7th: Holden Evening Prayer, 7:30 p.m.
- Thurs., Jan. 8th: YMDT Leaders meeting, 5:30-7:30 p.m.
- Sat., Jan. 10th: CELEBRATION ENSEMBLE practice (time TBA)
- Mon., Jan. 12th: CHANCEL CHOIR practice, 7:00-8:30 p.m.
- Tues., Jan. 13th: BABIES OF ST. MARKS, 5:15 p.m.
JOYFUL NOISE CHOIR, 5:15 p.m.
JUBILATION CHOIR, 5:45 p.m.
CHILDREN’S CHIMES CHOIR, 6:30 p.m.
ST. MARK’S RINGERS, 7:10 p.m.
BELLS OF ST. MARK’S, 8:00 p.m.
- Wed. Jan. 14th: Holden Evening Prayer, 7:30 p.m.
- Thurs. Jan. 15th: YOUTH MUSIC DRAMA TEAM info meeting
***parents need to attend!!!*
- Wed. Jan. 21st: Holden Evening Prayer, 7:30 p.m.
- Sun., Jan. 25th: Brass Unlimited Concert, 3:00 p.m. (Sanctuary)
- Wed. Jan. 28th: Holden Evening Prayer, 7:30 p.m.



Holden Evening Prayer

The congregation joins in singing this beautiful evening prayer, composed by Marty Haugen, which is centered on Mary’s response to the announcement that she would be the mother of Jesus.



BRASS UNLIMITED

Sunday, January 25th, 3:00 p.m. St. Mark’s will host the 11th annual “Sounds of Brass” concert sponsored by Brass Unlimited. The year’s guest soloist is vocalist Melanie Vale Stevens. Melanie will be singing music by Saint-Saens, Verdi, and Bizet. In addition, the program will include musical selections by Brass Unlimited, Tacoma’s leading chamber brass ensemble, and a 14 member brass and percussion ensemble under the musical direction of Dr. Robert Taylor, University of Puget Sound. As with our previous concerts, you will hear a wide variety of music ranging from traditional scores to popular selections by Ray Charles. Please invite your friends to join us at this free performance. For more information about the concert and Melanie visit Brass Unlimited’s website at: www.brassunlimited.org.

Youth & Family Ministry

Don't let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in life, in love, in faith and in purity. 1 Timothy 4:12

Children's Ministry

2nd—5th grade

Kid's Club Tuesday Nights (2nd-5th grade) will run from 5:15-5:40 p.m. each week, during music rehearsals. Begins again, Tuesday, January 13th in the Youth Room.

Childcare Tuesday Nights— Childcare is offered from 5:30-8:30 p.m. each Tuesday evening as music programs and bible study schedules dictate. Children under 4 years old will be in the nursery with older children in the Conference room.

Mirjam Hofer and Ingelaurie Lisher will be attending the ELCA Youth Ministry Network Conference, January 28-February 2—New Orleans, LA.

Eric Williams, Jr. will serve as Youth and Family Ministry student Intern for Tacoma School of the Arts, January 4-22.

Middle School Ministry: JR ALYVE

6-8th Grades

Youth Group Nights—January 20th 5:45-7:00 p.m. in the Youth Room. Dinner provided. February 4 and 18th.

Broom Hockey with Mason Methodist and First Lutheran Churches (look for more information coming soon).

Rocky Boy Mission Trip. *For youth grades 6th-9th.* July 3-10, 2009. Next meeting date for youth and parents: Tuesday, January 13 6:00 p.m. in the Youth Room.

High School Ministry: SR ALYVE

9-12th Grade

Seattle Thunderbirds (Hockey) Game—Saturday, January 31st Cost: \$20.00 per person (includes dinner). Sign up by January 21st if you are attending.

Bible Study Begins Wednesday, February 11th from 6:15-7:15 p.m. in the Youth Room. This group will run the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of each month.

Breakfast Club—4th Sunday of each month—11:00 a.m. in the Conference Room. January 25, February 22, March 22, April 26 and May 24. Breakfast provided.

Holden Village Youth Weekend—May 2-4 or 23-25 (Saturday to Monday) Please sign up on the Youth Board with your name and 1st choice of weekend by Sunday, January 18th. Cost: \$150.00 per person. A \$50.00 deposit is due by Sunday, January 25th so we can register on time and (hopefully) with our 1st weekend pick.

Global Missions Event and Hunger Symposium—Friday, February 13 and 14th at PLU. Please contact Ingelaurie by February 1st if you would like to attend.

Ingelaurie Lisher to Become an Associate in Ministry

We are happy and proud that Ingelaurie Lisher, our Director of Youth and Family Ministry, has been approved by the Bishop and the Candidacy Committee of our Southwestern Washington Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) to be an Associate in Ministry. Associates in Ministry serve on an officially recognized roster for lay ministry in the ELCA. Ingelaurie's role and job description at St. Mark's will not change with this new development and she will continue to serve here as a key member of our staff as we go forward with our commitment to ministry with youth and families. Since we already pay our full-time lay program staff according to the Synod guidelines for Associates in Ministry, it will not change her salary or benefits.

Over the past several years, we have supported Ingelaurie in her journey of professional development, which has included a challenging program of study and practical training that led to the successful completion of a Masters of Arts degree in Youth and Family Ministry from Luther Seminary in St. Paul, Minnesota. This is the same seminary where Pastor Ruud and

Pastor Shjerven did their theological studies. Ingelaurie received her diploma from Luther Seminary in May, 2007. Prior to being accepted as a student at Luther Seminary, Ingelaurie had already completed a two-year course of study with the Certified Lay Ministry Training Program of our Southwestern Washington Synod and she has been commissioned to serve in that role in her local congregation.

What does this mean for Ingelaurie and for us? First of all, it means that Ingelaurie is strengthening her commitment to serve as a minister within the Church of Christ, not only at St. Mark's, but within the community of rostered lay people and clergy who belong to the ELCA. Secondly, it means that we are living out our calling as a congregation to encourage and equip people in their Christian vocation, helping them connect their interests and abilities with the needs and the vision for mission in a community of faith. Finally, it means that there is a higher level of accountability on both sides of this new partnership. Ingelaurie is not only accountable to this congregation in her commitment to serve, but to the whole church, and she is expected to live

according to the "visions and expectations" for all rostered ministers of the ELCA. On our part, it is an opportunity for the congregation to say "yes" to her ministry in our midst. This means that we all get to vote on the recommendation to extend a formal letter of call to Ingelaurie. It also means that any decision to terminate this call would need to come from the whole congregation. This is the same covenant that was made with Janeen Smith when she joined our staff as an Associate in Ministry of the ELCA.

The Church Council has voted unanimously to recommend that we call Ingelaurie to serve in this capacity, and the congregation will vote on this recommendation at our semi-annual meeting on January 25, 2009.

5th Mission Goal

By: Pastor Jan Ruud

For the last several years, we have been working hard to live into the four Mission Goals that were proposed by congregational leaders. They are: 1) Engage every member in transformational ministry. 2) Nurture communities of meaning, purpose, and care. 3) Link facility use and future plans for development with ministry and stewardship goals. 4) Strengthen administrative services to accomplish mission goals.

Now, our Youth and Family Ministry Team is proposing a 5th Mission Goal, as a way of following up on our year-long emphasis on Generation to Generation ministry. The proposed goal is to: *"Nurture a congregational culture which engages all generations in the faith development of children, youth and families."* You will hear more about this at our congregation's semi-annual meeting on January 25th.



FAITH

Through the Eyes of Youth

By: Ruth Young

Do youth have faith? This is a question many adults have asked themselves. I remember reading Inge-laurie's article in July's Viewpoint titled "Will Our Children Have Faith?: From Congregation to the Home," and really thinking about what she was asking. I suppose that would be a difficult question to answer if you are anyone besides a child or youth. They may have a different perspective of what faith is and how we should live it. To me, faith is the complete trust and love of God. For a youth, to love and to trust God completely or anyone or thing for that matter, can be hard.

As a youth, once you know what "faith" is and what it means, you grow in it. This is when our journey as part of the world of Christ begins. But all of this cannot be done by ourselves. We need help and of support from the adults who have already experienced this in their lifetime; adults that we are able to talk to, trust, and are even able to give us advice on how to live out life as a child of God. "Let no one despise your youth, but set the believers an example in speech and conduct, in love, in faith, in purity...Put these things into practice, devote yourself to them" (1 Timothy 5:12,15). Adults have a tendency to under estimate us as youth and hold us back from doing something we feel could help our faith grow and help us figure out who we are.

This is a time in our life when we start to discover who we are and what all we have to offer the world. It is

during this time, we find a hidden faith we never knew we had, but was always there. When we realize this about ourselves, we have the opportunity to grow in it. I think of it like the seed of a maple tree. The seed has been within us all our life but we are just now starting to realize it was there. Anyone who knows anything about plants knows a seed is nothing without water and sunlight. The water is like the people who help us with experiences of how to live our life with God, helping us by being an example, and giving us a loving environment. The sunlight is like the grace of God that we need in survive. A tree would not be able to live without sunlight or water, we are unable to have faith without His grace or without seeing others doing what we need to do to be faithful. When a seed has water and sunlight, then it is able to thrive and over time becomes a huge tree and gives off seeds that are able to also grow into huge maple trees. We all find out about "this seed" when we have been given the opportunity.



Youth learn this at different times, but it can't be expected for us to learn about it one day and live it the next; it takes time for us to learn about it and be able to experience it. In this time in our life, it can be extremely hard to be faithful and do what God wants us to do. We do have faith inside of us, and over time it will grow and we will be able to offer more to our community of Christ. To answer the question of whether or not youth have faith, yes, we do and we chose to follow it. Just help us find it and help us be able to see and live it.

January Birthdays

January 1	Linda Durant Chet Novak Janet Rasmussen	January 8	Katherine Harris Johnathan Rancipher Eric Sprague Carol Woods	January 21	Rod Hanke Connor Kurashima
January 2	Barbara Holme Karin Huelsbeck Matt Oellerich	January 9	Jonathan Irwin Noah Spence	January 22	Shelby Fisher
January 3	Susan Merchant Courtney Taylor	January 10	Katherine DeLorme Linda Faaren	January 23	Alex Koisch John Koisch, Jr. Marie Walker
January 4	Andi Shouse	January 11	Cole Bowden Anthony DeLorme	January 24	Janet Grant Linda Jornlin Linda McKeller Steve Ryan
January 5	David Bates Marcy Bennett Kim Bucklin Harrison Christensen Jayme Gotcher Art Larsen Hilde Mason Karen McDougall Margaret Spaulding Roger Willis	January 12	Andrea Dodson Chuck Droubay	January 25	Carol Burnett Douglas Chaney Matthew Martinazzi Tim McCarthy John Mitchell, Jr. Scott Newsom
January 6	Cindy Johnson Gary Kurashima Conner Meade	January 13	Nancy Diaz	January 26	Allison Hamner
January 7	Karis Crocco Madison Gotcher Leslie Postovoit Marie Schultz Larry Storset	January 14	Dawn Chiasson Andrew Geary	January 27	Anna Ahrens Jerry Hagedorn Alison Lindsey-Iverson Kristin Martelli Martin Stewart
		January 15	John Daly Ilyone Estvold Cindy Nelson	January 28	Dave Bettger
		January 16	Anthony Crocco Haley Hruza Otto Tollefson	January 29	Roger Olsen
		January 17	Martin Duenhoelter Doris Larsen Shannon Merchant	January 30	Cheyenne Diaz Caresse Robertson Jared Wright
		January 18	Jay Schauble	January 31	Matthew Doyle Debbie Spaulding
		January 19	Caleb Crocco Margaret Witte		
		January 20	Matt Hixon Lori Wollen Amelia Villegas		

January Anniversaries

January 1	Kirk & Mary Stenger David & Barbara Ostrander
January 3	Alvin & Thelma Loen
January 4	Dick & Elaine Rodning
January 8	Joseph & Lorryayne Zelazny
January 14	Rick & Sharon Norman
January 15	Rod Hanke & Joan Torfin
January 24	John & Elizabeth Koisch
January 31	Dick & Candy Gustafson

Pastoral Acts

New Address:

Pamelia Olson
1707 N. Vassault, #8-2
Tacoma WA 98406-2559

Baptism:

Cameron Jacob Dennis (son of Gregory & Erika Dennis)
Born—September 17, 2007
Baptized—November 30, 2008
Sponsors—Arnie & Milly Jensen, Kathy & Bill Croft, Gary Dennis



THANK YOU---

The family of Wayne Graves would like to thank the members of St. Mark's for all the cards, prayers, and help given during Wayne's illness and after his death. You are blessing to us all.

Mimi Graves

Council Members June 2008 through May 2009

PRESIDENT	Kim Meade	759-9817
VICE PRESIDENT	Martin Duenhoelter	565-5634
SECRETARY	Rolf Morstad	759-0563
TREASURER	Steve Titus	507-5321

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

John Frazier, 312-9313

CONGREGATIONAL CARE

Janet Ruud, 564-2832

OUTREACH MINISTRY

Kevin Hayes, 460-1795

PEACE AND JUSTICE

Paula Friedman, 759-3881

STEWARDSHIP

John Wascher, 503-6765

WORSHIP & MUSIC

Jacquie Crenshaw, 456-6624

YOUTH & FAMILY

Alicia Lawver, 396-1214

STAFF

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- ✉ Pastor Rebecca Shjerven—rebecca@smlutheran.org
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- ✉ 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
 - ✉ Darren Kerbs, Worship Team Director—darrenkerbs@hotmail.com
 - ✉ Caresse Roberts, Youth Music Drama Team Leader—caresse@smlutheran.org
 - ✉ Phyllis Bachman, Organist/pianist
 - ✉ Cooper Sherry, Organist/pianist
 - ✉ Adam Manley, Sound Technician
 - ✉ Craig Cootsona, Musician
 - ✉ Kristin Hamner, Nursery Attendant
 - ✉ Chuck Droubay, Maintenance Manager
 - ✉ Linda Wimberley, Sunday School Coordinator
 - ✉ Spencer Crenshaw, Facilities Assistant
 - ✉ Ruth Saathoff, Parish Nurse
 - ✉ Karen Grams, Parish Nurse
 - ✉ Helen Bache, Parish Nurse
 - ✉ Joan Torfin, 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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www.smlutheran.org

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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. —

Holden Evening Prayer (December - February): the congregation joins in singing this beautiful evening prayer, composed by Marty Haugen, which is centered on Mary's response to the announcement that she would be the mother of Jesus.

