



The Viewpoint

Volume 55 No. 10

October 2008

Christ, the Foundation

By: Pastor Jan Ruud

Wednesday Night Schedule

5:45 p.m.

☞ Soup & salad supper in Fellowship Hall

6:15 p.m.

☞ Faith Journey in Fellowship Hall

☞ Children's activities in Youth Room

☞ Adult Bible study in Fireside Room (topic: "Sermon on the Mount")

7:30 p.m.

☞ Taizé Prayer Service in Worship Space

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(Ministry Teams are Highlighted in Bold Print)

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So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are citizens with the saints and also members of the household of God, ²⁰built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the cornerstone. ²¹In him the whole structure is joined together and grows into a holy temple in the Lord; ²²in whom you also are built together spiritually into a dwelling-place for God. Ephesians 2:19-22

Those are familiar words and images for many of us, but, this year, they are taking on special significance as we watch a building project unfold right before our eyes. In the last weeks of September, workers began to lay the foundation for our new building that will soon be filled with people and activities that engage us in the mission of Jesus Christ. As I watch the work being done, I am gaining a new appreciation for the words that were carefully chosen by the author of that letter to the Ephesians. For him, the foundation upon which our lives are built is the people of faith who have gone before us. "The apostles and the prophets", we are told, are the foundation upon which God is building community and building us up in faith, so that we might be God's dwelling place.

We can take this month of October to give thanks for all the people who have gone before us in this place, and who have be-

come the foundation upon which community and faith are being built every day. These apostles and prophets are the ones who turned a theater into a place of worship, and then stepped forward in faith to form a vibrant congregation more than fifty years ago. They are the ones who have given freely and served faithfully in all the years that followed. No matter how short or long you have been a member of St. Mark's, I'm sure that there will be people who come to mind for you. And, I am sure that there are countless others, beyond this congregation, that God has used as a foundation for your life: they are family members and friends, teachers and mentors, co-workers and confidants. They are authors and artists, powerful leaders and humble servants who you have never met, but who have had a profound influence on your life.

As you watch the foundation for our new building take shape this month, let the memories of these special people fill your hearts with thanksgiving and praise. Let the first and last words of our theme-song from the red hymnbook renew you in your own calling to be a foundation for others: "Build us up, Lord, build us up; set in us a strong foundation...Set in our hearts the power of your word to the spread the news of your Son!" (ELW #670)



Like living stones, let yourselves be built into a spiritual house.

1 Peter 2:5

New Space for Learning

By: Linda Wimberley

I walk my son around the building once in a while and he looks at the construction and says "there's no elevator yet". I say no, that will be one of the last pieces of the construction and it won't be a toy for you to ride. It will be for people like Grandpa that can't walk up the stairs anymore. I tell my son about having bigger, more functional classrooms. I tell him there will be movable walls so we can have big spaces or little spaces. I tell him about the big sink we will have so it will be easy to clean up after messy projects. I tell him about the supply space each teacher will have and how many more windows we will have to let light into the space. He listens patiently and says at the end "Can I ride the elevator with Grandpa?".

The space that is currently being constructed will mean a lot of things to the Sunday school. It means parents will be able to meet their kids in a friendly open area outside the classrooms. No more squeezing into a small hallway and bumping into other parents as you try to follow your child out of class. It will mean teachers will have their own space to decorate and fill with supplies so more time is spent in the classrooms and not running around. We will still get to share space with the pre-school, but finally there will be enough room for both groups. There will be a work space/office space designed to function and not a black hole that everything gets thrown into. The kids might not notice. They'll instantly forget that they never worked with paint before because there was no where to

clean it up. Some of them might be sad when they realize they can't run in a circle through the hall, up the stairs, through the hall and down the stairs. They will quickly figure out how to run in a circle through the classrooms. They will also quickly figure out how much trouble they'll be in if they do.

As new students enter the new space they'll notice the bright colors and the posters on the walls. They'll see the tables and the chairs that are just the right size for them. They will wave at their brother or sister going into the next classroom, and they'll be able to see them through the windows.

The new space means for the Sunday school is that we're getting space that is designed for the purpose of learning.

Announcement and Reminder: *St. Mark's Wednesday Programming*

An adult Bible study with Pr. Rebecca Shjerven will meet at noon at Westgate Forza (21st and Pearl) in the back room. The Book of Romans will be the topic of our study..

The Wednesday evening schedule is as follows:

5:45 p.m. Soup & salad supper in Fellowship Hall

6:15 p.m. Faith Journey in Fellowship Hall

Children's activities in Youth Room

Adult Bible study in Fireside Room (topic: "Sermon on the Mount")

7:30 p.m. Taizé Prayer Service in Worship Space

Child care also is provided for babies, toddlers and preschool children during the evening in the Nursery.

St Mark's Construction Update: *September '08*

By: Bill Ecker—Wade Perrow Construction

As everyone can see, the serious work of construction is well underway for the new addition. Earthwork began to prepare the site for the building foundation in early August, and the interior "discovery" work accompanied the exterior work.

WPC, the general contractor, found some unstable soils in the area for the new addition, so the quick decision was made to use shoring piles to provide a stable foundation. DBM Construction of Federal Way was able to provide quick response to minimize the delay. The piling work was complete on 9/12, and the building foundation and structure work began on 9/15. The concrete foundations will quickly be followed by the wood frame building structure.

WPC superintendent Rory Godinez is coordinating all the on-site activities and providing the

schedule for activities. The plan is to complete the addition structure before Christmas, and begin the tie in work to the main building after that. The final completion is scheduled for early spring.

To make up for the potential loss of time during the piling work,



WPC has moved inside to address the remodel of the bathrooms and Narthex. The remodel work is scheduled to be complete before 11/8, just in time for the holiday season. The old stone wall was removed in order to allow the contractors to determine what was holding the old roof up, and the stones were recycled by the community. The internal demolition will continue with removal of the ceiling in the Narthex area, and cutting in new plumbing lines and electrical service.

The St. Mark's building committee led by Sue O'Neill has been meeting with WPC every Tuesday morning to track the project and provide direction and response. In the coming month, the concrete foundations and wood walls will begin to arise, giving shape to the new education and fellowship areas.

Grace Upon Grace

By: Jim Pence

The loan from Mission Investment Fund has been approved. By the time you read this, we will be able to draw on our MIF account to begin paying invoices from Wade Perrow Construction. Over the period of construction, we will not make mortgage payments but will pay interest on the amount we borrow to pay WPC.

To all of those who have made pledges and contributions to our capital campaign, thanks for your faithful commitments. To those who have not yet made a pledge or a contribution, your response in the coming weeks and months will be very helpful. The more cash we have now, the less we have to borrow. To those who have joined St. Mark's in the past few months, I invite you to consider joining the campaign to link ministry with facilities.

Several years ago, when we made the decision to expand our facilities, we identified four ministry areas for enhancement: Education, Youth and Family, Music, and Gathering Spaces. Even while the building is being completed, we must remind ourselves of the reasons we started all of this in the first place. And one way to do that is to pay attention to the Bible passage, a portion of which is painted on the "Under Construction" wall in the narthex every time we enter the building:

"Come to him, a living stone, through rejected by mortals yet chosen and precious in God's sight, and like living stones, let yourselves be built into a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ." (1 Peter 2: 4-5).

Christian Education

“Book of Faith” Conversation Begins

By: Pastor Rebecca Shjerven

The [Book of Faith](#) initiative of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America invites the whole church to become more fluent in the first language of faith, the language of Scripture, in order that we might live into our calling as a people renewed, enlivened and empowered by the Word.

The ELCA and their partner, Augsburg Fortress, have published fresh materials as part of this initia-



book of faith

Open Scripture. Join the Conversation.

tive. They include a Lutheran Study Bible, as well as conversation guides that address such question as “*Where did the Bible come from*”, “*How did the Bible come to be*” and “*How did the Bible become our Book of Faith*”.

We are excited to be part of this initiative. If you are curious about the Bible and would like to experi-

ence it in a new way, please join the conversation that on **Sundays at 11:00 a.m.** in the Fireside Room. Childcare is available in the nursery (0-3 years old), along with children’s activities for 4-11 year olds in the Youth Room. If you have questions, please contact Pastor Shjerven (rebecca@smlutheran.org).

Informal Ministry Fair Survey at St. Mark’s on 9/14/08

Answering the question, “*What version Bible do you have and use?*”

17 people took the survey, responding with 40 Bibles in 9 versions + 3 “other”

Here’s the breakdown of responses:

Electronic Version	1	3%
King James Version (KJV or NKJV)	4	10%
New International Version (NIV)	8	20%
New Revised Standard Version (NRSV)	10	25%
Revised Standard Version (RSV)	1	3%
The Message	3	8%
The English Standard Version (ESV)	2	5%
The Good News Bible (TEV)	6	15%
The Jerusalem Bible (JB or NJB)	2	5%
Other (Book of God, God’s Word, Martin Luther German)	3	8%
Total	40	



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God’s work. Our hands.

Faith in Public Life Forum Series Offered

By: Pastor Rebecca Shjerven

In preparation for the upcoming elections, the 9:45 a.m. forum will spend several weeks examining and discussing topics of great importance to our common life as citizens.

This Month:

Our conversations will be facilitated by experienced leaders who will guide us through topics that are close to their hearts. Together we will identify the key issues at stake and examine the policy statements of various candidates. Join us as we seek to become well-informed and prepared voters! (**September 14-November 2nd, 9:45-10:45 a.m.** in the Fireside Room).

Sunday School News

By: Linda Wimberley



We swung through the Jungle at VBS; we sailed the oceans in Summer Sunday School. What other adventures await us in Sunday school this fall? You have to come to find out. If you haven't filled out a registration form for your child for Sunday school please stop by the Education kiosk to pick one up. They can also be found outside the Sunday school office (does anyone know where that is?). We ask that a form be filled out every year. We want to make sure we have the most update information for every student so we can communicate more effec-

tively. Also, we need a medical release form for each student filled out. If you filled one out for VBS then we do not need a new one. We need one on file annually.

Teaching help is still needed. Here we are in October and we still need teachers. Check with Linda Faaren or Linda Wimberley about the current openings.

The Christmas program is starting to practice. Watch the Parish Life insert to know what days this will affect the Sunday school schedule. If you are interested in helping with the program this year please let Leslie Postovoit or Linda Faaren know.

The Education team will be meeting on Wednesday October 1st at 6:30 p.m. Please join us!

Back to School

By: Laura Oellerich—Director

We have been truly blessed this year at preschool. We have 32 students enrolled and have started a waiting list. Our Pre-K class has 10 students, 3 ½ - 4 ½ class has 13, and our 2 ½ - 3 ½ class has 9. We have also hired two new teachers this year. Teresa Frolich is a former 3rd grade teacher who is enjoying working with the two and three-year-olds. Lisa Daniels will be working in the art and snack room a couple of days a week.

This month our themes are Fall, Dinosaurs, Farms and Halloween. We will be going to the Pumpkin patch October 23rd and 24th, and having our annual Pumpkin Carving Night on October 30th.

Stop by any time to say hello to us.

Bible Study Opportunitites

The Wednesday noon Bible Study will study Paul's letter to the Romans. We meet at the Forza Coffee Shop on N.21st and Pearl.

The Wednesday evening Bible Study will study Jesus' "Sermon on the Mount" (Matthew 5-7), and will meet from 6:15-7:30 p.m. in The Fireside Room.

Confirmation Information:

1st and 2nd year students

- Class begins Sunday, October 5th at 9:45 a.m.
- Rite of Welcome for 1st year (7th grade) students 9:45 a.m. service October 5th
- Rite of Renewal for 2nd year (8th grade) students 11:00 a.m. service October 5th
- Hunger Walk, Sunday October 5th. Please meet at St. Mark's at 1:00 p.m., we will be back to church by 3:30 p.m.

3rd year students

- Retreat—Saturday, October 4th 11:00 a.m. Please bring a side dish/ snack to share.
- Serve at Peace Community Center with Mentors—Monday, October 20th. Meet at St. Mark's at 4:30 p.m.
- Brunch for students, families and mentors—Saturday, October 25th 10:00 a.m.
- Affirmation of Baptism Service—Sunday, October 26th 11:00 a.m.

Congregational Care

Notes from Council

Council met Tuesday, September 9, with all members present and presenting reports on their ministry areas. Some highlights are:

- ✚ Faith Journey is ready to begin again for the fall. We are anticipating 30 or more participants.
- ✚ Construction has been delayed about three weeks to allow the building of needed foundation support for the existing worship space and the addition. The main restroom renovation will happen this month and next. We will continue our electronic and other communication to keep the congregation informed.
- ✚ August financial numbers were good; at the same time, we are aware that we still have \$24,000 to pay off on the line of credit. Continued strong giving will allow us to do that while fully funding our ministry plan.
- ✚ We need more people able and willing to drive the Tacoma Lutheran Retirement Center mini-bus on an occasional Sunday. We currently have two drivers. We don't want to tell riders they can't come to church because we don't have a driver. This is major need right now and was highlighted

at the ministry fair.

- ✚ We heard a report that Mirjam Hofer, our seminary intern from Germany, is working with Pr. Rebecca Shjerven and Youth & Family Director Ingelaurie Lisher. Mirjam is teaching Sunday school, planning and leading children's activities during the 11:00 worship and adult forum, and organizing young adult activities. She also will be working part of one day a week at Associated Ministries to explore her interest in Peace & Justice issues.
- ✚ We received the following people as members of the Congregational Care Standing Committee this year: Christine Brass, Sally Dorland, Jim Hoiland, Linda McKeller, Donna McWilliams, Janet Ruud, and Susan Valenti.
- ✚ We received the following people as members of the Stewardship Standing Committee this year: Russ Hillman, Sharon Klancke, Steve Olson, Sherri Owzarski, Eileen Tellefson, Sara Titus, and John Wascher.
- ✚ The following people will be commissioned as Stephen Leaders at St. Mark's: Mike Callow, Sarah, Callow, Lora Gross, Pat Keller, Janeen Smith, and Sonja Yeager.

Six Leaders To Be Commissioned

The Stephen Ministry logo, with the broken person behind the cross and the whole person in front of the cross, symbolizes that we all broken people and that it is only through the cross of Jesus that we are made whole. On October 12th, the following persons will be commissioned to build up our own Stephen Ministry, a one on one Christian caregiving ministry, here at St. Mark's. These gifted, inspired, and trained leaders are Mike Callow, Sarah Callow, Lora Gross, Pat Keller, Janeen Smith, and Sonja Yeager. Each Stephen Leader has received a week of intensive and extensive training at a Stephen Ministry Leadership Conference. Among the gifts they possess are those for teaching, for communication, for administration and organization, for insight and empa-

thy, and for supervision and leadership. Please join us for worship on October 12th as we bless and commission them to help us care one for another as we journey together in faith and life.



Gay Straight Alliance

Potluck & Discussion: Faith & Politics
Monday, October 20, 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.

Join GSA as we explore issues and policies of concern for LGBTQ people and their allies. In a non-partisan manner, we will discuss the upcoming elections and both local and national candidates' positions.

Heath Ministries Fair

Health Ministries Sunday Health Fair on October 19, 2008 in the Parish Hall. Free flu vaccinations and blood pressure screening as well as information on many health issues. Stop by and say "hello" to one of the Parish Nurses or member of the Health Advisory Team.



Protect Your Ears

By: Joan Torfin—Parish Nurse

On Hearing Challenges
I waited patiently for the Lord;
He inclined to me and heard my cry.
Ps.40 vs. 1

Our human "creature" ears in this day and age can be affected adversely by the amount of noise we are subjected to daily. The best things you can do to prevent hearing loss are to limit exposure to loud noise and have your hearing checked regularly. Consider:

Wearing earplugs or earmuffs- If you have to shout to be heard by someone an arm's length away, you're being exposed to too much noise. In such situations, wear protective earplugs or earmuffs that meet federal safety standards. This guideline applies at work and at home.

Avoid recreational risks- Activities such as riding a motorcycle or snowmobile, hunting with a gun, cutting wood with a chainsaw, using noisy power tools, or listening to loud music for long periods can damage your ears. With the growing popularity of portable music players such as iPods and MP3 players, doctors expect more people will have hearing loss and at younger ages. Wear hearing protection to blunt the noise.

Hold down the noise at home- It's easy to overlook the racket at home.. To reduce noise, control the volume on the television and stereo, don't run multiple appliances at the same time and when possible purchase quieter appliances.

Have your hearing tested- If you work in a noisy environment, have regular hearing tests. Testing can provide early detection of hearing loss so that you can take steps to prevent further damage to your hearing. (From From Mayo Clinic Health Letter)

Warm Up For Winter

By: Judy Irwin

Fellowship Team is looking ahead to the Fall as we are again sponsoring Warm Up for Winter Appetizer Potlucks to be held during Sept., Oct. and November!! Many people enjoyed the experience last year of getting together with old friends, new friends and meeting some of our new members as well as having the opportunity to donate items to keep others warm for the winter (Nativity House and Salvation Army are the recipients of our donations.)

What are Warm Up for Winter Appetizer Potlucks?

These events are potlucks held in someone's home where guests of their choice (old friends, new friends, new members and their sponsors) share appetizers, enjoy the company of St. Mark's friends and donate, if they wish, items

that will keep others warm during the winter months ahead.

How you may want to be involved:

- ☞ You may want to be a host/hostess and share your home for an afternoon or evening of your choice.
- ☞ You may want to attend one of these events.

If you would like to be involved in these Warm Up for Winter Events there will be TWO signup sheets in the narthex in October for you to

sign up for hosting and/or attending an event. For more information you can call Judy Summers at [460-1442](tel:460-1442) or email her at judyirwin@earthlink.net. The Fellowship Team will have names of new members who might enjoy attending an event or two also to round out your guest list. We hope you'll prayerfully consider participating in this opportunity to share with others and celebrate the friendships, old and new, that God has brought into our lives.





ST .MARK 'S 27th ANNUAL HOLIDAY BAZAAR
 Saturday, November 15th
 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.



Many people have been busy this summer making items for our Holiday Bazaar. To those people, thank you so much!! For those who do not care to craft, please consider donating filled baskets, ornaments or other gift items. This can be a great generation to generation project for your family.

We also need your help with the following tasks to make this bazaar a success.



NAME _____ PHONE _____

_____ Bring in hand made items, Christmas ornaments, baskets, gift items, and collectibles

_____ Contribute bakery goods for the Bake Sale (Need lots of baked goods)

_____ Contribute berry or fruit pies for Luncheon & Bake Sale

_____ Help with general set up & pricing on Friday Nov 14th (Need lots of help!)

_____ Work in Kitchen

_____ Work on taking down the Bazaar

_____ Prepare potatoes for lefse – Wednesday evening (Please call Carol Paulson @ 691-7550 if you can help)

_____ Bake on "Lefse Day" – Thursday morning (Please call Carol Paulson @ 691-7550 if you can help) This is a good opportunity to learn lefse making

_____ Other, Please specify _____



(Please complete and leave in communication box for Pat Buck)
 Questions? Call Pat (752-5938)

Outreach Ministry

A New Website

By: Lisa Lindholm—Publications

After months of redevelopment the new St. Mark's website is up and running. The new site has a new look showcasing the beautiful stained glass and a more functional sidebar to navigate the features. Each ministry area is represented and a new section dedicated to visitors. I am still working out a few bugs so if you find a broken link or incorrect in-

formation please contact me at lisa@smlutheran.org. In addition to the new site many members are now receiving all communication from the church via email. Thank you to Janeen and Peter Postvoit for helping to put this system together. Those with email addresses on file will receive The Viewpoint, Parish Life and weekly construction updates. We will also send information about upcoming events around the parish. At the present time we have no way include

members on both a postal mailing list and an email only list so if you like to have your copy of The Viewpoint to read over your morning coffee you may print a copy at home or pick one up on the information table next time you are in church. If you are not receiving The Viewpoint and other updates online and would to be included in our electronic communications please email me at lisa@smlutheran.org. I will see to it that you are included.

Faith Journey Groups Bring Guests and Members Together

This Fall, over thirty adults who have been worshipping with us as guests have joined a Faith Journey group at St. Mark's. One Faith Journey group is meeting on Wednesday nights for dinner together and another one is meeting on Sundays for lunch in the Fireside Room. These gatherings have been a great way to get acquainted and to hear the sto-

ries of all these diverse people that God has brought into the life of our community. As we move into October, Pastor Ruud is looking for members of the congregation would like to be "Faith Companions" for these guests; hear God's Word together and explore the Lutheran faith as a Way of Life. Those who would like to do this should be free to meet

on either Wednesday night or Sunday noon for about eight weeks. Being a Faith Companion doesn't require any special knowledge of scripture or theology; it just requires an openness to learn and grow along with others. If you would like to serve in this way, please contact Pastor Ruud by October 10th.

Peace and Justice Ministry

Peace and Justice Team

The Peace and Justice team recently met, and planned many activities for the year. We start out the month with the Hunger Walk on October 5th. Please join in walking or sponsor a walker.

Confirmation youth and their mentors will be serving a meal to homeless or hungry people and families at Peace Community Center on October 13th.

Bread for the World Sunday is coming up October 19th. There is lots of information about BFW at their website www.bread.org.

We are also thinking ahead to Christmas and the Giving Tree. This is an opportunity for you to draw a name off the tree and bring a couple of presents for these families. Christmas dinner is also provided, which helps to make the holidays a little brighter for struggling families.

Nativity House

Thanks to all who are helping with Nativity House meals on the 4th Saturday of each month. We usually serve approximately 200 homeless women, men and children. If you would like to join us, you are more than welcome. We meet at Nativity House at 12:30 on the 4th Saturday. We prepare the meal, serve and are done by 2:30 or 3:00. Or if you would like to donate juice or cookies, we always appreciate those to supplement the meal. Apple and berry juices mix well together. Homemade cookies are especially appreciated, but all are enjoyed. Please place these items in the red box in the narthex. Thank you!

Look for sign-ups to be a Salvation Army bell-ringer in November.

There will also be opportunities to be involved in prison ministry through the Living Stones congregation in Shelton. A group from St. Mark's will be visiting the prison congregation and helping with worship in April.

Somali Bantu tutoring is happening again this year, on Wednesdays starting October 15th. School supplies, snacks, donations and volunteers are needed for this rewarding ministry. Please contact Elaine Rodning or John Summerour if you'd like to help.

We continue to appreciate your support of the Hunger Basket and food bank donations in the narthex.

If you would like to join our committee and bring your ideas, we'd love to see you. For questions about any of this, you can contact Melanie Summerour at summerour@msn.com or [857-8872](tel:857-8872).



Fair Trade

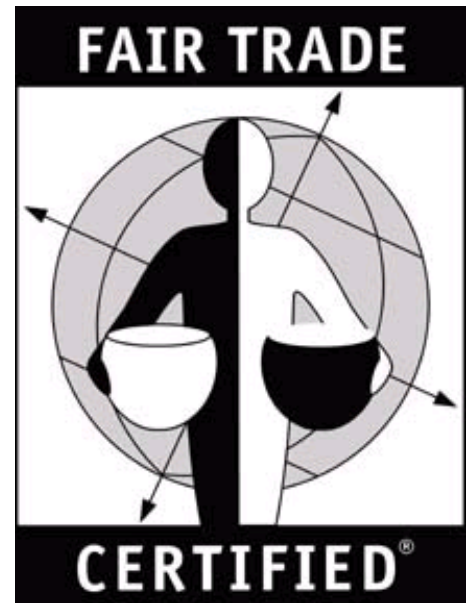
St. Mark's congregation continues to support fair trade. Supporting fair trade is a way for you to help hungry people and empower families to provide education for their children.

Fair Trade labeling guarantees:

- ☞ A fair price to farmers
- ☞ Decent working & living conditions for farmers, farm workers & their families
- ☞ Environmentally-friendly farming practices
- ☞ Direct trade relationships between farmers & buyers.

Our fair trade team continues to sell coffee, tea and chocolate on the 1st Sunday of each month. Look for our booth in the narthex. We are proud to remind you that all of the coffee and tea served at St. Mark's fellowship hour and other functions is fair

trade. There are also more opportunities to buy fair trade products in local grocery stores. Coffee is more widely available, but even fair trade sugar is now available at Costco. Look for the fair trade logo wherever you shop. We will be having a Fair Trade Christmas bazaar at St. Mark's on Sunday December 7th all throughout the morning. We will have handcrafts and other products from all over the world through Lutheran World Relief's partner "A Greater Gift." You may be able to preview some items at www.lwr.org by clicking on the fair trade icon, and then on handcraft project. These items make wonderful gifts, and you can feel good about knowing that the money you spend can change the lives of the artisans who make the products.



Thank you, Supporters

We greatly appreciate your gifts for the Lutheran World Relief ministry. We are blessed to have willing workers and hope that we can fulfill our goals before the November shipping date.

Workers are Needed

With the regular schedule returning we need helpers on Monday mornings. Those who have been sewing tops at home have helped to fill our shelves and now we need extra workers to tie and sew quilt layers together. We would love to have you join us on Monday mornings from 9:00 to 12:00.

School Kits

If you have not returned the school bag with the items, we need it now. If you were not able to find all the items that is ok. We have some additional supplies so we can complete them. Please put them in the boxes under the communication center across from the office.

Layettes

Our layette team really gets excited with the flannel sheets arrive. They make diapers and receiving blankets. The 2nd hand stores have been good sources for flannel as well as the other items needed. Please watch for

By: Vangie Billingsley

baby sweaters, sleepers and baby shirts.

Health Kits

Items most needed are bath sized soap, tooth brushes, band aids and combs (wide tooth or picks). We all watch for bargains.



St. Mark's Volunteers Raise the Walls



By: Tom Geary

On September 6, 13 volunteers from St. Mark's, along with others from PLU, framed and erected the exterior walls for the future home of the Francisco family in East Tacoma. This house is being built under the "Thrivent Builds with Habitat for Humanity" program -- established to encourage Lutherans nationwide to become involved with Habitat's house-building ministry. A big "Thanks!" to Kathy & Stan Adams, Karen Grams, Mike Kander, Cindy Kennedy, Allan McLean, Debby Mumm Felnagle, Peter Postovoit, Janeen Smith, Liz Sobania, and Mark Young, for helping to raise the walls. In addition to working on the house, Pastor Jan Ruud led the daily devotions at the work site, and Jim & Judy Summers provided snacks to

keep the volunteers well fed. It was a good day of fellowship and service as we worked to get the house off to a good start; construction will continue through mid-November. If you would like to take part in this project -- or any of the other houses being built by Habitat -- please contact Tom Geary, [549-2668](tel:549-2668), for more information.



Harvestfest

October 4th, 2008, 10am - 4pm

L'Arche Farm & Gardens

11716 Vickery Avenue, East, Tacoma, WA 98446

For directions to the Farm, visit our website at www.larchetahomahope.org and click on "Contact Us", call the Farm at (253) 537-7871, or e-mail larchefarm@hotmail.com



Help us welcome fall with our annual gathering!

We will have our end of the season plant sale,
and an assortment of seasonal treats.

We are part of the 2008 Pierce County Harvestfest Farm Tour. If you'd like to find out more about other stops on the tour, go to www.harvestfest2008.org to download a map.

Hunger Gifts to ELCA World Hunger

By: Norm Orth

“Go and do likewise.” Luke 10:37 These were Jesus’ words in closing the parable of the good Samaritan. Hunger offerings at St. Mark’s are a significant response to the go and do. Therefore, we do this together in Christ’s name. In October our offerings will once again go to the ELCA Hunger Fund.

Through giving, we experience the transforming power of connection. As individuals, congregations and synods, our humble offerings and actions are gathered, blessed and multiplied. Together we support ELCA World Hunger.

The international work of the ELCA World Hunger is carried out

with our trusted partners, notably Lutheran World Relief and the Lutheran World Federation.

Incidentally, the ELCA national bishop, Mark Hanson, is the current president of LWF.

Because of these long-held connections to partners around the world, ELCA World Hunger efforts are efficient and effective. It is a comprehensive and sustainable program that uses multiple strategies—Relief, Development, Education and Advocacy—to address the root causes of hunger and poverty. It responds to neighbors around the corner and around the world through both domestic and international efforts. About 70% goes abroad, and 30% stays in the United States. Administrative costs are about 7%. As the old cliché says,

“It gives a lot of bang for the buck.”

If you’ve been a bit reluctant or hesitant to walk forward with a gift for the little basket on the communion rail, pray about it. Ask God to help you start that walk. You will experience joy in doing so. You will also be living out the words of Jesus when he said, “Go and do likewise.”

Again, a very heartfelt thanks to the go and doers in the month of August. Your offerings of \$784.50 went to ELCA World Hunger.

**JESUS SAID,
GO AND DO
LIKEWISE** LUKE 10:37

Stewardship Ministry

Grace Upon Grace Financial Update

By: Jim Hoiland

Attached is a summary of the finances for the Grace Upon Grace campaign as of **September 15, 2008**.

Total amount paid on pledges	\$575,865.56
Matching funds from Thrivent	\$7,875.00
Interest Earned	<u>\$3,912.58</u>

Total Income \$587,653.14

Program Expenses	\$21,536.26
Kairos Fees	\$34,500.00
Bank Fees	\$1,424.52
Peace Lutheran	\$26,317.28
Permits	\$23,682.30
Engineering/Design Fees	\$66,185.91
Architect Fees	\$210,108.57
Insurance Fees	<u>\$8,200.00</u>

Total Expenses \$391,954.84

CASH ON HAND \$195,698.30

Total amount pledged to date: **\$1,174,008.00** of which **\$575,865.56** has been paid or **49%** (The total pledged includes money designated for the matching funds for the Preschool and the Peace Lutheran Community Center)

All of our outstanding bills have been paid to date.



Ministry Fair Well Attended

By: Janeen Smith—
Coordinator of Ministry

We had a fun morning on September 14 with all St. Mark's seven ministry areas well represented. We chatted, looked at displays, picked up brochures and sampled goodies provided at most tables. By now you should have received a response form to indicate how you will participate in God's work at St. Mark's using your particular God-given spiritual gifts. This year we are doing the survey / response electronically for those who have email. If you have not received an information booklet and a questionnaire to return, please contact Janeen Smith, janeen@smlutheran.org, or 752-4966, ext 106.



Food Bank Suggestions for October:

Diapers & Baby Food

Stewardship Report

The Stewardship Committee is excited to invite every member into a conversation about our lifelong personal experiences of stewardship. We plan to meet in small groups in homes during the month of November. On November 23, Christ the King Sunday, we will present our Plans for Giving to support ministry at St. Mark's in 2009. More information will be coming to you later this month.

August Final Financials

Undesignated Giving (Gen / Benevolence Fund)	\$59,182.93
General / Benevolence Expenses	\$54,462.97
Grace Upon Grace (Building) Giving	\$18,530.00
all was transferred to GUG Account	
Other Designated Giving	\$3,855.74
Designated Gifts Expended	\$3,937.54

September Financials (through September 22)

<u>Undesignated Giving</u>	
Simply Giving	\$3,640.00
<u>Sunday Offering</u>	<u>\$34,067.69</u>
Total Undesignated	\$37,707.69

The amount needed to fully fund ministry in September is \$55,000.00 in undesignated giving.

Grace Upon Grace (Building) & Other Designated Giving (through September 22)

Simply Giving	\$430.00
<u>Sunday Offering</u>	<u>\$18,692.34</u>
Total Designated	\$19,122.34

Designated gifts come in and go directly out to that for which they were given.

Thank you for all your gifts to God's work in and through St. Mark's.



Worship and Music Ministry

October 2008 Worship & Music Schedule

- Tues., Oct. 7 -** *St. Mark's Ringers BRING A FRIEND NIGHT*
- Fri-Sat., Oct. 10th-11th -** *Celebration Ensemble Retreat @ Paulson's (details will be sent via email)*
- Monday, Oct. 13th -** **Archiglas Concert**, 7:30 p.m. (St. Mark's Sanctuary); *NO Chancel Choir practice*
- Sunday, Oct. 26th -** **8:30 Service:** *Jubilation Choir, Celebration Ensemble & Bells of St. Mark's w/ Brass Unlimited (Reformation Sunday)*
- 9:45 Service:** *Worship Team and Bells of St. Mark's*
- 11:00 Service:** *Chancel Choir & St. Mark's Ringers w/ Brass Unlimited*
- Tuesday, Oct. 28th -** *Joyful Noise, Jubilation, Children's Chimes FAMILY NIGHT at normal practice times*

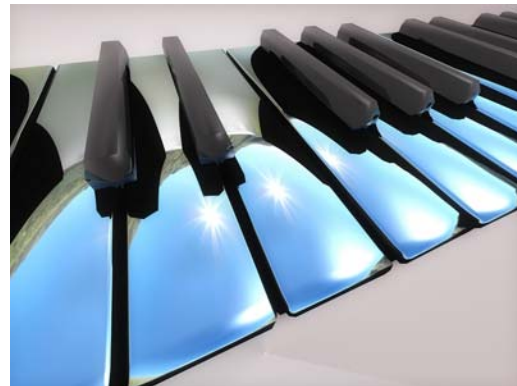
It's not too late to join a music group! Please contact Danielle Lemieux, Director of Music Ministry, with any questions (253-752-4966 x105 / danielle@smlutheran.org).

Annual Blessing of the Animals

Animals of all species, including human, are welcome to join us on **Thursday, October 4 at 10:30 a.m.** for a unique ceremony which coincides with the feast day of St. Francis of Assisi. We will gather in the courtyard at church for a special rite which includes prayers and blessing for the animals that share life with you. Pets of all kinds are welcome, provided they are on a leash or in a cage/carrier. The ceremony will last about ten minutes.

It is a long standing tradition for churches in many countries to bless animals on the feast day of St. Francis in remembrance of his love for all creatures. In a canticle attributed to him, St. Francis prays: "All praise to you, O Lord, for all these brother and sister creatures." He even preached a famous sermon to the birds, in which he said: "My little sisters, how deeply indebted you are to God, your Creator."

We hope you can join us, rain or shine, for this event that acknowledges the special affection you also have for your pets or domestic animals, who are precious in the sight of God.



Bring a Friend Night & Family/ Friends Night

St. Mark's Ringers members are welcome to bring a friend to practice on Tuesday, October 7th during our regular practice time. We will play "bell" games and members will teach their friends how to ring those bells.

Joyful Noise, Jubilation, and Children's Chimes Choirs are inviting parents/guardians and friends to join in the choir fun on Tuesday, October 28th at regular practice times. This is a chance for loved ones to see what we do in choir and a chance for family and friends to make music with us.

Volunteer Music Leaders

For the fall of 2008, all schedules for musicians will be posted on the Music Bulletin Board, now ***moved to the hallway by the kitchen***. Thank you for your flexibility and patience during this time of web re-development and construction.

Taizé Resumes

The Taizé Prayer service is a quiet service centered in contemplative singing and prayer. The name of the service comes from a community in France, where Christians from all over the world gather for renewal.

The Taizé songs express a basic reality of faith, quickly grasped by the mind. As the words are sung over many times, this reality gradually penetrates the whole being. Meditative singing thus becomes a way of listening to God. These songs also sustain personal prayer. Through them, little by little, our being finds an inner unity in God.

Along with the Taizé songs, each service also includes prayers of saints being commemorated that week and the scripture reading assigned for the day, followed by a long time of silence for prayer and reflection. Those who come to pray may also kneel and light a candle at the prayer station that includes a meditation cross and hand labyrinth.

Each week, our small group does indeed resemble the one that gathers at the Taizé community in

France. There are Roman Catholics and Protestants, members of independent churches and people with no church affiliation at all. We come together remembering the words to one of the Taizé songs that I love: *"There is one Lord, one faith, one baptism. There is one God who is Father of all."*



Youth & Family Ministry

JR ALYVE (6-8th) Youth Group Nights—1st and 3rd Tuesday of each month. October 7th—bring a dinner item to share that begins with the 1st letter of your middle name. October 21st—dinner provided. November 7th—bring a dinner item to share. November 21st—dinner provided. Theme for the year: Building up the Body of Christ.

SR ALYVE (9-12th)—Night time Corn Maze! Friday, October 17th \$15.00 per person for the maze and dinner. 5:30-10:00 p.m. Sign up on the Youth and Family Board across from the office, by October 12th if you plan on attending. Make sure you bring your flashlight and dress warm.

Kid's Club Tuesday Nights (2nd-5th grade) runs Tuesdays from 5:15-5:40 each week in the Youth Room, during music rehearsals.

Entertainment Books are here! Get yours today for only \$20.00. Discounts include: Pomodoro's, Katie Downs, Opa!, and much more! Contact the church office to pick up yours. Checks can be made payable to St. Mark's Youth.



Let Justice Roll (9-12th)—October 11-13th. 3 youth and 1 adult from St. Mark's are eligible to attend. Contact Ingelaurie (ingelaurie@smlutheran.org) for more information.

St. Nicholas Festival and Potluck Dinner—Sunday, November 30th 4:00 p.m. Join Mirjam as we celebrate and learn more about one of her customs from Bavaria. Please bring a dish to share that begins with the 1st letter of your last name. Beverages and Dessert will be provided. **Fun for the whole family and many more!**

October Birthdays

October 1	Carl Reese Kari Schoenrock Lindsey Spaulding
October 2	Caitlin McCloud Howard Shouse Karen Silverthorn
October 3	Kelsey Gotcher
October 4	Allison Berg Hailey Berg Lisa Daniels LaVonne McClelland Libby Postovoit
October 5	Gordon Friend Dale Houg
October 6	Kallie Gray Rex Merchant George Phelps
October 7	Mike Handy Stephen Hutson
October 8	Katie Avery Brittney Bowe Ruth Leistikow John Steigerwald
October 10	Tony Buhr Jermaine Keys Kay Walter Linda Wimberley
October 11	Jen Droubay Cassidy McCloud
October 12	Chris Battle Karl Hoseth Thomas Irwin Grace Roth

October Anniversaries

October 1	Kelvin & Pat Hilfiker
October 5	Gordon & Bernice Friend Christy & Tom Burkhart
October 8	Maizie & Norm Orth
October 9	Sarah & Tim McCarthy Nancy & Ray Diaz
October 10	Linda & Tony Buhr
October 11	Carole & Eric Vogel
October 14	Dorothy & John Reitan
October 15	Hans & Vivi Bjornen
October 21	Allan & Sally McLean
October 23	LaVonne & Jim Carbone

Save the Date

Friday, October 24th for a dessert and wedding shower in honor of Ingelaurie Lisher. Ladies, look for your invitation coming soon.

October 13	Tom Burkhart Adelina Duenhoelter Norm Orth	October 27	Pam Costa Robert Hasselblad Joan Torfin
October 14	Mike Bartanen Bill Klancke Barbara Meyers	October 29	Dawne Aho Levin Conway Jim Hoiland
October 15	Tyler Ahrens Mark Baespflug Doug Durant Deanna Fleischfresser Sky Fleischman	October 31	Carol Grudzien Rebecca Shjerven
October 16	Ruth Young	<i>Oops! We forgot Lee Rockway in September. Lee celebrated her 93rd birthday on September 16! Congratulations!</i>	
October 17	John Frazier	Pastoral Acts	
October 18	Katina Bundy Lilly Miller Lori Reynolds	Death—	
October 19	Kaelee Gala Marci Gala	Lorraine Collen Died September 5, 2008 Memorial Service October 2, 2008 Pr. Otto Tollefson (officiating)	
October 20	Alexis Conley Auna Doyle Joan Eyres	Transfer –	
October 21	Shelley Hutson Oleg Lindholm	Christine Bemensolo Transferred to Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd Olympia WA	
October 22	Caroline Irwin		
October 23	Mike Callow Loleta Espeseth Jan Pence		
October 24	Tony Daniels Jevin Patterson		
October 25	Berenice Burke Miriam Graves Tony Maiura		

Ingelaurie Ann
and
Bruce Charles
together with their parents
Anthony and Judy Lisher
and
Robert and Shirley Sadler
invite you to share in the joy
when they exchange marriage vows
on Saturday, the eighth of November
Two-thousand and eight
at three-thirty in the afternoon

St. Mark's Lutheran Church by The Narrows

Hors d'oeuvres reception immediately following

Please R.S.V.P. to Ingelaurie by October 17th
ingelaurie@hotmail.com or at 253-564-4071

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

Jacque Crenshaw, 456-6624

YOUTH & FAMILY

Alicia Lawver, 396-1214

STAFF

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 Pastor Rebecca Shjerven—rebecca@smlutheran.org
 Pastor Otto Tollefson—otollefson@aol.com
 Janeen Smith—Coordinator of Ministry—janeen@smlutheran.org
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 Danielle Lemieux—Director of Music Ministry—danielle@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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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.

