



The Viewpoint

Volume 55 No. 11

November 2008

Upcoming Events

Holiday Bazaar
November 15

New Members Welcomed
November 16

Commitment Sunday
November 23

Thanksgiving Eve Service at
Grace Baptist Church
November 26



Inside this issue:

(Ministry Teams are Highlighted
in Bold Print)

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Asbestos and Grace

By: Pastor Rebecca Shjerven

This past month the walls have been coming down around us.

Well, not the walls, exactly, but the ceilings. One morning at staff meeting we received the diagnosis. The "popcorn" ceilings in the church building were filled with asbestos, the Jekyll and Hyde of building materials. Left alone, it is a strong and reliable sentry, standing guard against flame and heat. When broken open (in our case, to install a sprinkler system) it is a potentially mortal enemy, with the power to calcify lungs and wreak havoc in our bodies. The message from the construction team was clear: The asbestos had to go. So did the furniture, everything on the walls, thirty preschoolers, and our carefully planned October calendar.

For two weeks our *construction* project looked more like a *destruction* project. If it weren't for the basic sanity, sense of humor and cooperation among our family of faith, this experience would have been pure misery. But it wasn't. Inconvenient and chaotic, yes, but not miserable. Our eyes were focused on something larger, the vision of what the facility will look like when it is complete. As we moved furniture and shuffled meetings, we dreamed about the new and improved facility, about all the ministry opportunities it would bring, the

chances to extend hospitality and share the gospel with members, friends and even strangers. The inconvenience, chaos and expense of the abatement process took their place in the landscape of a much broader and more beautiful picture.

I was struck by the parallel to our Sunday gospel readings. Using parables, Jesus diagnosed many of the spiritual maladies that cause hardness of heart among religious people: self-righteousness, greed, prejudice, apathy. His words were clear: these have no place in the kingdom of God. These "parables of judgment" call for repentance, an unsettling process. Repentance strips us of our denial, our pretension. It calls us to a deeper truth about ourselves and about God. It is in this deep truth about God that we find our hope. God is up to something so much larger than pointing out our sin. God is healing and reconciling the world through Jesus Christ, bringing about salvation and shalom. We have been claimed by Christ and called into this grand plan. With our eyes focused on the broader picture of what God is up to, judgment and repentance take their proper place in the landscape. God's plan, after all is a constructive plan, "for welfare and not harm, to give you a future and a hope" (Jeremiah 29:11). It is this divine plan that draws us into the future and, in the midst of the changes and chances of this life, fills our hearts with peace.

New Date for Commissioning Stephen Leaders is Nov. 9

Please join us as we bless and commission six St. Mark's members to lead us in Stephen Ministry, a Christian one-on-one care giving ministry. Mike Callow, Sarah Callow, Lora Gross, Pat Keller, Janeen Smith, and Sonja Yeager will be the Stephen Leaders. The commission date was changed to allow all six leaders to participate.

New Space: Enhancing Christian Hospitality

By: Sally Ann McLean

Take a minute to pretend you were a first-time visitor to St. Mark's a few months ago, before the construction-caused detours in our hallways. That little voice inside your head might have sounded like this: *Oh, how nice to be greeted at the front door! The sanctuary is on the right; I can see that. I need to use the bathroom, and I'd like to leave my baby in the nursery – both before the worship service starts in five minutes. I don't see a welcome center with a YOU ARE HERE map so that I can find my own way around. I'm not ready to be spotted as a direction-asking stranger just yet. Ouch! I feel uncomfortable. Perhaps coming here on the spur of the moment like this wasn't the best idea.*

That kind of internal monologue should not occur once the new fellowship area is completed in the spring of 2009; the entrance area of

our church will be a much more *visitor-friendly* space. As friendly and welcoming as the members of St. Mark's are, our space needs to be as well. If a visitor does not immediately feel comfortable, the first and lasting impression we make may not be a good one, and we may not get a chance to make another.

The fellowship area will also be a more *user-friendly* space. The area available for gathering will be more than doubled and will allow for more configuration options and traffic-flow flexibility. Not only will the space for receptions and dinners have closer kitchen accessibility, but also several activities can occur simultaneously, greatly expanding opportunities for all sorts of ministries.

Another benefit we will realize will be greater accessibility for those who have mobility concerns. Proximity to the elevator will give greater access to classrooms and to the west park-

ing lot, thus allowing more of our members the opportunity to participate as fully as they would like to in the life of our congregation. Accessibility is more than the absence of stairs and other obstacles to mobility; it is the offering of the assurance of a comfort zone for *all* who enter our doors.

Hospitality is a hallmark of a welcoming and healthy congregation and is also a biblical mandate, welcoming *all* to the fellowship of the community without familiarity or similarity as pre-conditions. It serves not only as an effective outreach tool but also as a gracious way of acknowledging and affirming the important presence of each one of us, whether a first-time visitor or a charter member.

In all our works, we seek to glorify God. Gracious hospitality is our human way of extending grace to others in His name. May we excel in that for His name's sake.

Report from Council

St. Mark's Congregational Council met from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. on Tuesday, October 14. Some highlights are as follows:

- **Ingelaurie Lisher**, Director of Youth and Family Ministry, reported that she is in the approval phase of a candidacy process to become an **Associate in Ministry** in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. AIMS are theologically educated and specially trained lay persons who serve under call in congregations or in divisions of the larger church, as partners with clergy, to equip the baptized for ministry. While Ingelaurie will be eligible to serve anywhere in the United States, St. Mark's can issue her a letter of call to continue to serve here and she would like to do so. Council applauded her achievement.
- **Traci Richards**, member of Youth and Family Ministry Team, reported on the development of a fifth ministry goal for the congregation. Council will review and vote on the goal in November.
- **Danielle Lemieux**, Director of Music Ministry, submitted her plan for **sabbatical** in 2009. Council approved her plan and noted that Danielle has lined up volunteer leaders for all the music groups so that ministry will continue and that no extra-budgetary expenses will be incurred by St. Mark's.
- **Cresse Lemieux**, Director of Youth Music Drama Team, requested from council approval of her teaching a few private voice lessons on site at St. Mark's and asked for use of one of the pianos to do so. Council approved and noted she is employed by the church and is willing

to fit her needs around scheduled church events.

- St. Mark's annual **stewardship program** will focus on exploring our experiences of God's extravagant generosity in our lives and our response to that generosity. We will reflect upon these things as well as what we value as a congregation vs what the dominant American culture values at small groups in October and November, with the pastors and other leaders. 4 members of the Stewardship Committee will speak of their experiences and vision on each of the first 4 Sundays of November. November 23 will be Commitment Sunday when we will present our pledges to fund ministry at St. Mark's for the year 2009.
- We accepted **new members** onto the Memorial Committee: Sharon Steen as chair; and Pamela Olson, as recording secretary.
- Steve Titus presented the **Treasurer's Report** and we reflected on the state of our finances at the end of three quarters of the year. Expenses have been held down in areas where that has been possible, but income is below projections year to date. Letters went out to the congregation along with their giving statements apprising them of the position of the finances and asking for everyone who is able to do so to stay current on or embellish their pledge.
- John Wascher outlined the **budget planning process** for fiscal year 2009. Ministry teams are asked to submit their requests by the end of October. Finance Committee will develop a preliminary budget and Council will spend the majority of the November meeting working on the details.

A Pastoral Letter from the Conference of Bishops of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Almighty God, . . . teach us how to govern the ways of business to the harm of none and for the sake of the common good; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Evangelical Lutheran Worship, p. 78

Grace and peace to you.

As bishops of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, we are deeply concerned about the current financial crisis, which is affecting not only our nation but the entire global economy. This crisis is causing fear and loss in our country as thousands of families face unemployment, foreclosure, and uncertainty about savings and pensions. Meanwhile, they struggle to put food on the table and gas into their cars. The future is uncertain for all of us, but it is especially frightening for those who are already vulnerable and struggling to survive. We offer our prayers for those whose lives are being affected and for our national leaders as they seek to address this complex matter.

We call on all people in our own communities of faith and those from every segment of our society who seek the health of our nation to join in conversation and prayer about our collective economic life, our financial behaviors, and the interconnectedness of all life and creation that cries out to be reclaimed.

This church has addressed the issues surrounding economic life in its social statement, "Sufficient, Sustainable Livelihood for All," (www.elca.org/What-We-Believe/Social-Issues/Social-Statements/Economic-Life.aspx), and we encourage the use of this statement as a way to understand more fully how the following theological and biblical principles are central as we respond to this situation.

Concern for People in Poverty

The constitution of the ELCA calls this church to serve by "standing with the poor and powerless and committing itself to their needs." (ELCA 4.02.c.). We are grateful for the pastors and leaders in our congregations who already have stepped forward to care for those who are suffering, and we encourage them to continue this response and to provide leadership in the task of turning our attention to the causes and effects of this crisis. We are called to work toward an economic system that truly serves the common good and especially the needs of the poor. We look for partnership with all those who seek to address this financial crisis in a way that also recognizes the humanitarian issues involved.

Personal and Corporate Responsibility

The ELCA social statement on economic life calls for individuals to live responsibly and within their means

and to beware of the dangers of over-consumption and unnecessary accumulation, which draw us beyond authentic need into excess and destructive indebtedness. We call on businesses and corporations of all sizes to consider the social implications of company policies and to practice good stewardship of creation (Genesis 1:26).

The Need for Good Government

We hold and teach that government has an instrumental and constructive role to play in our shared life. This role includes "limiting or countering narrow economic interests and promoting the common good" ("Sufficient, Sustainable Livelihood for All," p. 11). We call on government to hold corporations and other powerful economic actors accountable for the effects of their practices on workers, communities, and the environment.

The Benefits and Limits of Free Markets

For many people, the current market-based economy has proven to be effective as a system to meet material need, generate wealth, and create opportunity. However, we hold and teach that any economic system should be measured by the degree to which it serves God's purposes for humankind and creation. Those who have been blessed by the fruits of our economy are called to be generous in giving to those who have lost much and to advocate for accountability and appropriate regulation in this system. As people of the God who calls us out of fear into hope and community, we welcome all people into widespread and respectful discussion about this current crisis. In this way we can create partnerships that will help those whose lives are being shattered and encourage responsibility and integrity in our national economic life. As people of faith we pray:

Almighty God, your Son Jesus Christ dignified our labor by sharing our toil. Guide us with your justice in the workplace, so that we may never value things above people, or surrender honor to love of gain or lust for power. Prosper all efforts to put an end to work that brings no joy, and teach us how to govern the ways of business to the harm of none and for the sake of the common good; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.



**Evangelical Lutheran
Church in America**
God's work. Our hands.

Christian Education

Adult Education Opportunities

| Adult Forum | 9:45-10:45 a.m. | Fireside Room |
|--------------|--|---------------|
| November 2: | War and Peace | |
| November 9: | Post-Election wrap-up of "Faith in Public Life" series | |
| November 16: | Lutheran Volunteer Corp | |
| November 23: | "Advent Prophets and Poets" series begins | |
| November 30: | "Advent Prophets and Poets" | |

| Book of Faith Study | 11:00-11:50 a.m. | Fireside Room |
|---------------------|--|---------------|
| Nov. 2: | Romans (Pr Ruud) | |
| Nov. 9: | Stewardship (Pr. Shjerven) | |
| Nov. 16: | Rediscovering the Hebrew Bible (Pr. Ruud) | |
| Nov. 23: | Rediscovering the Good News of Jesus (Pr. Ruud) | |
| Nov. 30: | Rediscovering the God's Gift of Grace (Pr. Shjerven) | |



book of faith
Open Scripture. Join the Conversation.

Confirmation

Congratulations to the youth who affirmed their Baptisms on Sunday, October 26th during the 11:00 a.m. service:

Breanna Bonner, Spencer Crenshaw, Caroline Irwin, Niklas Nelson, Kendrick O'Neill, Hannah Parkins, Glen Postovoit, Kirsti Ruud, Zachary Smith, David Stenger, Sarah Stenger, Martin Stewart, Benjamin Summerour, Kathryn Swallow and Ruth Young

Thank you to the congregation for your support and for to our mentors your work with the confirmands and helping them write their faith statements (Melanie Summerour, Linda Wimberley, Sue O'Neill, Jan Ruud, Mark Baesflug, Cooper Sherry, Dan Conroy, Alan Neils, Aaron Stenger, Barbara Finch, Michelle Marshman, Robert Hasselblad and Bruce Sadler)

Christmas Program Practice

By: Linda Wimberley

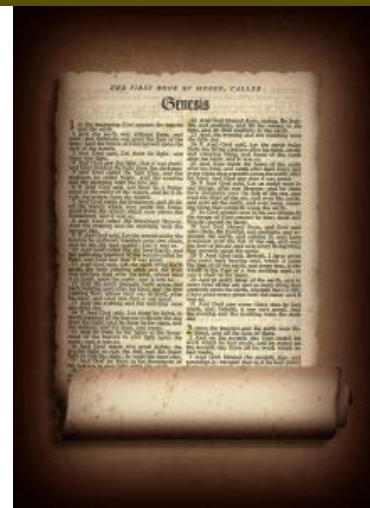
Sunday school during the month of November will begin in the South Fellowship Hall (closest to the mailboxes) at 9:45 a.m. The children will rehearse from 9:45 a.m. until 10:00am. Each class will be dismissed to their teacher who will escort them to their classrooms. Students will have Sunday morning practice on November 2, 9, 16, 23 and 30 - plus Sunday December 7th. Saturday December 13th we will run through the program from 9:00 a.m. to 10:30am in the Sanctuary. The performance will be held on Sunday December 14th during the 11a.m. ser-

vice. Look for more performance weekend details in the December Viewpoint.

Please note: Sunday school students from pre-school up through 1st grade should be picked up from their classes by a parent or guardian. Students in 2nd grade and above will be dismissed at 10:50 a.m..

If you need any information on our Sunday school program, feel free to contact any member of the Education Team: Leslie Postovoit, Linda Faaren, Linda Wimberley, John Frazier (council rep) or Pastor Shjerven.

If you have not filled out a registration form for your Sunday school student – please do this ASAP! We also need a medical release form on file for each student. If you haven't filled one out since last year please fill another one out. Look for all forms at the rotating kiosk.



Class dates for 1st and 2nd year students: 9:45-10:45 a.m.

Sunday, November 2nd (all together in Youth Room)
Sunday, November 9th
Sunday, November 16th
Sunday, November 23rd
Sunday, November 30th—No Class
Sunday, December 7th
Sunday, December 14th
Sunday, December 21st and 28th—No Class (Christmas Break)

Congregational Care

“St. Martins” Family Festival

Join us as we celebrate the St. Martins Festival, a famous custom from Bavaria on Sunday, **November 30th 4:00 p.m.**

As the days are getting colder and the Christmas time comes soon the St. Martins Day is celebrated with handcrafted lanterns and a lantern procession. Also we are going to see and hear the story about the popular and historical person St. Martin.

Please bring a dish to share to a Potluck that begins with the 1st letter of your last name.



Fun for the whole family and many more.

ST. MARK'S 27th ANNUAL HOLIDAY BAZAAR

Saturday, November 15th

9:00AM to 2:00PM

With the bazaar only two weeks away, we are still in need of volunteers. We need donations of craft & gift items, bakery goods for bake sale, pies for the luncheon, and lots of help with lefse making. Please consider volunteering to make this fellowship activity a success!!

NAME _____ PHONE _____

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

_____ Work in Kitchen

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

_____ Work on taking down the Bazaar

_____ Contribute berry or fruit pies for Luncheon & Bake Sale

_____ Prepare potatoes for lefse – Wednesday evening Nov 12th (Please call Carol Paulson @ 691-7550 if you can help)

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

_____ Bake on “Lefse Day” – Thursday morning Nov 13th (Please call Carol Paulson @ 691-7550 if you can help) This is a good opportunity to learn lefse making!!

Craft items may be dropped off during the weekdays at the office. Please indicate on craft items a selling price or the cost of materials if possible. Also indicate if you would like the item returned if not sold. (Otherwise we will hold it for next years bazaar.)

Please drop bakery goods off on Friday (all day) or early Saturday morning.

This year we are trying something new by adding a table for used books. (So we have something for everyone.) Books can also be dropped off at the office anytime.

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

Holiday Diet Survival

By: Karen Grams—Parish Nurse

How can it possibly be November already? Many of us dread the holidays, especially if we've managed to lose a few pounds lately, trying to keep our 2008 New Year's most common resolution. We anticipate a Thanksgiving feast, holiday parties and gatherings. We begin to look forward to cooking and baking our favorite traditional treats for our family and friends. What to do? How can we enjoy the festivities without feeling like we need to put nutritious eating on hold for two months? Here are a few suggestions that hopefully will help.

First of all, even though you are busier than ever, it's best all around if you can keep to your regular exercise program. You will feel better, sleep better, and have more energy to accomplish all your holiday tasks.

Second, if you must cook and bake, share the goodies. Send home leftover pie and turkey trimmings with your guests. (Of course save a little for lunches...) Bake all the cookies you want, but take

plates of goodies to nursing homes, hospitals, to your doctor's office when you have an appointment. Others will enjoy your thoughtfulness, and you won't be left with a pantry full of temptation. Then there are the parties. The following tips may be helpful.

1. Don't go to the party hungry. Eat something nutritious (fruit maybe), before you leave home.
2. Choose your beverage carefully. A cup of cider is 83 calories, a glass of red wine, 122 calories, 200 calories plus for a mixed drink, 340 for a cup of eggnog.
3. Survey the whole buffet table before you start and plan what you will eat. That way you won't load up with cookies, and then discover your favorite kind of pie at the end of the table.
4. If it's a sit-down dinner, take moderate portions and skip the second helpings. You won't end up feeling stuffed and crashing on the couch.
5. Always keep your diet goal in mind. Believe it or not, you can just eat one.

Response

Responses to the ELCA Draft Statement on Human Sexuality are always welcome!

Last summer, we hosted a series of adult forums at St. Mark's on the latest ELCA Draft Statement on Human Sexuality. Each participant was encouraged to share his or her response to the statement, so that we can be part of the on-going process of seeking to live together faithfully. Paula Friedmann, a member of St. Mark's, chose to give her response in the form of a poem, entitled "Not Yet".

Not Yet

by Paula Friedmann

What you have not reached is not consensus. It is the courage to claim what you know: that exclusion=amputation, that we are blood, bone, sinew in one body, formed from a single genesis, inseparable in our difference.

To say this is not to claim it.

What you have not reached is not consensus. It is the will to embrace what is your own, the common DNA of sin and sainthood; the chosen, the damned, redeemed, all one. All one.

To say this is not to embrace it.

We remain at the table—patient, urgent and faithful. Already claimed, embraced, redeemed. We wait.

But the Church has not yet reached consensus.

Here's a quick, easy, and lo-cal dish to bring along.

FRESH VEGETABLE CRISP

2 flour tortillas (8 inch)
 1 cup broccoli flowerets
 3 oz. lo-fat or non-fat cream cheese
 ½ c sliced mushrooms
 ¼ c. plus 1 Tbsp. shredded low fat cheddar cheese
 3 thin red pepper rings
 ½ tsp. dried basil
 Dash garlic powder

Cook broccoli in boiling water 1 minute, just until the color brightens. Immediately plunge into ice water. Set aside. Heat a 10 in. skillet over medium heat. Spray with Pam. Cook tortillas one at a time about 3 minutes or until edges start to brown, turning over once. Heat oven to 350. Combine softened cream cheese with 2 Tbsp. cheddar cheese and seasonings. Spread on one tortilla, top with the other tortilla. Place on a baking sheet. Arrange broccoli, red pepper and mushrooms on top tortilla. Sprinkle evenly with ¼ c cheese. Bake about 8 minutes or until vegetable crisp is hot and cheese melts. Cut into wedges to serve.



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

Lutheran Women gather in Salt Lake for the 7th Triennial Convention

By: Glenda Su-ming Larsen

Some 2,100 women of the Lutheran faith, from across the United State and the Caribbean arrived in Salt Lake City for their Triennial Convention July 8--10, the Gathering (July 10-13), 2008 The theme was "Come to the Waters!"

The presiding bishop of the ELCA thanked Women of the ELCA participants for the "countless ways" in which they are leading the church, and he commented on topics such as biblical literacy, evangelism and diversity for the whole church.

Voting delegates attending the Women of the ELCA Triennial Convention elected Beth G. Wrenn, Kill Devil Hills, NC, as the organization's president for the next three years. Charlene Spillmann, Kyle, TX, as vice president; Betty Brandt, Grand Rapids, MN, secretary; Anjanette B. Hodges, Christiansbury, VA, treasurer, and 17 other women to three year terms on its executive board.

The delegates adopted by a vote of 356-16 resolutions that focused on topics such as minimizing or

eliminating the use of plastics, reducing the consumption of bottled water and raising awareness of mountaintop removal mining. The delegates adopted the memorials en bloc.

Women of faith have a special calling to restore religion's principles of nonviolence, Sister Joan Chittister, O.S.B., told in the keynote. Her address on women, religion and war challenged the audience to reclaim religion from those who would misuse it "to justify a world at war."

Women of ELCA donates blankets, assembles Health Kits, assemble and distribute "in-kind gifts" to congregations and non-profit agencies in the area; Tackles Community, Church, Global Issues at different workshops.

I was honored to be one of the delegates from the South Western Washington Region. I was inspired, uplifted and blessed. I encourage all the women of ELCA to participate in next Convention which will be in Spokane, WA.

ELCA Multicultural Ministries: *Mix and Mingle*

By: Glenda Su-ming Larsen

I participated in the reception that was hosted by the ELCA Multicultural Ministries. My spirit was lifted by the fervent and enthusiasm of the ELCA, who strive to serve our God, to be inclusive and welcoming a diversity of cultures into the body of Christ.

The Panel invited group discussion regarding: how to; what needs to be done to overcome the barriers.

These were the mentioned topics: The ESL classes to the non-English speaking neighbors; anti-Racism workshop/ training; reach out to second generation immigrants who have fewer language barriers; provide

scholarships to the minority Christians for theological and leadership training; equip multicultural clergymen and women; share church facility with the non-English speaking congregation.

I am so proud of the Women of ELCA, and I thank God for you. I was thirsty, you give me water. I was crying, you cried with me. When I was in trouble, you prayed for me. When I was lonely, you hold my hands. When I was mistreated, you stood beside me. You are my sisters and mothers in Christ. When I speak broken English, you listen to me patiently and correct me. Now I have forgotten where I came from. I thought I was a Norwegian!

Outreach Ministry

Welcoming New Members

By: Pastor Jan Ruud

We will be welcoming new members at all three services on **November 16th**. A full list of new members with addresses and phone numbers will be published in the December newsletter. Thank you to everyone who has already helped us extend hospitality to these new people among us, especially to those who are serving as Faith Companions. When this group of new members was asked what they have experienced when they first started coming to St. Mark's, many of them mentioned the "friendliness", "openness", and "energy" that they encountered when they walked through our doors. Isn't that good to know? We look forward to receiving them as co-workers in this ministry that God has given to all of us, and to the many ways in which their unique gifts will enrich us.



Peace and Justice Ministry

Are you seeking a meaningful way to celebrate the Twelve Days of Christmas?

By: Pastor Rebecca Shjerven

Consider volunteering with the families of Phoenix Housing Network, a ministry of Catholic Community Services. Our congregation, in partnership with St. Andrew's Episcopal Church and Temple Beth-El, will offer support to homeless families during the week of December 20th-January 2nd. These families, including children, will be staying at St. Andrew's each night, as they participate in Phoenix Housing Network's journey toward transitional and permanent housing. **Members and friends of St. Mark's have been asked to provide a warm dinner each night from December 27th-Jan. 2nd**, and two adult hosts to spend the night on-site (comfortable cots and bedding

are provided). In addition, we have been invited to provide a bit of Christmas cheer in the form of a Christmas tree and decorations.

If you are interested in reaching out and enriching your holiday celebration in this way, please look for volunteer sign up sheets in the narthex during Advent (beginning November 30). Children are welcome and encouraged to bring and serve meals, and to decorate. (You must be over 21 or with a parent/guardian to spend the night.) If you have questions about Phoenix Housing Network, talk to Pastor Shjerven, or check-out their website at www.ccsww.org (click on Phoenix Housing Network).



By: Vangie Billingsley

NOVEMBER 6th is our Shipment Date and we have school kits, sewing kits, layettes and soap ready. We will have much needed health kits ready for shipment also. **75 quilts** had to be boxed early because our quilting room had to be vacated for asbestos removal. We hope to have a good number of quilts ready for Quilt Sunday.

We do need your help with \$\$\$'s for PROJECT COMFORT -- Project Comfort covers the cost of shipping from the headquarters to those in need. We have been able to send \$500.00 each shipping since 2001. St. Mark's has an engraved brick in the **Quilt Plaza** at the LWR head-

quarters in Baltimore, MD for our support of this vital ministry. This November we will have 15 bricks in the Plaza. **15 LWR helpers** who have been honored for faithful service have their names engraved on a brick. Our gift of \$500.00 is a blessing in many ways. Your support has made this possible. **THANK YOU!**

We are so blest to be able to contribute to this ministry -- Gathering each Monday from 9:00 a.m. to noon to work on LWR quilts and kits is enjoyable as we work together to accomplish the many tasks. We can use extra workers now to catch up on our goals. Home helpers are needed also (the tasks are varied).

Somalia Tutoring

By: Elaine Rodning

On Wednesday, October 15, we started our third year of the tutoring program for our Tacoma Somali families. We worked hard to find a venue and drivers for this year. First Lutheran Church offered us their Sunday School rooms and the high school students will be at Tacoma Community House. We had 22 PLU and UPS students as tutors and 35 Somali youth to be tutored. We expect this number to rise as word gets around. This is such an important program and the older kids really struggle in a regular classroom where they have had so little preparation. We can see so much progress among the younger students and such a tremendous need for the older ones.

We really need more help to keep this program going. John Summerour has been driving our van every Wednesday, now starting his third year. He really needs someone riding with him to help with the kids. Elizabeth Himmelman is driving the Van from First Lutheran and she should have a helper also. The

past two years I have been delivering most of the treats but I feel I should not do this anymore. We need more drivers to deliver food and to bring food to the church. John says the kids are really hungry and he thinks we should have peanut butter-jelly sandwiches or something more substantial than cookies. I have a box under the communication boxes again for food.

Do you know where we could buy bread at a discount? Fruit? Or if

you have a Costco card would you be willing to bring large jars of peanut butter and jelly.

If we had enough volunteers we could spread the jobs so no one person had to do it every week. I am willing to be the coordinator to fill out the calendar and I can make the sandwiches. Juice is always welcome, too. Thank you for any ideas you can give me. Elaine Rodning [761-9198](tel:761-9198) dicne-lan@ATT.NET

Associated Ministries, National Religious Campaign Against Torture, St. Leo's Catholic Parish and St. Mark's Lutheran Church by-the-Narrows invites you to a special pre-election forum:

"Torture, America's Moral Authority and National Security"
Saturday, November 1, 7:00-9:15 p.m.
St. Mark's Lutheran Church

Speaker: Professor Rob Crawford, UW Tacoma
 Panelists: Dr. Pauline Kaurin, Pacific Lutheran University
 Andrew Williams, former Lt. Commander in US Navy
 Michael Collier, chair of MICAH project, First United Methodist

The evening will include a keynote address, panel response, and round-table discussion. Childcare will be provided in the church nursery.

Hunger Gifts: *Loaves & Fishes*

By: Norm Orth

"Loaves & Fishes" is a nickname for the Salvation Army. For many of us, "Bell Ringers" might be a more familiar name. Loaves & Fishes is most descriptive of one of the many significant things done by Salvation Army. However, that does not tell the whole story. Salvation Army serves poverty in many ways.

My statistics are a bit old, but let me share some numbers from 2006. I'm sure they have increased since that time. With the economic events of the past month or so, I'm sure the numbers are increasing drastically each day. This is just for the South Sound area alone. Imagine what those figures would be for the entire U.S.

| | |
|------------------------------|--------|
| Individuals Served | 57,863 |
| Client Case Management | 5,217 |
| Emergency Shelter Bed Nights | 8,060 |
| Food Boxes—Food Bank | 10,819 |
| Emergency Shelter Meals | 25,498 |
| Rental Vouchers | 113 |
| Utility Bills Paid | 71 |

Some words of Jesus are popping out at me as I write. When asked what is the greatest commandment, His answer wasn't what was expected. "Love God with all your heart, soul and mind... and the second is like it, love your neighbor as yourself." This is the Agape love of the New Testament. This is not mere warm affectionate feelings. It is action love. It meets my neighbor's needs when he/she lacks the basics of life. It's our required response to the unconditional agape love that God, in Christ, showers upon us each day.

Let's keep making those love walks each Sunday when the hunger basket is placed on the communion rail. You will experience joy in doing so.

Thank you to the love walkers who came forward with \$770.49 in September for Nativity House. Let's break all monthly records and aim for \$1000 in our Thanksgiving month.

Stewardship Ministry

Living into God's Extravagant Generosity

St. Mark's annual stewardship program will focus on exploring our experiences of God's extravagant generosity in our lives and how we will live into that generosity. There are several opportunities for you to participate in this conversation. Regularly scheduled meetings, task groups, and rehearsals will have time set aside for sharing. At each of four *Pie with the Pastor* gatherings (on Nov 4, 13, 18, and 20) Pastor Ruud or Pastor Shjerven will facilitate the conversation. The dinner table is a great place to share between members of your own household.

Here are some thought starters:

- ☞ How has someone else's generosity touched you and shaped your practices of giving?
- ☞ From whom did you learn generosity?
- ☞ Who continues to influence you toward great generosity?
- ☞ What's the most fun you've ever had giving money?
- ☞ What made that experience delightful, memorable, and meaningful?
- ☞ How do you feel about giving to the church's ministry?

On November 23, Commitment Sunday, we will present at worship our pledges to St. Mark's for 2009. It is with joy that we grow together by *Living into God's Extravagant Generosity*.

Pie with the Pastor Gatherings in The Fireside Room

Tuesday, November 4, from 7:00 – 8:00 p.m. with Pr. Shjerven
 Thursday, November 13, from 3:00 – 4:00 p.m. with Pr. Ruud
 Tuesday, November 18, from 7:00 – 8:00 p.m. with Pr. Ruud
 Thursday, November 20, from 3:00 – 4:00 p.m. with Pr. Shjerven

If you are a person who enjoys baking pies and would like to provide one for our gatherings, we'd love to hear from you!

**Food Bank Suggestions for November:
Cereal (hot or cold)**

September Final Financials

| | |
|------------------------------------|--------------|
| General / Benevolence Giving | \$55,833.35 |
| General / Benevolence Expenses | \$55,833.30 |
| Grace Upon Grace (Building) Giving | \$159,550.00 |
| all was transferred to GUG Account | |
| Other Designated Giving | \$49,278.85 |
| Designated Gifts Expended | \$48,105.80 |

October's Financial Statistics through October 19

| | |
|---|--------------------|
| <u>General / Benevolence Giving</u> | |
| Simply Giving | \$3665.00 |
| Sunday Offering | \$41279.45 |
| Total General / Benevolence Giving | \$44,944.45 |

The amount needed to fully fund ministry each month is \$55,000.00. St. Mark's also has \$24,000 remaining on the line of credit taken out in 2007 to cover an operating fund deficit. It is our intent to pay it off no later than April 2009 when it comes fully due.

Grace Upon Grace (Building) & Other Designated Giving

| | |
|-------------------------|-------------------|
| Simply Giving | \$430.00 |
| Sunday Offering | \$9,231.03 |
| Total Designated | \$9,661.03 |

All designated giving is expended to that for which it was given.



November Anniversaries

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

Worship and Music Ministry

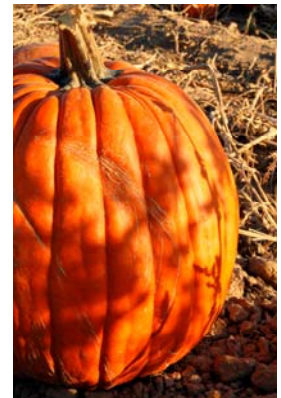
November 2008 Worship & Music Schedule

- Saturday, Nov. 1st - **CELEBRATION ENSEMBLE** practice, 8:30-10:30 a.m. (Sanctuary)
- Sunday, Nov. 2nd - **JOYFUL NOISE** sings for the 11:00 service
- Sunday, Nov. 9th - **CHILDREN'S CHIMES CHOIR** rings for 8:30 service
JUBILATION CHOIR sings for the 9:45 service
BELLS OF ST. MARK'S plays for the 11:00 service
- Sunday, Nov. 16th - **JOYFUL NOISE & ST. MARK'S RINGERS** sing/ring for the 8:30/9:45 services
- Saturday, Nov. 22nd - **Music Ministry Retreat** for adult music groups, 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. (with fellowship potluck lunch), Sanctuary and Fellowship Hall
- Sunday, Nov. 23rd - **BELLS OF ST. MARK'S** ring for the 8:30/9:45 services
JUBILATION & CHIMES CHOIRS sing/ring for the 11:00 service
- Wednesday, Nov. 26th - **Thanksgiving Eve Worship Service**, 7:00 p.m. at Grace Baptist;
 Massed Choir practice, 6:00 p.m.
- Thursday, Nov. 27th - **NO YOUTH MUSIC DRAMA TEAM** practice (Thanksgiving)

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).

Join Us for A Thanksgiving Eve Worship Service: November 26, 7:00 p.m. at Grace Baptist Church

Once again, we will celebrate Thanksgiving Eve with members of Grace Baptists Church and Skyline Presbyterian Church. A combined choir from all three of our churches will sing, and we will enjoy fellowship together following the service. This a great opportunity to remember all of God's good gifts, including the gift of community together in Christ. We hope you can join us! Grace Baptist Church is located on the corner of N26th St. and North Vassault Street. The address is 2507 N. Vassault.



Music Ministry Retreat

MARK YOUR CALENDARS. The adult music ensembles of St. Mark's will be gathering for the first annual Music Ministry Retreat in the Sanctuary and Fellowship Hall on Saturday morning, **November 22nd from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.**, which includes a fellowship potluck lunch! Specifically for the Celebration Ensemble (8:30 leadership group), the Worship Team (9:45 leadership

group), the Chancel Choir (11:00 leadership group), and the Bells of St. Mark's, this is a chance for us to share our different music ministries and appreciate the diversity of musical styles God has called us to lead in our different services. This morning will also be an opportunity to enjoy each other's company in a relaxed environment (as opposed to the "busy-ness" of Sunday mornings!).

New members not currently involved in these adult groups are

also invited, as this is a good way for you to get to talk with current members to see if there's a group you would like to join!

Your leaders realize that not all of you will be able to attend, but please mark your calendars if you are able! If you have any questions, please contact Danielle Lemieux, Director of Music Ministry, at 253-752-4966 x105, 253-988-9983 (cell), or danielle@smlutheran.org.

Service Times Survey

As follow-up to the Worship and Music article from the August Viewpoint, the Worship and Music Team wanted to share current thoughts

on the proposed worship time changes, which *will not* happen until the spring of 2009. This survey will be sent out before the opening of the new space in the spring. We'd like all St. Mark's congregation members to think about how

these times affect your Sunday morning worship schedule. We wanted everyone to have plenty of time to consider this change. Please feel free to give your thoughts to any of the Worship and Music Team members below.

This survey will look something like this:

We need your participation in order to determine the best possible Sunday morning schedule for all worshipers. The Worship and Music team of St. Mark's would like your input. We are celebrating the fact that we will have much more Fellowship space and want to allow for more time focused on fellowship between services. To accomplish this, we propose a change in the Sunday morning worship schedule, the main reasons for this being:

- ☞ To allow more time for fellowship between generations and worship services.
- ☞ To allow more time for people to leave and enter Sanctuary for worship as well as musicians to enter/setup/sound check/etc.
- ☞ To ease parking congestion between services.

Please tell us your preference of the following two Sunday morning worship schedules and, if you can, the reasons why you chose that particular schedule:

- ☞ 8:00 a.m., 9:30 a.m., and 11:00 a.m.
- ☞ 8:15 a.m., 9:45 a.m., and 11:15 a.m.

We wanted everyone to have plenty of time to consider this change. Look for a survey in the spring. Please feel free to ask questions of any of the Worship and Music Team members, some of who are listed below.

| | |
|------------------|--|
| John Avery | 759-6365 / homeavery@harboret.com |
| Jacque Crenshaw | 756-6624 / jacquecous@harboret.com |
| Karen Grams | 389-1886 / kgrams@nventure.com |
| Janet Grant | 272-0817 / janetgrant@hotmail.com |
| Lora Gross | 564-9753 / loragross@aol.com |
| Darren Kerbs | 206-795-5400 / darrenkerbs@hotmail.com |
| Danielle Lemieux | 752-4966 x105 / danielle@smlutheran.org |
| Marcia Moe | 274-0527 / moeandmoe@comcast.net |
| Rolf Morstad | 759-0563 / rolfmor@harboret.com |
| Jan Ruud | 752-4966 x101 / jruud@smlutheran.org |
| Ron Tellefson | 858-0870 / rtellefson@hotmail.com |



JR ALYVE (6-8th) Youth Group

Nights—1st and 3rd Tuesday of each month from 5:45-7:00 p.m. in the Youth Room. **November 4th**—Election Day theme! Wear your Red, White and Blue! Please bring and "American" food dish to share. **November 21st**—dinner provided. Theme for the year: Building up the Body of Christ! **December 2nd**—bring a food item to share, **December 16**—Christmas Party! Gift Exchange.

SR ALYVE (9-12th) Scavenger Hunt

with First Lutheran and Mason Methodist churches. Tuesday, November 11th 3:00-7:00 p.m. Cost: \$5.00 to cover the cost of dinner. Please sign up by November 2nd if you are attending. Adults are needed for this event.

Youth & Family Ministry

Entertainment Books are here!

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

Thanks to Melanie Summerour for taking the youth to Let Justice Roll at Holden Village this past month and to Linda Wimberley and Mirjam Hofer for helping out with the SR ALYVE trip to the Corn Maze.

St. Martins 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. See page 6 for more details **Fun for the whole family and many more!**

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

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

- ✉ General Office Email—office@smlutheran.org (253-752-4966)
- ✉ Pastor Jan Ruud—jruud@smlutheran.org
- ✉ Pastor Rebecca Shjerven—rebecca@smlutheran.org
- ✉ Pastor Otto Tollefson—otollefson@aol.com
- ✉ Janeen Smith—Coordinator of Ministry—janeen@smlutheran.org
- ✉ Ingelaurie Lisher, Director of Youth & Families—ingelaurie@smlutheran.org
- ✉ Danielle Lemieux—Director of Music Ministry—danielle@smlutheran.org
- ✉ Jan Pence, Office Manager/Administrative Assistant—janpence@smlutheran.org
- ✉ Mirjam Hofer, Seminary Intern—mirjam@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
- ✉ 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

November Birthdays

| | | | | | |
|------------|--|-------------|---|-------------|--|
| November 1 | Jacquie Crenshaw Bernice Friend John Heenan Malinda Miller | November 7 | Mary Jane Knold Carol Paulson Sue O'Neill | November 16 | Victoria Terrill Natalie Whiteley Zephyr Gough |
| November 2 | Valeri Hall | November 8 | Carol Avery Carolyn Floyd Andy McWilliams | November 17 | Breanna Bonner |
| November 3 | Julian Baker Kim Johnson Jeanne Smith | November 9 | Kirsti Ruud Jason Smith | November 18 | Abby Lawver |
| November 4 | Mark Hamburg Alan Neils | November 11 | Robert Hall | November 19 | Anna Hoiland Alesia Torres |
| November 5 | Jim Aho Paul Baughman Kelly Holme Kaelen Hoseth Glen Postvoit James Smith | November 12 | Don Brink Dana McConnell Pamelia Olson Sherri Owzarski Traci Richards Dick Zatkovich | November 21 | Brooke Paulson |
| November 6 | Kristi Gaimster David Ostrander | November 13 | Sam Christian Derek Lindholm James Schauble | November 22 | Loren Jones |
| | | November 14 | Brian Laubach | November 24 | Ed Armstrong Danielle Lemieux |
| | | November 15 | Margie Hanson Regan Stewart | November 26 | Diane Hillman Dottie Kent Brooke VanRavenswaay |
| | | | | November 27 | Mary Olsen Arlyn Saathoff |
| | | | | November 28 | Hanna Frazier |
| | | | | November 29 | Sharon Norman Jessica Wilson |

St. Mark's Lutheran Church by The Narrows

6730 North 17th Street
Tacoma, WA 98406

Phone: 253-752-4966

Fax: 253-752-4990



A Place for Grace

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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.

