



The Viewpoint

Volume 56 No. 4

April 2009

Save the Date

Celebrate the dedication of
the new space

Sunday, May 31
Morning Worship Services
8:30, 9:45, 11:00 a.m.

Dedication service to follow

Inside this issue:

(Ministry Teams are Highlighted
in Bold Print)

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It is Finished

By: Pastor Jan Ruud

"It is finished!" When Jesus spoke those words from the cross, I don't think they carried any tone of resignation or exasperation. That becomes more apparent when we look at other good ways to translate that same phrase (which is actually just one word in Greek). Other English translations offer "It is complete!" or "It is accomplished!" From that, we see that Jesus is actually proclaiming good news to us when he says this. In the giving of his life to the fullest extent, God's love is complete and God's victory over all the powers of evil is accomplished.

When we hear his words in that way, we begin to see that this "finishing" or "completing" of God's work is not the end of Jesus' ministry. Rather, it is the beginning of a new era which the risen Christ appears, offering gifts of grace upon grace to all the world. As we live with him in this new kingdom, you and I are given daily opportunities to discover these gifts and to share them with others in joy and hope.

In some ways, our construction project gives us another way of seeing this in the weeks of Easter. By the time our new building is dedicated on the Pentecost Sunday (May 31st), architects and builders will have stepped back from the canvas and said "It is finished!" "We have completed what we came here to do". That will be true, but, at the same

time, we know that this declaration also marks a new beginning for all of us. As we gather for spiritual formation and fellowship in our new space, as we grow together with our children and youth, as we offer the use of this space to others in generous ways that reflect the hospitality of Christ, we will continue to discover what a gift it is for all of us.

In the end, however, I hear these words of Christ in a very personal way. When I come to them again in Holy Week, I will sense the power of this declaration for my own life. Yes, Christ has finished the work of saving me from the power of sin and death, and every time I receive that as promise it is a new beginning for me in my life of faith. May this be the same for you as the Spirit gathers us together in Holy Week and in the joyful days of Easter.



HOLY WEEK AT ST. MARK'S 2009

In the life of the Church, this week stands out as the most important of all. It brings us to the center of our faith in Jesus Christ, the crucified and risen Lord. Therefore, Christians around the world will make a special effort during this week to put their spiritual pilgrimage above everything else—allowing each worship service to draw them deeper into the mystery of God's love for us in Jesus Christ. We hope that you can do the same and we look forward to making this journey together as God's people at St. Mark's.



April 5—PALM SUNDAY--

This day marks the beginning of our journey with Christ to the foot of the cross and to the joy of Easter that lies beyond it. The palm branches that we wave and the songs of praise that we raise at all three services bear witness to the kingship of Christ and to his power to save all those who call on him in faith. Also, on this day, third graders will receive Bibles as a gift from our congregation.

April 9 —MAUNDY THURSDAY--

Worship Service at 7:30 p.m. When we begin the communion liturgy by saying: "On the night in which He was betrayed..." we remember the special significance that this night still holds for all Christians. It is the night that Jesus shared the Passover meal in a way that included all people—even those who sought to harm him. We find our place at the table with every other sinner who has fallen into the gracious arms of a loving and forgiving God.

April 10—GOOD FRIDAY--

We will observe the traditional **Tenebrae Service at 7:30 p.m.** Candles in the sanctuary are extinguished, one by one, as the story of Christ's passion is told. Sacred art will accompany each part of the story and the music of this night will embed us in the sacrifice that Christ has made for us and for our salvation.

April 11—EASTER EVE--

The celebration of Easter begins with the **Easter Vigil at 7:30 p.m.** This service is the oldest worship services preserved by the church throughout the world. It carries us across the threshold from darkness to light—from death to life. We will begin outside with the lighting of a 'new fire,' from which the Paschal Candle is lit; then light individual candles as we process into the Fellowship Hall for the hearing of three great salvation stories from the Bible. They will be told with music and drama in a way that will delight children of all ages. After the stories are told, we will process into the sanctuary to welcome new members into our congregation through the rites of Baptism and Affirmation of Baptism. At the conclusion of the service we will gather again in the Fellowship Hall for an Easter Party with great food and music.

April 12—EASTER DAY--

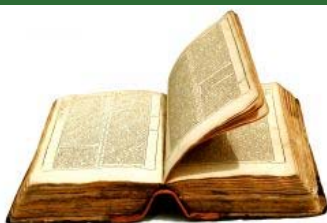
The music of this sacred day will lift our hearts and fill us with the joy of gathering together as God's "Easter People." We look forward to sharing this great experience with you and all those you invite as guests at the **8:30, 9:45, and 11:00 a.m.** worship services.

christian Education

Adult Education

9:45 a.m. Adult Forums

- April 5 "From Jesus to Christ" (PBS Frontline series)
- April 12 NO CLASS
- April 19 "Resurrection", using material by Anglican scholar N.T. Wright
- April 26 "Resurrection", continues. . .



11:00 a.m. Bible Study

- April 5 Conclusion of the journey through the Lord's Prayer
- April 12 NO CLASS
- April 19 Post-Resurrection Appearances of Jesus: Behind Locked Doors
- April 19 Post-Resurrection Appearances of Jesus: In the Breaking of the Bread

Children's Education


Sunday School

9:45-10:45 a.m., every Sunday,
2 yrs-High School

REMINDER

There will be no Sunday School on Easter Sunday (April 12th)





book of faith

Open Scripture. Join the Conversation

Did you know that St. Mark's now has a group page on the Book of Faith website? Check out www.bookoffaith.ning.com to see what is happening, and to join the conversation!

Confirmation: Sunday, 9:45 a.m.

- Sunday, April 5th Worship together as a class at 9:45 a.m.
- Sunday, April 12th Easter Sunday—No Class
- Sunday, April 19 and 26th—regular small groups
- Sunday, May 3rd Worship together as a class at 9:45 a.m.

Vacation Bible School

Vacation Bible School 2009 will be held **August 3-7th** from 9:00 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. here at St. Mark's. We are in the process of looking for adult volunteers (classroom leaders, activity site coordinators and much more). Please contact Linda Wimberley or Ingelaurie Lisher if you would like to help out.

Communion Class

Saturday April 11, 1-3:30 p.m.

All elementary-aged children are invited to join Pastor Shjerven for this active, hands-on exploration of Holy Communion. If your child has not yet received the sacrament, this class will welcome him/her to the Lord's Supper. If he/she is already communing, this will be a chance to reflect on the gift of God's grace in the meal. Please RSVP to the Church Office so we can make sure we have plenty of materials.

congregational care



By: Sarah Callow

The 2009 Lutheran Women's Retreat, "All Things...The Lord God Made Them All," will be held April 24-26, at Falls Creek Retreat Center in Raymond, Washington. Pastor Paula Burchill, of Vinland in Poulsbo, will lead us in a weekend of study, prayer, and joyful fellowship as we discover the ways God has provided for us. If you would like more information, have questions or would like a registration form call Diane McWilliams at 565-2861 or Sarah Callow at 566-9233.

The annual spring luncheon will be on Saturday, May 9, at St. Mark's. Be watching for more information to be coming out soon.



St. Mark's Parish Nursing



Learn, Grow, and Serve by Becoming a Stephen Minister

By: Janeen Smith—Coordinator of Ministry

Do you have gifts for caring, encouragement, and listening? If so, please prayerfully consider becoming a Stephen Minister. There will be training beginning in late May or early June. Stephen Ministers provide emotional and spiritual support and care to people who are going through a difficult time, such as divorce, grief, hospitalization, unemployment, terminal illness, relocation, chronic illness, or loneliness. To find out more about becoming a Stephen Minister or how you or someone you know could be matched with a Stephen Minister, talk with one of our Stephen Ministry Leaders: Mike or Sarah Callow, Lora Gross, Pat Keller, Janeen Smith, or Sonja Yeager. If you don't know any of these leaders, please give the office a call, and we'll have one of them contact you.

St. Mark's Parish nurses are off to an amazing start in their support of congregational health. In 2008 they spent a total of 863 hours looking after the well being of St. Mark's parishioners. They took blood pressure readings 556 times and referred 22 people to health care providers for a significant blood pressure increase. In addition 42 people donated blood through the Mobile Blood unit, which the nurses helped facilitate. For more information about Parish Nursing visit the website at <http://www.smlutheran.org/parishnursing.html>.

Peace & Justice

121 years Ago and Still Going Strong

By Norm Orth

What's been going for 121 years? Well, the mighty Salvation Army. Our Hunger Offerings in April will go to this great organization, always befriending needy people. Kevin Hayes, member of St. Mark's, is an active leader here in Tacoma with that group. Kevin sent me the following story about this 121 year old charity organization.

The year was 1888. The historic March blizzard blasted the northeast U.S. George Eastman patented his box camera (the Kodak). The Stampede Pass tunnel opened for business. Here in Tacoma, the Salvation Army opened its ministry and began serving families and individuals for the first time.

Founder William Booth had this to say about his mission:

"What is the use of preaching the Gospel to men whose whole attention is concentrated upon a mad desperate struggle to keep themselves alive? You might as well give a tract to a shipwrecked sailor who is battling with the surf, which has drowned his comrades and threatens to drown him. He will not listen to you. Nay, he cannot hear you any more than a man whose head is under water can listen to a sermon. The first thing to do is to get him at least a footing on firm ground, and to give him room to live."

April is time to help more families get a "footing on firm ground." Our donations will be counted among the more than 12,000 food boxes and 21,000 meals served in coming months by the Salvation Army staff. Generosity to this critical ministry is always appreciated.

Save this date-

Wednesday May 20 is the 10th annual Loaves and Fishes luncheon. St. Mark's will host a table at this wonderful event. Among the guests is Christian singer Carrie Kay. For the last 15 years, Carrie has fulfilled her mission, bringing joy and sharing her love for Christ with thousands in churches, conferences, and women's retreats across the country. For more information contact Kevin Hayes at 460-1795.

Our February offerings totaled \$ 959.01. Thanks very much. This went to the ELCA Hunger Fund.



By: Vangie Billingsley

Where did Lutheran World Relief quilts and kits go in 2008?

1,455 tons worth \$13 million were shipped to more than 740,000 people in 27 different countries. Totals = 455,798 quilts, 103,665 school kits, 133,500 health kits, 34,875 sewing kits, 103,640 layettes, 122,418 pounds of soap. WHAT A BLESSING! These items were sent to responsible organizations who have been approved. They know who needs them and make sure that they do not fall into black markets or enemies.

Soon we will be able to display a world map and chart at church so that you can see the countries to which the quilts and kits were sent.

NEXT DELIVERY FROM ST. MARK'S - MAY 1st We have only one more month to complete our goals. Layettes are being boxed, and we will be making sure that items needed for the other kits are ready.

Our single box has been moved closer to the office for your L. W.R. gifts.

Will you consider giving a gift of money?

We plan to again send our \$500 to help with shipping quilts and kits to those in need in May.

Prison Walls, Worship and Transformation

By: John Summerour

St. Mark's has again been invited by Pr. Eric Wangen-Hoch and the Living Stones Lutheran congregation to gather for worship at the Shelton Prison. Please consider being a part of a group of 10 St. Mark's members who will travel to Shelton on Saturday, April 18th. You may contact Pr. Rebecca by April 5th for details.

Living Stones is one of the newest congregations in the Southwestern Washington Synod. There are 15 other prison congregations across the country. Eight of those congregations happen to be ELCA churches. The model places responsibility and trust in the members of the congregation to carry on the ministry with the leadership of a called pastor. Each week, visitors from neighboring congregations worship with the inmate members.

It is hard to escape the news that the United States now incarcerates more prisoners than any other country in the world, including China. (NYT) Our civil and criminal justice systems have long been on the list of "systems" in trouble. They include, among others, our public school system, our health care system, and now, of course, our financial system.

The ELCA's response to the prison crisis is to form new congregations behind the walls. The response to crisis is a Call to Worship. Some would view this as a safe and predictable response by the church – sort of a retreat into the sanctuary – yet another bland exercise in piety. After all, what could the church and worship have to do with the "real world?" This question reminds us that the majority of our neighbors here in the Pacific Northwest view the church and worship as having no real importance. I've determined, however, based on my experience at Living Stones, that worship is right response.

Perhaps the greatest impact for me of worshipping with the member inmates is the reinforced sense of God's forgiveness and faithfulness. The Shelton Prison, I suppose, could be considered the end of the road; one of the most forsaken outposts in the Northwest. We visualize prison as a place of defeat, despair, fear, and bitterness. Yet, every Saturday evening of the year you will find a small congregation, led by a young Lutheran pastor, celebrating what God has done in Christ, giving thanks for God's goodness and mercy, and holding fast to the bold belief that God has started something new in each of us. To put it another way, Living Stones celebrates a new vision and a new identity. As James Cone has written, "In worship we gather each Sunday in order to experience another definition of humanity. Worship produces a radical transformation in people's identity."

Communion also gains special meaning at Living Stones. The Eucharist becomes a genuine sacrament of unity and wholeness. (Webber & Clapp). Paul says, "Because there is one loaf, we, many as we are, are one body." The unity of the Eucharist and the radical call to community stands over and against what otherwise may be too great of a divide between the members of Living Stones and the members of St. Mark's. The shared Communion between all those who are present is a Communion shared by those on the "inside" and those on the "outside." This unity of the Eucharist carries hope and healing for a fragmented world. "And so, when we share some bread and wine, we do this not as people who have arrived, but as men and women who can support each other in patient expectation...." (Nouwen)

As I reflect on my own Lenten journey, this patient hope for transformation becomes an expression of my Easter faith. It is the belief that God's forgiveness and healing Spirit is available to each inmate, to each victim, and to each one of us. Far from a retreat into isolation, the rich love of Christ we re-enact in worship sends us on a trajectory to confront all the big issues of the day. Worship reminds us that God's horizon and field of action stretch well beyond the prison walls in Shelton, well beyond the sanctuary at St. Mark's, and well beyond a garden tomb. This outlook empowers us, protects us from despair in the face of crisis, and calls us to seek the good of our neighbor even when the world would tell us there is little or no prospect of good results.

You are invited to join a group from St. Mark's who will travel together to Shelton on **April 18th** to worship with our sister ELCA congregation, *Living Stones*. Spaces will be filled on a first-come/first-served basis. If you are interested, contact Pastor Shjerven before April 5th. *Note: in order to fulfill DOC security requirements, a background screening will be conducted by Pastor Eric Wangen-Hoch of Living Stones. Please be prepared to provide Pastor Shjerven with your Social Security number and your birthdate, which will both be shredded after clearance is received.*



Personal Stories of Faith and Identity Featured in Documentary

WHAT: *For The Bible Tells Me So*, a documentary film

WHERE: St. Mark's new gathering space

WHEN: Friday, May 8, 2009, 6 p.m.

One of the most challenging issues facing the church today is the status of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people within the Christian community. Countless Christian families have struggled with this issue after learning that a family member is LGBT or questioning his or her sexual identity.

For the Bible Tells Me So is a 2007 award-winning documentary which reveals that very personal process from the perspective of five very different families. Dan Karlake, the maker of the film, was inspired to do the project after producing a shorter segment featuring an African American woman at the Harvard Divinity School who was a woman of deep faith and also a lesbian. After the segment aired in 1998, Karlake received the following email from a gay teenager in Iowa:

Last week I bought the gun. Yesterday I wrote the note. Last night I happened to see your program on PBS and just knowing that someday I may be able to go back into my church holding my head high, I dropped the gun into the river. My mom never had to know.

Philip, Randi and Jake Reitan are a Minnesota family featured in *For the Bible Tells Me So*. They will be present on May 8, 2009 at St. Mark's for a public screening of the film. Asked to comment about their experience with the film, Phil and Randi Reitan stated:

This film is touching hearts across the country. It is a film we wish we could have seen before our son came out to us. Our journey has been a gift to us because we have met the dearest people in our lives as we work for equality for our son and all in the gay community. This is an issue of justice and fairness. It is an issue of treating all people as God's beloved children. We look forward to coming to Tacoma and having a discussion following the screening of the film.

The documentary approaches the difficult issues of faith and sexual identity with stories that are humorous, painful, thoughtful and tragic. It examines the Biblical texts which have long been used to condemn homosexuality in the context in which they were written. The film suggests that reading such verses in context opens new discussion of their meaning and relevance in today's world.

The screening is being organized by the St. Mark's Gay-Straight Alliance, a group which meets monthly at the church for potlucks, conversation and fellowship. For more information about the group or the film screening, contact Pastor Jan Ruud or Coordinator of Ministry Janeen Smith at (253) 752-4966.

Fiesta

By: Pastor Jan Ruud

The Mexico Mission team will host a dinner and auction on **May 1st** for the purpose of raising money to build four houses for needy families south of the border. Mark this date on your calendar now and plan to join us for this fun event, which begins at 6:00 p.m.

There will be live music, delicious food catered by Il Fiasco and many wonderful things to purchase at the auction. The team is also inviting people to donate items or special services for the auction. This can be everything from gift baskets to gift certificates. Tickets for the event will be available Sundays in April or at the door. \$5 for adults and \$3 for children.

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

We look forward to dining with you.



Food Bank Suggestions for April:

Cookies & Juice



April 2009

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed
			1 9:30 Women's Bible Study 10:00 Preschool Chapel Noon-Bible Study @ Forza 5:45 Church Night (see box) 7:30 Lenten Worship
5 Palm Sunday 8:30, 9:45, 11:00—Worship 9:45 Sunday School 9:45 Confirmation @ Worship 9:45, 11 — Adult Forums 12:15 Faith Journey Blood Drive Today	6 9:30 Quilters 7:00 Boy Scouts	7 10:00 Staff Meeting 5:15 Kid's Club Music Groups (see box) 5:30 Fully Alive Bible Study 5:30 Peace & Justice Team 5:45 JR ALYVE 6:30 Prison Fam. Support Team 7:00 Outreach Ministry Team	8 8:30 Visitation team 9:30 Women's Bible Study 10:00 Pastors Fellowship 10:00 Preschool Chapel Noon-Bible Study @ Forza
12 Easter Sunday 8:30, 9:45, 11:00—Worship	13 OFFICE CLOSED 9:30 Quilters 7:00 Finance Committee 7:00 Boy Scouts	14 10:00 Staff Meeting 10:00 Bible Study @ Mortvedt 5:15 Kid's Club Music Groups (see box) 5:30 Fully Alive Bible Study 6:30 Church Council	15 VIEWPOINT DEADLINE 9:30 Women's Bible Study 10:00 Preschool Chapel Noon-Bible Study @ Forza 4:30 Worship & Music Comm. 5:45 Church Night (see box) 7:30 Worship Service
19 8:30, 9:45, 11:00—Worship 9:45 Sunday School 9:45 Confirmation Class 9:45, 11 — Adult Forums 12:15 Faith Journey	20 9:30 Quilters 6:00 Gay/Straight Alliance Potluck 7:00 Boy Scouts	21 10:00 Staff Meeting 10:00 Bible Study @ Mortvedt 5:15 Kid's Club Music Groups (see box) 5:30 Fully Alive Bible Study 5:45 JR ALYVE 6:30 Women of St. Mark's	22 9:30 Women's Bible Study 10:00 Preschool Chapel Noon-Bible Study @ Forza 5:45 Church Night (see box) 6:15 SR ALYVE Bible Study 7:30 Worship Service
26 8:30, 9:45, 11:00—Worship 9:45 Sunday School 9:45 Confirmation Class 9:45, 11 — Adult Forums 11:00 SR ALYVE Breakfast Club 12:15 Faith Journey	27 9:30 Quilters 5:00 Peace Community Ctr. Meal 7:00 Boy Scouts	28 10:00 Staff Meeting 10:00 Bible Study @ Mortvedt 5:15 Kid's Club Music Groups (see box) 5:30 Fully Alive Bible Study 6:00 Montana Trip Mtg.	29 9:30 Women's Bible Study 10:00 Preschool Chapel Noon-Bible Study @ Forza 5:45 Church Night (see box) 7:30 Worship Service

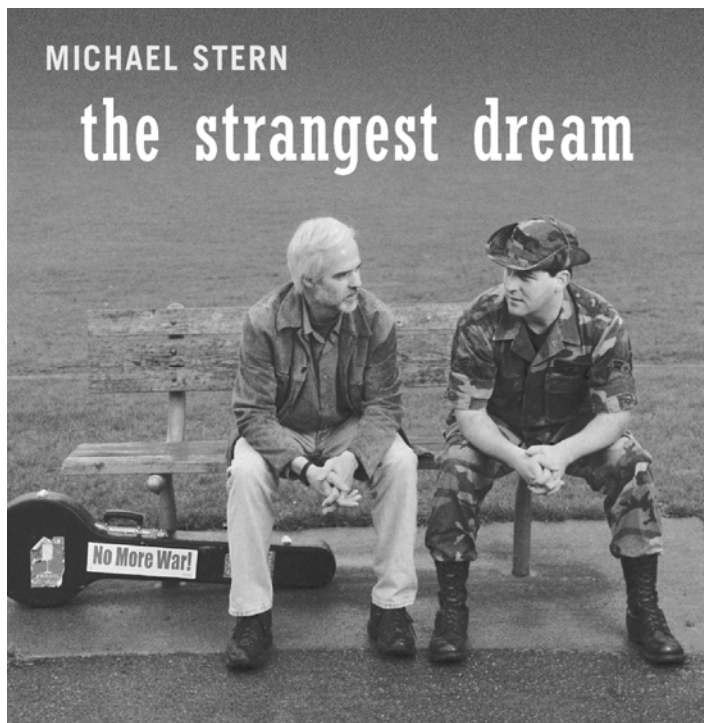
St. Mark's Lutheran Church by The Narrows

Thu	Fri	Sat	
<p>2 5:30 Youth Music Drama Team 6:00 Mexico Team 7:00 Chancel Choir 7:00 Journey (Young Adults)</p>	<p>3 Youth Lock-Out —through Saturday a.m.</p>	<p>4 9-noon- Celebration Ensemble / Worship Team rehearsal</p>	<p>Weekly Parish Nurse Hours: 9:30-11:00 a.m. Sunday 4:00-7:30 p.m. Wednesday 9:00-noon Thursday</p>
<p>9. 9 Maundy Thursday 10:00 Caregivers Support Group 5:30 Youth Music Drama Team 7:30 Worship Service</p>	<p>10. 10 Good Friday Noon—Ecumenical Worship at St. Andrew's Episcopal Church 7:30 Worship Service</p>	<p>11 Easter Vigil 1:00-3:30 — Communion Class instruction—Fireside Rm. 7:30 Worship Service</p>	
<p>16 5:30 Youth Music Drama Team 6:00 Mexico Team 7:00 Chancel Choir 7:00 Journey (Young Adults)</p>	<p>17</p>	<p>18 Worship with Living Stones Prison Congregation in Shelton.</p>	<p>Wednesday Church Night 5:45 Soup Supper 6:15 Faith Journey / Bible Study / Faith Journey for Children 7:30 Worship Service</p>
<p>23 5:30 Youth Music Drama Team 5:45 Congregational Care 7:00 Chancel Choir 7:00 Journey (Young Adults)</p>	<p>24 ELCA Women's Retreat — through April 26 (Falls Creek Retreat Ctr.)</p>	<p>25 12:30 Serve at Nativity House 12:30 Rocky Boy Mission Trip — Pow Wow</p>	<p>Weekly Nursery/Childcare is offered: Sundays—8a.m.-12:15 & 12:30-2 p.m. (Faith Journey) 3rd Monday/month— 6-8p.m. Tuesdays—5:30-8:30 p.m. Weds.— 6-8 p.m. 1st Sat. ea. mo.—9-11 a.m.</p>
<p>30 9:30 Viewpoint Assembly 5:30 Youth Music Drama Team 7:00 Chancel Choir 7:00 Journey (Young Adults)</p>			

Michael Stern

Featuring William Limbach, Eric Smith and other guests

Songs of compassion, humor, justice & peace



Lutheran Volunteer Corps presents:

Michael Stern in Concert

Saturday, April 18, 6:30 p.m.

Ballard First Lutheran Church,
2006 65th Ave. NW, Seattle

\$10 suggested donation

Lutheran Volunteer Corps (LVC) is hosting a concert with singer/songwriter Michael Stern. Stern is a composer, singer and storyteller whose performances combine original songs, spiritual content and humor. He has performed throughout the country at folk festivals, religious retreats, schools, and churches on behalf of many non-profit groups, including both Habitat for Humanity and LVC. He plays guitar and banjo, and has released eight CD and tapes, including his most recent effort, "This Time - Another Side of Michael Stern."

Lutheran Volunteers have worked in Tacoma and Seattle since 1996. LVC has brought over 200 volunteers to our area who have served in organizations such as Earth Ministry, Habitat for Humanity, Lutheran Peace Fellowship, Citizens for a Healthy Bay and El Centro de la Raza. Started in 1979, LVC offers individuals a year of living and working in service to others. Volunteers commit to work for social justice, to live in intentional community, and to explore a simplified lifestyle.

All ages welcome!

Information at (206)709-8690 or find
LVC Seattle/Tacoma on Facebook

Proceeds benefit
Lutheran Volunteer Corps

Stewardship Ministry

Stewardship Theology

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

Introduction The breadth and depth of stewardship theology leads us to appeal to one another to discover lives of meaning and purpose, stewardship lives, as we:

- Engage in worship of God and as we honor God’s plan
- Gather to encourage and support one another in a living organism, the Body of Christ
- Make a difference in the world through service to people and care of creation
- Teach behaviors which free us from bondage to money
- Teach behaviors which allow us to discover the spiritual value of generosity
- Teach behaviors of giving modeled on the giving of Jesus
- Teach behaviors of giving which trust in the abundance of God

The otherness of God Stewardship theology begins with a basic understanding of the “otherness” of God. We begin by acknowledging that God is, by definition, beyond our comprehension. God is not only beyond our comprehension, but in essence “totally other.”

Our foundational awareness of the Holy One occurs when we recognize that we are submerged and overwhelmed in our own nothingness. The Holy One is felt as objective and outside ourselves.

In response, our natural emotion is one of fear. But, in this context it is an emotional response wholly distinct from being afraid. Rather, it is more the experience of awe which overwhelms mind, body and spirit as we realize God’s presence.

In Isaiah 6, the prophet experienced

God in a manner we try to capture in the words of the hymn “Holy, Holy, Holy.” There is an absolute overpoweringness which compels in us a feeling of religious humility. What we experience as a fullness of power is in fact a fullness of being. The great “I Am” fills all in all. There is an urgency, an energy, which pervades this Being and which transcends all other energies known to humankind.

Though sensed, felt and perceived by us, this Wholly Other remains “mysterious,” essentially unknowable and unable to be named by us. We are drawn to and fascinated by, but we cannot apprehend or comprehend, this Holy One.

We begin by acknowledging that God is, by definition, beyond our comprehension

February Finance Report

GENERAL & BENEVOLENCE FUND

Total Offerings	\$46,025.08	
Ministry Team Income	\$1,011.68	
Misc/Other Gen Fund	\$482.39	
Total Gen & Ben Fund Income		\$47,519.15
Planned benevolences	\$2,259.63	
Ministry team expenses	\$1,308.74	
Administrative expenses	\$6,253.65	
Property expenses	\$4,764.96	
Staff expenses	\$42,984.29	
Total Gen & Ben Fund Expenses		\$57,571.27
Net Income		-\$10,052.12

We also received, among other designated gifts, \$959.01 for the hunger basket, \$1000.00 for Mexico Mission trip, and \$24,090.00 for Grace Upon Grace. All designated gifts are sent to the ministry or organization for which

Worship & Music

Worship & Music Schedule April 2009

- Wednesday, April 1st:** Lenten worship, 7:30 p.m.
- Saturday, April 4th:** **CELEBRATION ENSEMBLE** practice, 9-11 a.m.
- Palm Sunday, April 5th:** **JUBILATION** and **CHILDREN'S CHIMES CHOIRS** sing/ring at the 8:30 and 9:45 services (warm-ups at 8:00 a.m.)
ST. MARK'S RINGERS ring at the 11:00 a.m. service (warm-up 10:45 a.m. in Sanctuary)
- Maundy Thurs., April 9th:** **CHANCEL CHOIR** leads service, 7:30 p.m. (warm-up at 5:30 p.m. in Sanctuary)
- Good Friday, April 10th:** **ST. MARK'S RINGERS, BELLS OF ST. MARK'S** and **CELEBRATION ENSEMBLE** lead music for service, 7:30 p.m. (warm-up times TBA)
- Easter Vigil, Apr. 11th:** **WORSHIP TEAM, YOUTH MUSIC DRAMA TEAM,** and **Special Music Ensemble** (TBA)
- Easter Sun., April 12th:**
8:30 a.m. – **CELEBRATION ENSEMBLE, BELLS OF ST. MARK'S, BRASS UNLIMITED**
9:45 a.m. – **WORSHIP TEAM, BRASS**
11:00 a.m. – **CHANCEL CHOIR, BELLS OF ST. MARK'S, BRASS UNLIMITED**
- Monday, April 13th:** No **CHANCEL CHOIR** practice
- Saturday, April 25th:** **JUBILATION CHOIR** attends Chorister's Guild Children's Choir Conference (exact schedule TBA)
- Sunday, April 26th:** **JOYFUL NOISE CHOIR** sings at the 8:30 & 9:45 a.m. services (warm-up in Sanctuary at 8:00 a.m.)
CHILDREN'S CHIMES CHOIR rings at the 11:00 a.m. service (warm-up in Sanctuary at 10:45 a.m.)

Welcome Back Danielle

Danielle Lemieux, our Director of Music Ministry, has returned from sabbatical and we are happy for the chance to get reconnected with her during this month of April. Danielle used her three months of sabbatical to seek out rest and renewal, and to explore ways in which her ministry with us can be enhanced. One of the highlights of this time was a three week trip to Mexico where Danielle explored the richness of music in that setting and sought out ways to incorporate this into her ministry here. We will be welcoming her back on **Palm Sunday, April 5th.**

We also want to say "Thank You" to the talented and committed people who pro-

vided music leadership during the time that Danielle was on Sabbatical. Sonja Yeager led the Chancel Choir, Levin Conway led the bell choirs, and Cooper Sherry led the children's choirs during this time, and they have each done an outstanding job! They will be serving in these roles up through Easter, and then we will take time to share our deep appreciation for the service they have provided. In the meantime, you might drop them a note or say your own word of thanks. We have been truly blessed by the generous ways in which they have shared their gifts.



Youth & Family

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

Children's Ministry

2nd—5th grade

3rd Grade Bibles: Bibles will be given to our 3rd grade students on Sunday, April 5th during the 11:00 a.m. service. We have the following children on our roster: Dylan Fisher, Erik Iverson, Martin Iverson, Will Kruitof, Dane Meade, Gracie Costa, Rudy Diaz, Ethan Marshman, Mikey Menefee, Robby Moor, Mackenzie Richards, and Emma Summerour. Please let me know if we have missed your child.

M&M's—Mission to Montana!

We are giving away free mini M&M's!

All you have to do is pick up a tube, eat and enjoy them and then as you collect your change through the month, just put your left over quarters in the tube. Once the tube is full you can bring it back to St. Mark's and return it to Ingelaurie. Various return dates will be announced during the next few months we prepare for our trip.

Middle School Ministry: JR ALYVE

6-8th Grades

Youth Group Nights—April 7 and 21 5:45-7:00 p.m. in the Youth Room.

Potluck dinner—April 7th bring something to share. April 21—dinner provided.

Rocky Boy Mission Trip

- **Pow Wow**—Saturday, April 25th Please meet at St. Mark's at 12:00 p.m.

Next meeting date for youth and parents: Tuesday, April 28 6:00 p.m. in the Youth Room.

1st Communion Class will be offered Saturday, April 11th from 1-3:30 p.m. with Pastor Shjerven. Please let her know if your child plans on participating. See page 3 for more details

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

Nursery/Childcare is offered at various times throughout the week.

- Tuesdays—5:30-8:30 p.m.
- Wednesdays—6:00-8:00 p.m.
- 1st Saturday of each month—9:00-11:00 a.m.
- Sundays—8:00 a.m.-12:15 p.m. during Worship and 12:30-2:00 p.m. for Faith Journey
- 3rd Monday of each month—6:00-8:00 p.m.

We encourage you to plan your meetings and/or practices during these times. To request nursery/childcare during other times of the week and for special events please contact our Nursery Coordinator Kristin Hamner at 253-381-0935 or at kristinhamner@yahoo.com. Free will donations are gladly accepted to help subsidize our nursery attendants.

High School Ministry: SR ALYVE

9-12th Grade

- **Bible Study and Discussion** Wednesday, April 22nd 6:15-7:15 p.m. in Pastor Ruud's office. We will be reading the book *Faithful and Courageous* by Bishop Mark Hanson.

- **Breakfast Club!** 4th Sunday of each month (April 26th)—11:00 a.m. in the Conference Room. Breakfast provided.

April Birthdays

April 1 Jayne Reynolds
Joshua Reynolds
Tim Sherry

April 2 Cara Reese

April 3 Vangie Billingsley
Terry Johnson
Kay Jones

April 5 Orpha Forsythe
Michelle Martinazzi
Tyler Schoenrock

April 6 Cindy Iverson

April 7 Tiffany Chaney
Zachary Smith
Steve Titus

April 8 George Leone
Gracie Smith

April 9 Doris Crowell
Sela Neils

April 10 Kathy Adams
Alex Torres
Frederic Vogel

April 11 David Lueck-Mammen
Sherry Markham

April 12 Maia Grudzien

April 13 Tristan Flynn
Pat Johnson
Jon Jornlin

April 14 Emelia Espinosa
Annora Lawver
Kris Moor

April 15 Joey Comstock
Jason Flynn
Corey Squires

April 15 Betty Meyers
Gloyne

April 17 Candie Paulson
Greg Miller
Torun Parker
Mary Szentesi

April 18 Steve Grey

April 19 Mike Trygstad
Carl Finstuen
Sonja Yeager

April 20 Davonte Crocco
Paul Marshman

April 21 Tena Knoblich
Jason Lee

April 22 Danny Anderson

Kaela Wilson

April 24 Carrie Bonner
Mae Myklegard

April 25 Rick Norman

April 26 Kate Irwin
Marcia Sherry

April 27 Debby Hren
Tim Spaulding

April 29 Jennifer Anderson
John Fricke
Catarina Terrill

April 30 Dennis Hulbert
Helen Sakrison
Dirk Reese



Pastoral Acts

Deaths--

Roy Consiglio

Died – February 23, 2009
Service – February 27, 2009
Pastor Jan Ruud, officiating

Edwin Knoblich

Died – March 3, 2009
Service – March 7, 2009 in
Oak Harbor, WA

Pastor Charlie Mays (served as Interim Pastor in 2007-2008) died on Thursday, March 5, 2009. Services were held at University Christian Church in Seattle, on Saturday, March 21, 2009.

Change of Address:

Caresse & David Robertson
3502 S. Mason Ave., **Apt.1C**
Tacoma, WA 98409

April Anniversaries

April 4 Charles & Joan Eyres

April 8 Phil & Jean Birkeland

April 9 Martin & Tavi Jung

April 14 John & Julie Frazier

April 20 Don & Carol Woods
Michael & Randi Kander

April 30 Dave & Denise Allen



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 Friedmann, 759-3881

STEWARDSHIP

John Wascher, 503-6765

WORSHIP & MUSIC

Jacque Crenshaw, 456-6624

YOUTH & FAMILY

Alicia Lawver, 396-1214

STAFF

- | | |
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| ✉ General Office Email—office@smlutheran.org
(253-752-4966) | ✉ Becki Christian, Custodian and Hospitality Coordinator—beckic924@hotmail.com |
| ✉ Pastor Jan Ruud—jruud@smlutheran.org | ✉ Darren Kerbs, Worship Team Director—darrenkerbs@hotmail.com |
| ✉ Pastor Rebecca Shjerven—rebecca@smlutheran.org | ✉ Caresse Robertson, Youth Music Drama Team Leader—caresse@smlutheran.org |
| ✉ Pastor Otto Tollefson—otollefson@aol.com | ✉ Phyllis Bachman, Organist/pianist |
| ✉ Janeen Smith—Coordinator of Ministry—janeen@smlutheran.org | ✉ Cooper Sherry, Organist/pianist |
| ✉ Ingelaurie Lisher, Director of Youth & Families—ingelaurie@smlutheran.org | ✉ Adam Manley, Sound Technician |
| ✉ Danielle Lemieux—Director of Music Ministry—danielle@smlutheran.org | ✉ Craig Cootsona, Musician |
| ✉ Jan Pence, Office Manager/Administrative Assistant—janpence@smlutheran.org | ✉ Kristin Hamner, Nursery Coordinator |
| ✉ Mirjam Hofer, Seminary Intern—mirjam@smlutheran.org | ✉ Chuck Droubay, Maintenance Manager |
| ✉ Lisa Lindholm, Publications—lisa@smlutheran.org | ✉ Linda Wimberley, Sunday School Coordinator |
| ✉ Pat Buck, Financial Recording Secretary—pbuck@smlutheran.org | ✉ Spencer Crenshaw, Facilities Assistant |
| ✉ Laura Oellerich, Director of Preschool—preschool@smlutheran.org | ✉ Ruth Saathoff, Parish Nurse |
| | ✉ Karen Grams, Parish Nurse |
| | ✉ Helen Bache, Parish Nurse |
| | ✉ Joan Torfin, Parish Nurse |
| | ✉ Mike McKeller, Bookkeeper—bookkeeper@smlutheran.org |

St. Mark's Lutheran Church by The Narrows

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Tacoma, WA 98406

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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. —

Join us on our Lenten journey as we have mid-week Compline services each Wednesday until Holy Week.

