



The Viewpoint

Volume 55 No. 7

July 2008

Generations From Now

By: Pastor Jan Ruud

As we come to the end of our year-long focus on Generation 2 Generation, it is fitting that we see the beginning of a building project that will greatly enhance our ministry with children, youth, and adults at St. Mark's. At this point, we plan to have ground breaking ceremonies at all three worship services on a Sunday in July. You will be hearing more about that in the next few weeks. When I think of all the people who have been involved in this process of listening, sharing, dreaming, planning, praying, and giving- I am overwhelmed with gratitude! The vision for this project began to emerge more than ten years ago, when members of St. Mark's talked about the need for "a new space for grace." First, a stunning sanctuary was built and offices were renovated. As more joined the congregation, the second part of the vision began to move to the forefront. Congregational retreats highlighted the need for new and renovated space to enhance our ministry with children and youth, and provide ade-

quate gathering space for our growing congregation. We talked about the need to make upgrades to our sanctuary and to create dedicated space for our exceptional music program. And now, under the banner of "Grace Upon Grace", it is all coming to fruition. By Easter of 2009, we should be ready to move into the new space.

One of the hopeful things about projects like this is they serve the needs of people in many generations. It makes my heart glad that children who are born fifty years from now will enjoy the benefits of this new space, just as we will in the very near future. I can see the preschool children of today bringing their own grandchildren to be baptized and nurtured in faith in this place for grace. In the end, we are all part of the long procession of faithful people who are moved by God to worship and witness, learn and serve, share God's Word and sacraments and reach out with words and deeds of love.

Our prayers are with the JR and SR ALYVE youth who are traveling on the Mission Trip and to the Western State's Youth Gathering in July.

For more information see page 15.



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Letter from Rebecca

By: Pastor Rebecca Shjerven

Dear People of God at St. Mark's Lutheran Church By The Narrows,

It is with joyful anticipation of our life together in Christ that I accept the call to serve as one of your pastors.

Throughout this call process I have sensed the Holy Spirit's presence—in lively conversation, in the clear articulation of the mission of St. Mark's, in the present leadership of the congregation, (both staff and volunteer), in the energy and engagement of the congregation as a whole. I look forward to adding my gifts to the rich gifts and blessings that are already present among you, and to following together in faith where Christ leads us.

I want to commend your Call Committee for the hospitality they extended to Ray and me over dinner,

and for the clear and thoughtful way in which they conducted my interview. Chairpersons Char Leone and Kristina Williams presented me with thorough and well-organized information about the congregation—your history, your hopes and dreams. The committee did a great job in representing the entire congregation. I give them my thanks and appreciation.

I plan to begin my ministry among you on August 1st. I will be well-rested after a month of vacation and ready to jump into Vacation Bible School with both feet! I pray that you, too, are blessed this season with opportunities for rest and recreation.

God's peace to you,

Rebecca Lucky Shjerven

“Will Our Children Have Faith?": *From Congregation to the Home*

By: Ingelaurie Lisher—Director of Youth & Family Ministry

In September of 2007 Dr. Dave Ellingson submitted this article to us "A number of years ago, noted writer and Christian Educator, John Westerhoff, asked a very disturbing question, "Will our children have faith?" Like many of us, he saw all the other "gods" in today's society (sex, money, power) seducing our young people away from the God we know in Jesus Christ who calls us to "take up our cross and follow me." (Matt. 16:24) His question was a "wake-up" call to parents, pastors, teachers, and all the faithful who are called to share God's mighty deeds "from generation to generation". (Psalm 78:4)

Our Generation 2 Generation theme began on Sunday, September 16, and continued throughout the school year. This year long theme emphasized equipping the entire congregation to share our faith "from generation to generation". Pastor Dave Ellingson, D.Min, professor of

Children, Youth & Family Studies at Trinity Lutheran College in Issaquah, kicked off this theme by preaching at all three services and lead a "Dreams and Visions" workshop. During this workshop we identified many ways that St. Mark's is doing well at providing opportunities for intergenerational ministry. We also talked and dreamed about ways that we can be more intentional about generational ministry. One area which grew out of the "Dreams and Visions" workshop was that of providing resources and support for parents.

Support for nurturing faith life in the home as well as parents is an important area that often gets overlooked in the day to day operations of the church. In a recent article by Marilyn Sharpe of the Youth and Family Institute she reminds us that as a congregation we have the opportunity to be a community of caring, education and support for families. "Jesus calls us together to be that

community to one another, to love one another as Jesus has loved us, to bind up wounds, to be present, to pass on this life transforming faith."

One way in which we are working on addressing this need is by offering parenting workshops and classes throughout the year. This spring we introduced 3 parenting workshops lead by Kim Meade and hosted a class on the book *Boys Adrift* by Leonard Sax. Thanks to Christine Harris of the Youth and Family Ministry team for coordinating these workshops. Look for more opportunities for our parents and families to come together in the months to come

Thanks to the Youth and Family Ministry Team, the staff and all of you for embracing our Generation 2 Generation theme this year and sharing your faith with all of us. Intergenerational ministry is an important part of our congregation and one which will continue well into the future of the church.

Christian Education

Summer Sunday School:



Thank you



A HUGE **THANK YOU** goes out to our **Sunday school teachers** who taught this past year. Starting from the smallest students we appreciate Sonja Ruud, Roger Willis, Audry Handy, Phyllis Smith, Sara Titus, Susan Newsom, Jack and Catherine Terrill, Karl and Alison Hoseth, Marty and Nancy McClelland, Dena Hedegaard, Leslie Postovoit, Helen Humen, Mary Olsen, Linda Faaren, Nathe Lawver, Bruce Sadler, Jody Smith, Robert Hasselblad, Mary Jo Larsen, Janeen Smith and John Summerour. For everyone who taught, subbed or was just there to lend a helping hand (plus the whole education team that held it all together) .

God Loves the World

Summer Sunday school began on June 22nd. Already we have had lots of fun on Sunday mornings in the fellowship hall. All the weeks are already taken, but if you would like to be a part of this summer class time – just appear in the southern part of the fellowship hall (right by the communication boxes) and offer to help. Or offer to help clean up after class one Sunday. I'm sure no one would refuse that kind of assistance!!

Summer Sunday School:

God Loves the World

Get ready to travel, kids! Our guides are in place. Our travel plans are made. Teachers, check your communication to get your plans. Each Sunday we will travel to a different country with the help of various guides.

- ☞ June 29: Sonja and Kirsit Ruud and Linda Faaren will take us to Mexico
- ☞ July 6: Neal Sobania will take us to Ethiopia

- ☞ July 13: Carolyn Floyd and Linda Wimberley will take us to Israel
- ☞ July 20: The Kurashima Family will take us to Japan
- ☞ July 27: Elaine Rodning will take us to Namibia
- ☞ August 3: Michelle Marshman will take us to France or Germany
- ☞ August 10: The Postovoit Family will take us to Sweden
- ☞ August 17: The Henderson-Wiley Family will take us to South Korea
- ☞ August 24: The Hamburg Family will take us to China

A **HUGE** thanks to our guides for the summer.

Children will remain in church until after the children's sermon at the 9:45 service and then be dismissed to the fellowship hall to travel.

Bon Voyage!

Summer Sunday school students begin in the sanctuary with singing. After the children's sermon the kids will be dismissed as a group to go to class.

The Best Gift

The Wise may bring their learning, the rich may bring their wealth;
And some may bring their greatness, and some bring strength and health;
We, too, would bring our treasures to offer to the King.
We have no wealth or learning. What shall we children bring?

We'll bring Him hearts that love Him; we'll bring Him thankful praise,
And young souls meekly striving to walk in holy ways.
Then these shall be the treasures we offer to the King.
And these are gifts that even the poorest child may bring.

Vacation Bible School

RAINFOREST ADVENTURE

If I could make that title light up and play music on the paper I would. There is nothing quiet or reserved about that week. Once again we will meet from 9 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. during the first week in August (**August 4-8 to be exact**). We will read and act out stories, sing songs, do crafts and learn about science. Every day we will make friends and learn a bible lesson. Please come be a part of that week. Bring the kids, teach a class, bring some snacks - there is really a purpose for everyone during this week.

Also Sunday afternoon **August 3rd** we will be decorating the church

Journey Together Faithfully

In March of 2008, the Task Force for ELCA Studies on Sexuality sent a draft Social Statement to all ELCA congregations asking us to reflect on it together and share our views. They will work on the final version to be brought to the floor of the ELCA Churchwide Convention in the summer of 2009. This social statement addresses the question: What does it mean for us as sexual creatures to love our neighbors as ourselves and thus fulfill God's law of love in this time and society? At St. Mark's, we have many members who are well-equipped to lead this discussion with us, including Dr. Marit Trelstad, who is a member of

and the hallways and the classrooms.

PLEASE COME help us prepare for VBS. The more people we have the better the decorations will look and the faster the set up will go.

Registration forms are available every week in the narthex. Stu-

dents should be at least three years old to attend. Questions and those that want to volunteer can talk to Linda Wimberley (988-6882) or Sheri Kurashima (460-3537).

We still need recyclable items. Old wide edge picture frames, coffee cans with lids, shoe boxes, margarine/cool whip tubs and paper towel tubes. Old GREEN or BROWN sheets or fabric, artificial flowers or greenery, or artificial plants/trees are especially still wanted (or anything to help create a Rain Forest). We will return any fake plants/trees after VBS. Thank you for all that has been

received. EVERYTHING will be getting used.

Look for the giving tree!! I know it's not Christmas, but keep your eyes open for a giving tree in the narthex. We've split out our VBS supplies into smaller items and are asking that anyone interested will take a slip off the tree and donate that item. We are asking that the donated items be back at church by July 20th (that will give us time to get what we don't already have). And as a bonus - they don't need to be wrapped!

VBS Volunteer night is scheduled for **July 24th at 6 p.m.** Everyone who is helping out this year is invited to attend a short information session at church. We will share the schedule, tell you how many students we have signed up and let you know what is new this year. Please plan to attend. **Deadline to register for VBS is July 20th.**



the Task Force for ELCA Studies on Sexuality and a religion professor at PLU. We hope you can join us for the Adult Forums during July as we journey together faithfully and share our thoughts and reflections on this very important topic.

- ☞ **Sunday, July 6:** Trust at the Heart of Faith and Love
- ☞ **Sunday, July 13:** Social Trust and the Common Good
- ☞ **Sunday, July 20:** Concluding Thoughts on the Social Statement
- ☞ **Sunday, July 27:** Responses from Participants

We would like to borrow a fog machine for VBS. Please call Sheri Kurashima or Linda Wimberley if you have one we could use from August 4th through the 8th.

Congregational Care

1000 Mission Friends: “God’s Work; Our Hands...”

There are two primary directives for the Southwest Washington Synod of the ELCA. These have been carefully chosen by the SWWA Synod Council and Bishop Rob Hofstad. These are

1. *the empowerment of congregations, and*
2. **the establishment of new congregations in our synod**

Together these directives create a vision for the future, a vision of a healthy church in mission, empowered by the Holy Spirit to proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

A resolution has been put forward by the SWWA Outreach Board. We wish to establish a group of faithful and dedicated Lutherans willing to support these directives with prayer, deeds of power, and financial support. It is the “**1000 Mission Friends**” initiative. Our goal is to establish 1000 mission friends who are willing to give **\$100 each year**. These funds go directly to mission starts, and to congregations involved in transformational ministry.

We have financially enhanced the ministries of the following congregations with immediate financial support:

- ☞ Living Stones Prison Congregation, Shelton
- ☞ Light of Grace, Federal Way, a Korean congregation under development

- ☞ Peace, Tacoma, a transforming community on the Tacoma Hilltop
- ☞ Messiah, Vancouver, a congregation establishing a second site in a growing area
- ☞ Hope, Tacoma, a congregation reaching out to its community in innovative ways
- ☞ Salishan Mission, an ethnically diverse congregation under development
- ☞ Family of God, Bremerton, a congregation reaching out to the youth next door
- ☞ Trinity, Parkland, a congregation in partnership with community organizations
- ☞ Amazing Grace, Aberdeen, a congregation reaching out to Stafford Creek Prison
- ☞ St. Andrew, Vancouver, a congregation offering parenting classes in its community

Your participation in this vital effort is needed. **Please prayerfully consider giving \$100 to “1000 Mission Friends”.** **Simply write a check to the SWWA, ELCA, and note that it is for “1000 Mission Friends”.** **Send it to SW WA Synod 420 121st St. South, Tacoma, WA 98444.** Or, Look for the bright green 1000 Mission Friends 2008 forms on the communication center!

Become one of the 1000 Friends who make a difference in the congregations of our synod and in the lives of people who are transformed by the Gospel of Jesus Christ through these outreach ministries. Thank You!

News from the Nursery



Last month, we said “thank you” to **Teresa Spaulding**, who has been our Nursery attendant this past year. Teresa has done an outstanding job in this position

and she will be greatly missed. We wish her well as she prepares for the birth of her second child and as she continues to serve on the staff of our St. Mark’s Pre-school.

Now, it is time to say “welcome” to **Kristin Hamner**, who has been hired as our new Nursery Care-giver. Kristin comes to us with exceptional skills and background in the field of children’s care and education. Her objective is to provide a “faith-based, fun, safe

and structured environment for children.” She is an elementary school teacher in the Kitsap School district with an emphasis in Special Education. Kristin has a BA in Education from PLU and a Masters Degree in Educational Technology from City University.

Gay-Straight Alliance Meeting Plans

By: Paula Friedman

The St. Mark's Gay-Straight Alliance will meet again on Monday, July 14 at 6:00 p.m. in the Fireside Room. We will have a potluck dinner and listen to a recorded interview with Eugene Robinson, the Episcopal bishop of New Hampshire, who is the first openly gay bishop in their denomination. The interview was first aired on NPR's *Fresh Air* on April 16, 2008.

The St. Mark's Gay-Straight Alli-

ance was started in the fall of 2007 and has been meeting monthly since then. It recently received approval from the Church Council as an official group at St. Mark's. Its identity and purpose are summed up in the following statement:

"We are an intergenerational gathering of St. Mark's members and friends who acknowledge and celebrate human diversity, including sexual orientation and gender identity, as an expression

of God's creative purpose. We journey together in gratitude for God's love, which reconciles and makes us all one in Christ. We seek to strengthen our church community by sharing our experience, encouraging, enjoying and learning from one another. We acknowledge injustice in the human community and strive to make this gathering a place of safety and healing for all who participate."

More information about the group will be available on an upcoming church website page or can be obtained from Janeen Smith or Pr. Ruud.

2008 Synod Assembly Reflections

Six members from St. Mark's were voting delegates of this year's SWWA Synod Assembly held May 30-31 in Olympia, WA. They were: Pr. Jan Ruud, Janeen Smith, AIM, Tom Geary, Kim Meade, Char Leone, and Ingelaurie Lisher. The theme of the assembly was "God's Work. Our Hands. The Earth". Here are some thoughts from three that attended.

From Tom Geary

This was my first-ever opportunity to attend a synod assembly, and it was really an excellent experience. I was impressed how well-planned and well-organized the event was, and equally impressed at the procedures that were in place to make sure that each delegate had an opportunity to be heard on issues being discussed and voted on. Perhaps most important to me personally, the overall theme of the assembly this year was "God's Work. Our Hands. The Earth." This theme dealt directly with many of the topics and issues that interest the Care of Creation Group at St. Mark's. The keynote speaker was Dr. Terry Fretheim, a professor at Luther Seminary, who gave a

truly wonderful presentation titled, "God created the world good, not perfect." The message was that it is up to humankind to protect, preserve and sustain our planet. Another excellent presentation on care of creation was delivered by Dr. Brian Naasz, a professor at PLU. There were also 24 workshop sessions, many of which were devoted to environmental topics. I really appreciated the opportunity to be an assembly delegate from our congregation, and look forward to sharing the information with our Care of Creation Group and everyone at St. Mark's.

From Kim Meade

When I think of synod assembly, I smile and feel so glad to be a Lutheran. There is much more going on in the larger ELCA that I had thought. I assumed it would be a lot of "dry business" and

some parts were, but it was much more than that. I found synod assembly to be an arena for knowledgeable, caring people to lead us as we struggle with big questions: "God created the world good, not perfect" and "where do we go from there in our calling to serve each other and preserve our earth?" We were challenged to get to know the Bible better through [The Book of Faith](#) so that as we serve and discern what God calls us to do, we can have rich text based discussions. I was touched by people who were knowledgeable about how we've been caring for our earth and challenging us to do more/do better because of our faith. I am impressed that the larger church is willing to engage in difficult conversations as well as encourage and support us as we

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do the same. Representing St. Mark's at synod assembly was a fantastic experience and an honor.

From Char Leone

Attending the SW Washington Synod Assembly as a delegate helped to deepen my perspectives on the dynamic work of the Church in our area. We are called to help conduct the business of the Synod in a short amount of time, but the work of the Church is continual and the Assembly was inspiring under the theme of "God's Work. Our Hands. The Earth." Gloria Dei Lutheran Church in Olympia hosted the opening on Friday evening with a moving worship that included a Service of Ordination. Bishop Hofstad made note of the fact that it had been a good long time since the Synod Assembly opening worship was in a church rather than a ballroom. We were blessed to be at Gloria Dei for this service of word and sacrament, with beautiful hymns and readings. The ordination service of Ron McClung as part of the worship gave an overwhelming witness to God's faithfulness.

The Synod Assembly theme was lifted up in all worship services, especially the Saturday morning worship of blessing and thanksgiving, with its readings, hymns, and speakers. This was called a service of "rogation," which I learned is a service of blessing for the fields and their bounty.

I would like to mention just a couple of the items that I found exciting and hopeful for the future in the work of the Church through our synod and congregation:

✠ The Assembly passed a resolution for a Memorandum of Understanding between the SW Washington Synod and the ELCA Churchwide Office for the Synod to begin 4 to 6 new mission start congregations by 2013. Three of these starts are currently progressing. Churchwide is supporting that effort with significantly above average funding. Although details are being worked

on, this undertaking asks for an "ecology of relationship" in which all are invited to partner in these mission starts.

- ✠ The Synod Outreach Board has \$10,000 in evangelism grants available to congregations for mission revitalization and education outreaches. The application deadline is Sept.
- ✠ A national 5-year Bible study initiative is underway. This initiative is called the "Book of Faith" and the introductory book entitled "Opening the Book of Faith; Lutheran Insights for Bible Study," was made available as a gift to each Assembly participant through Augsburg Fortress to help with awareness of this effort.

Thank you to St. Mark's for sending me to the Synod Assembly as a voting member. I was grateful for this opportunity to serve and blessed in all I heard and learned.



St Mark's Preschool Prepares to Hire New Director

The Preschool Board will conduct an interview for the position of Director in early July and bring their recommendation to the Church Council by mid-month. We are thankful that God has provided us with an excellent candidate to replace Anne Bettger, and we look forward to an exciting year for the Preschool (which could include moving into their new facilities before the end of the school year). The Preschool is currently enrolling students for the 2008-2009 school year, so don't hesitate to contact us if you would like to enroll your child.

Welcome New Parish Nurses

On June 8th at the 8:30 service, two new Parish Nurses, who recently completed their classroom work, and one Parish Nurse transfer were installed. New Parish Nurses, Karen Grams and Helen Bache, and Joan Torfin, a Parish Nurse from St. Andrews Lutheran Church in Bellevue, are joining Lori Neptun and Ruth Saathoff as Parish Nurses for St. Mark's Lutheran Church by the Narrows.

Helen, Karen and Joan are registered nurses and have been members of St. Mark's for the past 2-3 years. They are active in many areas of ministry at St. Mark's and now add Parish Nursing to their activities. All have helped with Blood Pressure screenings on Blood Pressure Sundays. Karen has a background in newborn and

child care and has already begun a support group for Care Givers of the Chronically III. Helen, a registered geriatric specialist, supplied office time while Ruth was in Arizona this past winter and brings expertise in the areas of mental health and end-of-life and grief support. Joan's background is in cardiac nursing and is now retired.

With the addition of these nurses, more office hours and activities will be offered.

Current office hours for Parish Nurses:

- ☞ Ruth Saathoff on Tuesdays from 9:00 to 12:00 pm
- ☞ Helen Bache on Wednesdays from 1:00 to 4:00 pm
- ☞ Lori Neptun on Thursdays from 9:00 to 12:00 pm

By: Ruth Saathoff

- ☞ Karen Grams on Sundays between services from 9:30 to 10:15
- ☞ Joan Torfin will fill-in as needed

Besides taking blood pressures, Parish Nurses are available to help with understanding of disease, medications, and lab results. They are prepared to do health education and counseling in areas from birth to end of life. They also are available to accompany someone for a doctor's visit or help with finding a new doctor. As well as seeing clients during their office hours, they are willing to make home or hospital visits as requested. The Parish Nurses work with the Health Advisory Team to plan activities on a six-month schedule. Look for their health articles each month in the Viewpoint.

Walking Buddies

By: Karen Grams—Parish Nurse

We all know how important exercise is and how hard it is to accomplish. The Parish Nurses would like to support your efforts. If you would be interested in finding someone to walk with on a regular basis, contact the Parish Nurses. We will try to match you up with someone of a similar nature and encourage you to form an exercise partnership. If you have questions, just ask. We know you'd like to be healthier and walking is a fun way to help.



Meet at church at 12:00 noon to:

Fill up cars and ride together
Form a caravan and follow each other
Hitch a ride in the church van

For more information call
Carol Paulson at 564-6838.



By: Janeen Smith—AIM, Coordinator of Ministry and Stephen Leader

St. Mark's has been blessed in the past by being a Stephen Ministry congregation and I am excited to announce that the blessing will be renewed very soon! Stephen Ministry will be led by Pat Keller and Lora Gross, who will attend an intensive seven-day Leader's Training Course in Dallas, TX in mid-July. Topics include how to organize and direct Stephen Ministry. Please keep them in your prayers as they lay a strong foundation for this ministry.

When Pat and Lora return from training, they will meet with other Stephen Leaders who have served in the past at St. Mark's or in other congrega-

Newly Elected Officers

The newly elected officers for the St. Mark's Women's Group are:

President:

Diane McWilliams
3125 Grandview Dr. West
University Place, WA 98466
Phone 565-2861 cell 376-7499
Email dmcwilliams96@aol.com

Vice-president:

Christine Anderson
Phone 564-9144

Secretary:

Sarah Callow
Phone 566-9233

Treasurer:

Carol Paulson
Phone 564-6838

You are welcome to call any of these women if you have any questions or suggestions for the Women's group.

tions, and will share what they have learned. Conversation can then center on questions such as "How will we be organized?" and "What are our short and longer term goals?" If you are a trained Stephen Leader, and desire to serve your input is valuable. If you are not familiar with Stephen Ministry, here are answers to some frequently asked questions:

What Exactly Is Stephen Ministry?

Stephen Ministry is a ministry in which trained and supervised lay persons, called Stephen Ministers, provide one-on-one Christian care to individuals facing life challenges or difficulties.

Who Is Involved?

Stephen Leaders are the ones who oversee and direct our Stephen Ministry. They recruit, select, train, organize, and supervise our Stephen Ministers, identify people in need of care and match them with a Stephen Minister.

Stephen Ministers are the caregivers. They have been through 50 hours of training in Christian care giving, including general topics such as listening, feelings, boundaries, assertiveness, and using Christian resources in care giving. In addition, their training covers specialized topics such as ministering to the divorced, hospitalized, bereaved, and aging.

Care Receivers are the recipients of Stephen Ministers' care. They are people from congregations or community who are experiencing divorce, grief, loss of a job, loneliness, hospitalization, terminal illness, or any other of life's difficulties. Stephen Ministers usually meet with their care receivers once a week (for about an hour) for as long as the care receiver will benefit from the relationship.

If you have other questions, look for more information in future Viewpoints or give me a call (752-2966 ext 106 or 209-5774).



Save the date

This year the Bible Study event will be on August 23 at First Lutheran Church in Poulsbo. Mark your calendar now. Details in the August Viewpoint.



Outreach Ministry

Fast Track to Green



By: Lisa Lindholm

In May we experienced a malfunction with our website causing the need for it to be rebuilt. This unfortunate circumstance was a blessing in disguise. I had always

planned to update our website, but I thought I had a little more time. I suppose there is no time like the present.

While working on the website and this issue of *The Viewpoint* I realized that making the switch to our new 'green' newsletter was a great way to step into the redesigned website. So *The Viewpoint* is on the fast track to green.

The goal is to send the **August** edition of *The Viewpoint* to as many congregation members as

possible via email. I know that some readers will prefer to receive a paper copy of the newsletter. In order to do so you will need to let me know. Send your request to lisa@smlutheran.org and I will make sure your name stays on our postal list.

If you would like a paper copy in addition to the electronic copy they will be available on the information table or in the church office.

Peace & Justice Ministry

Tacoma Rescue Mission

By: Norm Orth

The story of the Tacoma Rescue Mission (TRM) is one of the most dramatic stories found in any city. The main campus is located at 425 S. Tacoma Way, and includes five satellite locations in Tacoma. In addition to the thousands of meals served each month people of all ages are housed, fed and rehabilitated.

Their purpose statement is: "We help all people; including clients, volunteers, donors and staff, to become their best. We provide emergency services such as shelter and food to the homeless or hurting; offer self-sufficiency programs to help lift a person from poverty and break the chains of addiction; support prevention programs and share our Christian faith."

TRM is not just a "hand out" , but a "hand up" ministry. It facilitates training programs to develop skills

for the unskilled, so they can become self sufficient.

One of those hands up programs initiated in the past year is called the Culinary Arts Program. The Mission partnered with Bates Technical College to provide the training. It consists of classes in basic food preparation, baking, health principles, occupational human relations, communications, math and safety. Students attend class at Bates campus and are at the Mission during the evenings and night. Graduates not only receive certification in food preparation, which gives them viable job skills, they also have completed or are completing the Mission's drug and alcohol recovery program.

A quote from David Curry, the director: "Transformation is the only word that truly explains these lives. Each came to the Mission a broken person, wounded by life,

by themselves and by others. None of them had any hope for the future and now they look forward to what tomorrow has to offer. These men and women also have a solid foundation in Christ and a true understanding of the important role they play in the family of Christ."

There is much more I would like to tell. I have visited the main campus a number of times, especially the graduation ceremonies of those in multiple training programs, like the one described above.

Sisters and brothers, let's walk forward boldly with generous gifts this July for this outstanding ministry. And thank you for your May gifts to the ELCA World Hunger Fund.

Lutheran World Relief

To others, through others.

By: Vangie Billingsley



Jesus was concerned about people in need and instructed us to care for them.

Through Lutheran World Relief we reach out to people in many nations who are struggling every day to provide their basic needs. The quilts and kits which we send are vital to this ministry. We can't give up. L.W.R. headquarters tells us that the need is so great that they are hoping we will raise our goals to encourage others to do likewise.

Our L.W.R. team as decided to continue our quilting sessions during the summer as much as possible. We welcome you to join us if you can give an hour or two between 9:00 a.m. and 12:00 p.m. on Mondays. The jobs are many and varied and no experience is necessary.

How can we help? Watch for bargains of the items needed for kits. Summer garage sales, estate sales and second hand stores are good sources for sheets, flannel, towels, and wash cloths. Gently used sheets are used for quilt backs and midwife kits. Flannel sheets or pillow cases are made

into receiving blankets and diapers for the layettes. Towels, wash cloths, and soap are included in health kits, layettes and midwife kits.

School Kits: July is a good time for school supplies sales.

Each school bag holds these items: 3 spiral notebooks (70 page), 6 pencils, 1 pencil sharpener, 1 eraser (big pink), 1 metal scissor (blunt, safety scissors with embedded steel blades work well), 1 ruler (inches and centimeters), 1 box of 24 count crayons, 12 sheets of construction paper (assorted colors). The school bags are being sewn now and will be filled as supplies come in. There will be an opportunity to take a bag and fill it with the kit items.

Health Kits include 1 hand towel, 1 wash cloth (dark colors are best), soap (bath size), metal finger nail file or small clipper with file included, comb (wide tooth) or pick), 6 band aids and adult tooth brush in the original wrapper. We no longer send tooth paste per headquarters request. There is a desperate need for

more health kits.

Sewing Kits: Many are used in vocational training to teach young men and women sewing skills that they can use to earn an income as well as provide clothing that is appropriate for the country receiving it. Each kit includes: 3 yards of 44" or 45" cotton or cotton blend fabric, or 4 yards of 36", one package of needles or 10 inserted into a swatch of felt or thick fabric, one spool of matching thread and 6 or more buttons.

Layettes: In refugee camps, hospitals and villages around the world, gifts of layettes convey a warm welcome to newborns and their mothers. Each kit includes: two baby shirts, two gowns or sleepers, two receiving blankets, four cloth diapers, one sweater or sweatshirt, two wash cloths, one bath-sized bar of soap and two diaper pins.

Thank you for providing much needed hope in our world. What we do for others is an answer to God's call to go into all the world. We pray that our gifts will draw all people to Him.

Stewardship Ministry

“Like good stewards of the manifold grace of God, serve one another with whatever gift each of you has received.” (1 Peter 4: 10)

By: Janeen Smith—
Coordinator of Ministry

What does it mean to be a steward of God's grace? *Steward* is one of those words we don't use everyday anymore. In biblical times, a steward was one who had responsibility and oversight of the administration of a household. Remember Joseph of the fancy coat, Joseph whose brothers sold him into slavery? He became the steward of the entire household of the Pharaoh and, by extension, of all the resources of the Egyptian people. Joseph used his God-given gifts to be a good steward of these resources so that not only the Egyptians, but many and diverse peoples as well, benefited. Grain sufficient for life was poured out into the hands, robes and packs of one person after another who came in an endless queue of need. Joseph was truly a steward of God's grace.

What does this mean for us today? I am struck by the knowledge that, in the Joseph story, Egypt and the other nations around it all lived in a climate of overabundance for several years. They had more food than they could eat year after year after year; until suddenly they didn't have enough food to sustain life year after year after year. Joseph, through his stewardship of the excess food in the fat and the lean years, recognized his responsibility to love and care for his neighbor.

In our culture we are accustomed to living in a climate of

overabundance. How are we good stewards of that wealth which is so much more than we need this day or this week or this year? How do we serve, how do we love and care for one another in the face of the bounty we possess? Do we use the great gifts we have been given to live in service to God's entire household (human and not human) or do we keep the grace-filled gifts of God to ourselves, letting them become stale and wasted in their surfeit?

I continue to be excited and humbled by the ways in which St. Mark's, a people and a place for God's grace, lives out the ethic and mandate for service that Jesus modeled and to which the writer of First Peter points. I see people with a gift of hospitality welcoming guests and those in need of food and shelter. I see people with the gift of teaching

opening up the Bible for those who are hungry to understand this book of faith. I see people with the gift of giving who recognize how they've been blessed and who give generously and sacrificially of themselves. I see people with the gift of intercession praying with confidence and certainty that God hears and answers prayer. I see people with the gift of faith who see God's Spirit working in the people and events around them and who trust that Spirit to provide direction in their life's journey.

What are your greatest gifts? Dare to envision how you, like a good steward of God's manifold grace, will serve God's church and God's whole creation with those gifts!

Stewardship (May-June 2008)

DATE	ATT.	AMOUNT
May 25	299	\$6,070.96
June 1	319	16,651.50
*June 2		635.00
June 8	415	14,469.25
June 16	324	6,960.17

*Simply Giving

Food Bank Suggestions for June:

Cookies & Juice



Worship and Music Ministry

July 2008 Music & Worship Schedule

All bell choirs, children's choirs, Chancel Choir and Celebration Ensemble are on summer break. Thank you to the Worship Team for leading worship at the 9:45 service year-round!

☞ SUNDAY, JULY 6th

8:30 Service: Special Music: Cooper, Sarah, Liz H., Olivia quartet

Cantors: Sarah, Olivia, Liz H.

11:00 Service: Special Music: Karen G./Susan V./Danielle L. trio

Cantors: Karen G. / Vangie B.

☞ SUNDAY, JULY 13th

8:30 Service: Special Music/Cantors: Liz S./Barbara/Jen

11:00 Service: Special Music: Sak (solo)

Cantors: Vangie B./ Tom G.

☞ SUNDAY, JULY 20th

8:30 Service: Special Music: Tollefson duet

Cantors: Levin/Liz S./Barbara T.

11:00 Service: Special Music: Tollefson duet

Cantors: Karen G. / Vangie B.

☞ **SATURDAY, JULY 26th** SUMMER CHOIR practice, 10:00-11:00 a.m., Sanctuary

☞ SUNDAY, JULY 27th

8:30 Service: Special Music: Adelina D./ Danielle L. duet

Cantors: Libby / Leslie / Danielle / Jen

11:00 Service: Special Music: SUMMER CHOIR (warm-up, Purple Sunday School room, 10:30 a.m.)

Cantors: Janet R. / Caresse L.



St. Mark's Summer Choir

An additional way to participate in music this summer is to join the St. Mark's Summer Choir. The summer choir is open to ALL AGES, from young children (4 year olds) to 92-year olds! Just make sure you can attend the practice, required to sing on Sunday morning. There are sign-up sheets on the Music Bulletin Board (just across from the main office) or you can contact Danielle (see Summer Music Opportunities article) or just show up at practice!! Here is the Summer Choir schedule:

JULY CHOIR: *Saturday practice, July 26th (10-11 a.m.) – Sanctuary
Sunday, July 27th, 11:00 a.m. (10:30 a.m. warm-up)*

AUGUST CHOIR: *Saturday practice, Aug., 16th (10-11 a.m.) – Sanctuary
Sunday, Aug. 17th, 11:00 a.m. (10:30 a.m. warm-up)*

A Word From Darren Kerbs

I am thrilled and honored to be at St Mark's Lutheran as your new Music Leader of Contemporary Worship. The warm welcome I've received from the congregation, Contemporary Worship Team and Danielle has been appreciated, and I look forward to serving in ministry with you.

Music has always been the cornerstone of my life. I am grateful to my parents for starting me in piano lessons at the age of four, sitting alongside me through years of practices, lessons and performances, and instilling an appreciation for the gift of music. Thankfully, our family was also actively involved in church, and throughout my childhood I could

be found early at church on many Sunday mornings, warming up in the church balcony to be a part of some liturgy or special music. Because of this, my personal relationship with God is through the blessing of music. These meaningful musical experiences continued during my PLU education and afterwards as a director of worship at a local church. The fellowship of friends that resulted was lasting and I continue to be blessed by them.

And now, I am excited that this next chapter of my life as a musician will be with you. Please, feel free to walk up to me on Sunday mornings and introduce yourself as I'd like to get to know you. Ad-

ditionally, if you have a favorite song you'd like to experience in the months ahead, I am always open to suggestions and welcome a note dropped in my mailbox. As Pastor Ruud mentioned during my inaugural service last week, I believe that it was a calling that led me to serve at St. Mark's. Perhaps this feeling is a result of my Lutheran education, but nonetheless it continues to lead how I have and will continue to make important life choices. I know the decision was Spirit led, and I look forward to being blessed by music together.

15 Minutes of Change

By: John Avery

After an extensive discussion at our Worship and Music Ministry Team meeting last month, we have decided, pending a discussion by the Education Ministry Team, to forward a recommendation to the Church Council to slightly adjust Sunday worship times. The proposed changes are as follows:

The 8:30 service – No changes. It would continue to start at 8:30 and finish at 9:30

The 9:30 service – It would change to starting at 10:00 and finishing by 11:00

The 11:00 service – It would change to starting at 11:15 and finishing by 12:15.

The reasons for these proposed changes are to allow for a smoother and less hurried exchange of services during Sunday mornings, especially between the

1st and 2nd services. It will also give worshipers an opportunity to have a few more minutes for informal fellowship.

Currently the members of the Worship Team for the 9:45 service line up outside the sanctuary awaiting the end of the 8:30 service. They barely have time to set up and check the microphones and their instruments before starting the service. Having an extra 15 minutes would give them the time to set up and also set a more worshipful atmosphere before leading the service.

Informal fellowship time before and after a service is often when we connect and check in with each other. Currently for those attending the 8:30 service, there is barely time to get a cup of coffee before heading off to adult Sunday school. This shift of 15 minutes would expand time for those worshipers as those arriving for

the 10:00 service to enjoy coffee and treats and to connect with each other.

The middle service and the 11:15 service will get out a bit later, that is true, but with the hoped for benefits, we believe it will be worth making these changes. Since the proposed schedule change does impact our education work, we have referred our recommendations to the Education Ministry Team for their consideration before it goes to the Church Council. It also gives you, time as a member, to give us and the Council your feedback. You can find the names of our team leadership and Council members in this issue of the [Viewpoint](#) if you would like to share your perspective on these proposed changes which we recommend the church implement starting in September.

July Birthdays

July 2	Roberta Wilson	July 18	Russell Oellerich
July 4	Chris Handy		Dan Payne
	Jason Sigby	July 19	Marcy Duenhoelter
	Lauren Smith	July 20	Amy McCloud
July 5	Kristine Holme	July 21	Doug Crowe
	Lou McWherter	July 22	Arthur Bowers
	Mackenzie Richards		Elizabeth Burke
July 6	Elena Espinosa		Jane Humen
	Mark Gulsrud	July 23	Cyndi Villegas
	Roger Iverson	July 24	Rudy Diaz
July 8	Frank Swanberg		Judy Droubay
July 11	Lena Kellogg		Kathleen Hasselblad
	Sydney Larson		Kevin Hayes
	Elise Michaels		Benjamin Mason
	Earl Sakrison		Olivia Sherry
July 12	Alicia Lawver	July 25	Anne Bettger
	Don Woods		Tom Geary
July 13	Michele Bench		Justin Richards
	Diana Busch	July 26	Orville Estvold
	Vivian Hamburg		Mirabella Fricke
	Ann Hruza		Theol Hoiland
July 14	Debra McQueen	July 28	Donna Chapman
July 15	Aiden Handy		Darlene Rompogren
	Deniece Hartman	July 29	Richard Larson
	Mike McKeller		John Wascher
	Jade Paulson	July 30	Luke Reinkensmeyer
July 16	Lucas Hayes	July 31	Marlene Cain
	Ava Montgomery		Anne Karola
	Ann Paulson		
	Dana Lueck-Mammen		
	Jerry Yeager		



Pastoral Acts

Correction of Address –
Gordon & Bernice Friend
905 Aaron Dr., #336
Lynden WA 98264

Weddings—
Caresse Lemieux & David Robertson
June 16, 2008

People News

Congratulations to Cooper Sherry who was the Music Leader for the *PLU Summer Conference on Pastoral Theology* in mid-June.

David J. Lueck-Mammen graduated from the University of Oregon June 14th. He received a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration with concentration in Finance and minor in economics.

Congratulations

July Anniversaries

July 1	Karen & Rob Irwin
July 3	Lou & Joe McWherter
July 4	Sherri & Tom Owzarski
	Norma & Michael Mueller
July 5	Linda & Mike McKeller
	Christy & Todd Bermensolo
July 6	Jessica & Brian Berg
July 7	Jerry Hagedorn & Jim Peterson
	Sarah & Mike Callow
July 13	Patty & Dennis Hulbert
July 14	Debbie & Tim Spaulding
July 16	Michael & Teresa Handy
July 18	Cindy & Roger Iverson
	Sarah & Cooper Sherry
	Lindsey & Chris Spaulding
July 24	Cynthia & Douglas Chaney
	Pat & Gene Keller
July 25	Mary & John Szentesi
	Anna & Chuck Ahrens
July 27	Kari & John Fricke
	Kristin & Brendan Phillips
July 29	Candie & Chris Paulson
July 30	Mary & Roger Olsen

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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Pat Buck, Financial Recording Secretary—pbuck@smlutheran.org

Anne Bettger, Director of Preschool

Becki Christian, Custodian and Hospitality Coordinator

Darren Kerbs, Worship Team Director

Caresse Lemieux, Youth Music Drama Team Leader

Phyllis Bachman, Organist/pianist

Cooper Sherry, Organist/pianist

Adam Manley, Sound Technician

Craig Cootsona, Musician

Teresa Handy, Nursery Attendant

Chuck Droubay, Maintenance Manager

Linda Wimberley, Sunday School Coordinator

Spencer Crenshaw, Facilities Assistant

Lori Neptun, Parish Nurse

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

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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. This Service is taking a summer break and will resume in September.

