



The Viewpoint

Volume 55 No. 9

September 2008

SPECIAL PULL OUT CENTER SECTION:

SEPTEMBER 2008
CALENDAR

MUSIC MINISTRY
START-UP
SCHEDULE

AND

MINISTRY FAIR
INFORMATION

Inside this issue:

(Ministry Teams are Highlighted
in Bold Print)

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See

By: Pastor Rebecca Shjerven

When I look out the window of the Fellowship Hall I see beautiful, brand new space to be used for mission and ministry. I hear the laughter of pre-schoolers and the busy activity of Sunday School kids. I see members and friends sharing stories over dinner or a cup of coffee. I imagine people from our community-- people with no previous relationship to St. Mark's-- gathering for various events, enjoying the gracious space and hospitality that we have offered. I see grand things when I look through the eyes of my heart and imagination.

What I *actually* see is quite different. What I *actually* see is chain-link fencing and black tarps, workers in hard hats and vests, a giant excavator, a Honey Bucket and a whole lot of dirt and rocks. I see all the signs that St. Mark's Lutheran Church by-the-Narrows is "Under Construction".

I wonder if this is what it is like for God. I know divine vision sees all of the chaos, suffering and pain of humanity and doesn't turn a blind eye. I suspect that creation bears little resemblance to God's original blueprint. But I also suspect that God "sees" in a much different way, as well.

"For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the LORD, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future and a hope" (Jer. 29:11)

"See I am laying in Zion a stone, a cornerstone chosen and precious; and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame" (1Peter 1:6).

God "sees" with the imagination and heart of a loving architect; one whose creation is "under construction" in and through the redemptive work of Christ Jesus. God employs many tools in this divine work: The call to repentance, the forgiveness of sins, the fruits of the Holy Spirit, the variety of gifts poured out upon us for the building up of the Body of Christ. We are privileged that we have been caught up in this holy construction. Built on the cornerstone of Christ, we, like living stones, are being built into a spiritual house (1Peter 1:5). In this house we welcome all to the abundant grace and mercy of God. In this house we practice the hospitality that we ourselves have received from God. In this house we strive to look at each other with eyes of the heart and the imagination. Together, we look for what God is doing among us. We watch God-the-architect at work, tearing down and building up, bringing about God's gracious reign.



Christian Education

“Book of Faith” Conversation Begins

By: Pastor Rebecca Shjerven

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

The ELCA and their partner, Augsburg Fortress, have published fresh materials as part of this initiative. They include a Lutheran Study Bible, as well as conversation guides that address such question as “*Where did the Bible come from*”, “*How did the Bible come to be*” and “*How did the Bible become our Book of Faith*”.



book of faith

Open Scripture. Join the Conversation.

We are excited to be part of this initiative. If you are curious about the Bible and would like to experience it in a new way, please plan to join the conversation that will begin on **Sunday, September 21st at 11:00 a.m.** in the Fireside Room. Childcare is available in the nurs-

ery (0-3 years old), along with children’s activities for 4-11 year olds in the Youth Room. If you have questions, please contact Pastor Shjerven (rebecca@smlutheran.org).



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God’s work. Our hands.

Faith in Public Life Forum Series Offered

By: Pastor Rebecca Shjerven

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

Our conversations will be facilitated by experienced leaders

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

Our September meeting will be **Tuesday, September 2** at Barb Neeb's home located at: 7221 Soundview #203, telephone [858-4598](tel:858-4598). For more information contact Helen Huseth at 253-858-2748.

Thank You to Our Volunteers

The Christian Education Team would like to thank the following volunteers for making Vacation Bible School a huge success:

- | | | | |
|------------------|------------------|-------------------|-------------------------|
| Mary Olsen | Danielle Lemieux | Regan Stewart | Traci Richards |
| Meg Henderson | Cara Reese | Phyllis Smith | Victoria Gehring |
| Spencer Crenshaw | Libby Postovoit | Alesia Torres | Kim Meade |
| Noah Compton | Gene Keller | Nancy Diaz | Ben Summerour |
| Norma Mueller | Pat Keller | Kash Serock | Glen Postovoit |
| Cindy Johnson | Luke McConnell | Kris Moor | Heather Willis |
| Elliott Crenshaw | Ruth Young | Soren Iverson | Vangie Billingsley—Sub |
| Joe Mueller | Avria Myklegard | Michelle Marshman | Carren Harris |
| Joey Newsom | Cullen Daniels | Samantha Flynn | Pastor Rebecca Shjerven |
| Char Leone | Maia Grudzien | Bonnie Wascher | |
| Kathy Adams | Michelle Pedee | Elaine Rodning | Co-Directors |
| Sela Neils | Kirsti Ruud | Kendrick O'Neill | Sheri Kurashima and |
| Kyleigh Burns | Anna Grudzien | Linda Durant | Linda Wimberley |



Sunday School

for all ages begins **Sunday, September 14th**. **Teachers and assistants** are still needed for many of our preschool (2 years) to 12th grade classes from 9:45-10:50 a.m. Please contact Linda Faaren or Linda Wimberley if you are able to help teach or want to serve as a substitute.



Summer Sunday School Comes to a Close

Thank you to all of our Summer Sunday School leaders: Linda Faaren, Sonja and Kirsti Ruud, Neal Sobania, Carolyn Floyd and Linda Wimberley, the Kurashima family, Elaine Rodning, Michelle Marshman, the Postovoit family, the Henderson-Wiley family and the Hamburg's. During these last couple months we've traveled from Mexico to China.

Confirmation Info:

1st, 2nd and 3rd Year Kick Off Party for youth and parents—**Saturday, September 13th 12:00 p.m.** at Pastor Shjerven's home in Gig Harbor.

Confirmation class for 1st and 2nd year students begins **Wednesday, October 15th from 5:45-7:15 p.m.** (soup supper from 5:45-6:15).

3rd year Confirmation:

Retreat—**Saturday, October 4-5th**

Peace Lutheran Dinner with mentors
Monday, October 20th 4:30-6:30 p.m.

Brunch for families and mentors
Saturday, October 25th 10:00 a.m. at St. Mark's

NOEL

Yes it is time to start thinking about our 2008 Sunday School Christmas program (*Sunday, December 14*) If you are interested in helping out with this program please contact Linda Faaren.

Bible Study Opportunities

A new series of weekly Bible studies will begin at Mortvedt Center, Tacoma Lutheran Community, on **Tuesday, September 9**, at 10:00 a.m. Dick Rodning will be teaching the course in the Restoration: A study of the return from the Babylonia exile. Many changes took place that set the stage for the New Testament era. Join our fellowship and make discoveries.

The Tuesday Women's Bible Study will begin studying the book of James on October 7, 2008 at 5:30 p.m. in the Fireside Room. Come join us. All you will need is your Bible and a commitment to learn more about the Word of God. Questions? Call Sherry Maiura (549-4222).



Congregational Care

Greeting From Mirjam

I am Mirjam Hofer, the new seminary intern. I will be a part of St. Mark's for the next ten months. I come from Nuremberg in Bavaria, Germany where I studied Christian Education. I am really excited that I can serve at St. Mark's with the children and youth ministries.

In my daily life I like to share my faith with others; to sing, pray and talk about God. And I also like Ice-cream (especially coffee Ice-cream) and doing outdoor sports.

I am looking forward to meeting you and a blessed year.

Thank you so much for all the welcome greetings. It is wonderful.



Parish Nurses are offering Blood Pressure Checks **Sunday, September 28th**, between services.



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

Sexuality Draft Hearings in September

The Southwestern and Northwest Washington synods will combine to hold hearings on the draft ELCA Sexuality Statement. Persons have an opportunity to give their opinions to a member of the ELCA Task Force, who in turn will share it with the task force. No discussion is scheduled at the

hearings; pre-registration is not necessary.

The schedule:

☞ Saturday, September 6: 9:30 to 11:30 a.m., Grace Lutheran, Des Moines, WA.

By: Pastor Otto Tollefson

- ☞ Saturday, September 13: 9:30 to 11:30 a.m., Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd, Olympia
- ☞ Saturday, September 27: 10 a.m. to noon, St. Paul Lutheran, Portland, OR

Warm Up For Winter

By: Judy Summers

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

What are Warm Up for Winter Appetizer Potlucks?

These events are potlucks held in someone's home where guests of their choice share appetizers, enjoy the company of St. Mark's friends and donate, if they wish, items that will keep others warm during the winter months ahead.



How you may want to be involved:

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

If you would like to be involved in these Warm Up for Winter Events (and we hope you do) there will be TWO sign up sheets in the narthex in September and October for you to sign up for hosting and/or attending an event. For more information you can call Judy Summers at [460-1442](tel:460-1442) or email her at judyirwin@earthlink.net. In Sept. there will be a MEETING for hosts/hostesses to get any questions answered. The Fellowship Team will have names of new members who might enjoy attending an event to round out your guest list. We hope you'll prayerfully consider participating in this opportunity to share with others and celebrate the friendships, old and new, that God has brought into our lives.



Are you looking for a different kind of movie? One that is funny, action-packed, a love story, entertaining, with a purpose, and without sex or violence or foul language? Then Fireproof is the movie for you.

Coming to a theater near you on Friday, September 26, 2008.

Fireproof is an action-packed love story that opens in theaters

this month, so mark your calendars. This inspiring film will have audiences laughing and crying—and sitting on the edges of their seats—as they are drawn into the world of a firefighter, his wife—and a marriage worth rescuing. Endorsed by Worldwide Marriage Encounter and Lutheran Marriage Encounter, this film shows that with a commitment to love God—and with God's help—one can

begin to understand what it means to truly love one's spouse. More details as to names of theaters and ways for groups to attend will be included in Sunday bulletins as the time draws nearer. Or contact Russ and Ann Hillman at 253-858-3100. Informational fliers are on the Welcome Desk.

"Marriage is to be held in honor among all..." Hebrews 13:4a

Thank You Lori

Thank you to Lori Neptun who, along with Ruth Saathoff, began the Parish Nursing ministry here at St. Mark's in September 2007. Lori is leaving her position as Parish Nurse as of this month. We will miss her friendship and her leadership immensely. Please join us in thanking her and blessing her and her husband, Don, as they discern what path they take, vocationally and geographically, into the future.



A Note From the Parish Nurses

By: Karen Grams, Parish Nurse

Many of you have taken the time to seek us out with questions and concerns and for blood pressure checks. You've kept us all busy, and we feel we are really touching the needs of our congregation. Thank you.

There are a few additional ways that you can help us do a better job. We are working closely with our pastors to more effectively meet your needs, specifically your needs for personal visits, both at home and in the hospital. It would help tremendously if you or someone in your family would notify the church office any time you are hospitalized. We would also like to

know when you go home from the hospital and if you would at any time like someone, pastor or parish nurse, to visit. Sometimes it's difficult to ask for assistance or to request a visit, but we also want you to know how important it is for us to be able to reach those who are in need. If you know someone who might benefit from a call or visit, please tell us. (When telling us about your friend, it's a good idea to ask your friend's permission first.) The Parish Nurses, because of our faith, calling to be health care workers, and because we are privileged to be part of the St. Mark's ministry team, want to be there for you.

Shingles Vaccine—Zostavax: *Should I get it?*

By: Ruth Saathoff—Parish Nurse

Shingles (zoster) is a painful, blistering skin rash that usually follows a nerve on one side of your body. It is caused by the same virus that causes chickenpox (varicella). After having chickenpox, the virus remains in your nervous system for many years and may become active again giving you shingles. Age and problems with the immune system may increase your chances of getting shingles.

Zostavax is a vaccine recommended by the Center for Disease Control (CDC) for adults over 60 years of age to prevent shingles. It is given as a single dose by injection under the skin. Vaccines are not perfect and a person after getting the vaccine may still get shingles. In that case, Zostavax likely may reduce the duration and severity of the disease and help prevent the nerve pain that can follow shin-

gles. If you already have had shingles, Zostavax can be given to prevent a recurrence. However, it cannot be used to treat shingles once it is active.

Your Health Care Provider (HCP) should be told about your allergies, especially to gelatin or neomycin, if you have a weakened immune system or are taking steroids. These may be contraindications to having the injection of Zostavax.

Cost of the vaccine: Medicare B does not cover the cost of the vaccine which is usually \$185. However, most Medicare D drug plans and private pharmacy plans will cover most of the cost with a co-payment of around \$30-\$40. Your HCP or pharmacist may charge an injection fee of around \$20 bringing the total cost to \$50-\$60. Call the number on



the back of your plan's card to check on the co-pay amount.

The shot is available from your HCP's office or from a pharmacist. A prescription from your HCP is needed for the pharmacist to administer the shot. Not all pharmacies provide this service; call them to check availability.

Holiday Bazaar—November 15th

Only 2 Months Away

Many people have asked ... "what sells best at the bazaars?" Variety is the best answer. Here are some ideas that have been popular in the past:

Afghans, angels, aprons, baby blankets, bird houses, candle arrangements, centerpieces, children's sweaters (crocheted and knitted), collectibles, doll clothes, doll cradles, dollhouses, dolls, fleece hats, flower arrangements, gift bags, hair pins, jewelry, manger scenes, napkins, needle-point, ornaments, painted furniture paintings, picture frames, pillows, potholders, pot scratchers, pottery, purses, quilts, scarves, snowmen, table clothes, table runners, towels, wall hangings, washcloths, and wreaths

Also, themed baskets make great gifts. Here are some ideas for baskets:

Baby items, bath, BBQ, books, candles, candy, coffee, cosmetics, cups, garden, holiday, ice cream toppings, jewelry, lotions, movies, popcorn & snacks, puzzles, sports, stationary, tea, towel and toys

This year "going green" is popular.

Cloth grocery bags or bags of any type could be in demand. Material and patterns are available for anyone who would be interested in sewing. If you have ideas or patterns on expanding the "go green" theme, please feel free to share. The bazaar is an **all congregation** event. All ideas and help are welcome. Questions... contact Pat 752-5938.

Hospitality Amid Election Frenzy

Taken from [ELCA—Stories of Faith in Action](#)

In the run up to the 2008 presidential primaries, the ELCA Washington Office coordinated a non-partisan civic engagement tour.

ELCA leaders and members gathered in church basements and on ELCA college campuses across Iowa, New Hampshire, South Carolina, and Nevada in late 2007.

Vicar Trish Volberding attended a November 2007 event at St. Andrew Lutheran Church, Cedar Rapids, Iowa, where she is the pastoral intern.

"The election atmosphere in Iowa is very unique," said Volberding, a seminarian from the Lutheran

School of Theology at Chicago.

"It's been interesting for me to see all the frenzy and what goes on here [in Iowa]."

She found the event at St. Andrew "really interesting" because she heard from ELCA members who had effected policy change through persistent efforts.

She also heard about St. Stephen's, an ELCA congregation across town that planned to provide space for both Republican and Democratic presidential caucuses in January. For years, St. Stephen's has been a polling station, with members serving as poll workers and poll watchers, and providing hospitality for voters. Your offerings help support ELCA

efforts to involve Lutherans at the grassroots level on issues such as affordable health care and housing, fair rural development, farming and trade policies.

"ELCA advocacy ministries strive to do what Jesus and the prophets did and call us to do in the Bible—work for justice by advocating on behalf of those in need," said Andrew Genszler, ELCA director for advocacy. "We work for just policies aimed at preserving God's creation and breaking the cycles that keep people in poverty."

Stewardship Ministry

Food Bank Suggestions for September: Juice and Cookies



Stewardship (July-August 2008)

DATE	ATTENDANCE	AMOUNT
July 20	269	\$ 9,663.08
July 27		8,485.31
*August 1		635.00
August 3	365	17,639.71
August 10	4671	13,882.17
*August 15		2,505.00
August 17	315	7,153.51

*Simply Giving

St. Mark's Camping Trip – July 25-27th

By: Kate Compton

Have you ever seen the stars as God meant them? Free from pollution, glittering in the black night sky, or better yet - streaking across it? It's better than any planetarium, and a group of lucky campers from St. Mark's got the chance to experience this and more during a stay at the Ohanapecosh campgrounds at Mt. Rainier National Park in July. We were blessed with beautiful weather, good friendship and fun times during this stay. Campers got the opportunity to listen to ranger talks about the native plants and animals. The little ones among us got to be "Junior Rangers" and create necklaces made of beads representing the many beautiful things in the park – soil, water, snow, trees, etc.

Hikers split off into two groups on Saturday – a more adventurous group hiking nine miles to Pack-



wood Lake, and a less adventurous (but equally enthusiastic) group that took a shorter, three mile hike to Silver Lake Falls. That evening, we enjoyed a communal potluck and spirited conversation. On Sunday, most of the group took a hike to Grove of the Patriarchs – an island of thousand year old Douglas Fir and Western Red Cedar trees which were massive in size. During all three hikes, we were treated to beautiful wildflowers, clear blue water, huge trees and foliage and lots of laughs.

From the drive to the campground, full of switchbacks with beautiful scenery around each bend, to the new friendships made, it was truly a trip to remember!



St. Mark's Ministry Fair Sunday, September 14 Share and Learn

One of our ministry goals at St. Mark's is to engage every member in transformational ministry. On Sunday morning, September 14, our fellowship space will be filled with displays of many of the ministries offered at and through St. Mark's. This is a great time to pick up brochures, to ask questions, and to get acquainted with other people engaged in ministry. Plan to share and learn between 9:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m.. Refreshments will be provided.

Stewardship

By: Janeen Smith, AIM, Coordinator of Ministry
on behalf of the Stewardship Committee

St. Mark's is a community of faith which seeks to engage each member in ministry that truly transforms his or her life into one lived in Christ Jesus. St. Paul wrote in his first letter to the Christians in Corinth, *"Each one is given a gift by the spirit, to use for the common good....Together we are the body of Christ, and individually members of him."*

I want to reiterate what I said in the July Viewpoint. That is: 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 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 trust that Spirit to provide direction in their life's journey.

These gifts and are needed so that we as a congregation can together live as the body of Christ in this place – supporting one another and reaching out into the world with the gift of the gospel. As we have received abundantly, let us give abundantly.

In September our stewardship focus is on living in

Christ by following the lead of our hearts. The ministry fair on the 14th will be an opportunity to learn and share about ministry opportunities at St. Mark's. Until that day I ask you to reflect on the following questions:

- ☞ *In what kinds of activities have you felt especially close to God?*
- ☞ *When have you felt most strongly that you have helped someone else feel God's presence?*
- ☞ *What gives you joy?*
- ☞ *What need in the world fills you with compassion?*

Perhaps at the fair you will feel moved toward learning about a new way to live in Christ through the ministries of St. Mark's. Perhaps you will help someone else find a new way of living too. We will have the opportunity on Sunday, September 28th, to respond to these urgings of our hearts by making commitments for the coming year to specific ways of serving. The Stewardship Committee invites you to participate in this process of discernment and commitment to the gospel.

Worship and Music Ministry

Music Group Start-up

Music groups on break for the summer will be starting up again in September – see below for start-up dates. If you would like to join a music group this year, please talk with Danielle Lemieux, Director of Music Ministry (danielle@smlutheran.org or 752-4966 x 105). You can also visit www.smlutheran.org to find out more about Music Ministry ensembles.

September 2008 Music Schedule

- Thursday, Sept. 11 - *Youth Music Drama Team* interest and information meeting, 5:30-7:00 p.m., Fellowship Hall –*parents required to attend.
- Sunday, Sept. 14 - *MINISTRY FAIR* – come visit the Worship and Music table for information and sign-ups for music groups
- *Youth Music Drama Team* interest and information meeting, 11:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon, Youth Room – *parents required to attend.
- Tuesday, Sept. 16 - *Bells of St. Mark's* welcome back party at Danielle's house, 6:30 p.m.. Bring your own meat and a side dish
- Thursday, Sept. 18 - *Youth Music Drama Team* AUDITIONS, 5:30-7:30 p.m., Fellowship Hall (bring a book, music w/ headphones, or homework – something quiet to do)
- Saturday, Sept. 20 - *Celebration Ensemble* party and practice, 10 a.m. at the Sherry home – bring a brunch item to share
- Sunday, Sept. 21 - *Youth Music Drama Team* make-up auditions (for those who couldn't be there on Thursday, September 18th due to school commitments) – to be scheduled with youth
- Monday, Sept. 22 - *Chancel Choir* practice starts, 7:00-8:30 p.m., Sanctuary
- Tuesday, Sept. 23 - *Tuesday Night Music Groups* begin (Babies of St. Mark's & Joyful Noise Choir – 5:15 p.m.; Jubilation Choir – 5:45 p.m.; Children's Chimes – 6:30 p.m.; St. Mark's Ringers – 7:10 p.m.; Bells of St. Mark's – 8:00 p.m.)
- Thursday, Sept. 25 - *Youth Music Drama Team* practices begin

Visit the *WORSHIP & MUSIC TEAM* table at the Ministry Fair on Sunday, September 14th to sign up for music groups and/or extra ways to help with music. You can also contact Danielle to sign-up for anything

(danielle@smlutheran.org or 253-752-4966 x105).



to all who enhanced summer worship services with special music and music leadership:

Celebration Ensemble cantors, Worship Team members, Chancel Choir cantors, Summer Choir, Phyllis Bachman, Diana Busch, Levin Conway, Tianna Crocco, Adelina Duenhoelter, Linda Faaren, Karen Grams, Elizabeth Hirschl, Annika Hoseth, Cindy Iverson, Darren, Kerbs, Caresse Lemieux Robertson, Danielle Lemieux, Kris Moor, Lily Oellerich, Matt Oellerich, Jen Olsen-Krengel, Leslie Postovoit, Libby Postovoit, Cara Reese, Janet Ruud, Kirsti Ruud, Sonja Ruud, Earl Sakrison, Cooper Sherry, Olivia Sherry, Sarah, Sherry, Jason Smith, Liz Sobania, Martin Stewart, Regan Stewart, Eileen Tellefson, Ron Tellefson, Barbara Tollefson, Scott & Donna Tollefson family, Susan Valenti, Nate Webers, Kristina Williams.

As you can see, we are very blessed with musical talent within our congregational family - praise be to God!

Music Ministry: *Other Ways to Help*

If you are unable to make a commitment to a music group at St. Mark's, there are other ways to help. Throughout the year, there's a need for the following:

- **MUSICALS:** For our children and youth musicals, we can always use help making costumes, props and sets. The children and youth also need what we call "script mentors"; people who spend one-on-one time helping those involved memorize their lines for upcoming programs. This can fit to your schedule. There are also other various jobs to help the programs run smoothly (lining up children/youth, getting them to their places, helping them put on costumes/makeup, etc.).
- **LIBRARIES:** We use a lot of music throughout the year between 10 music groups and need help organizing and filing music as we finish pieces. This can fit around your schedule.

- **SOLOISTS/SMALL GROUPS:** We love hearing soloists and small groups from time to time – an option if you cannot commit to a group but would still like to contribute to worship through music.
- **CHAPERONES:** The music groups attend conferences, concerts and theater productions throughout the year. Chaperones are always needed for these events.



Peace and Justice Ministry

A Few Dollars Go A Long Way

By: Vangie Billingsley

Many thanks to all who support the LWR Ministry –

Many of you took **school bags** to fill and we greatly appreciate your help. When you return the bags please place them in the School Kit Box under the Communication Center. (If it is full, put them in any of our other boxes.) Some of you indicated that it is difficult for you to shop. If you wish, we can still shop for you. Whatever you wish to give in support, please put in a pew envelope and mark it for Lutheran World Relief. A few dollars go a long way! Thanks!
Thanks for the sheets, fabric, blan-



kets, soap and health kit items. We can't believe how fortunate we are to have your help. We never run out of material and it all seems to arrive when we need it most.

Layettes: Your gifts of flannel have been put to good use and have been turned into baby blankets and diapers. The Layette team is working hard to fill as

many layettes as possible. They appreciate your help.

Rulers are needed: If you see a bargain and can buy a couple, we will be able to complete the kits. The School Kit team is filling the kits and for some reason we lack rulers.

September is here! We are looking forward to welcoming new quilters and helpers into our Monday morning crew. We meet from 9:00 to noon with a ½ hr. coffee or tea break from 10:30 to 11:00 a.m. There are many jobs to be accomplished in the quilt and kit making. It's delightful to work together on this vital ministry.

Hunger Walkers: *Walking to Nativity House*

By: Norm Orth

It would be quite a walk from St. Mark's to the Nativity House way down on S. Jefferson. A lot of us old folks wouldn't make it. But in another way all of us can. Young and old, we can walk forward every Sunday in September and share our abundance with the "least of these, my brethren." (Matt. 25).

These "least brethren" of Jesus include the hundreds who come to Nativity House each day for daily sustenance. Most of them walk to Nativity House to get food. They don't have cars. Many have no roof over their heads at night. Some are children.

St. Mark's has been supporting this ministry for many years. It is in our local benevolence budget as well. A number of St. Mark's members put together food and serve one day each month.

Now, all of us, young and old, can walk that short distance each Sunday to the communion rail on which the basket is placed at the time of the offering. Yes, walk forward with a number of children who do so



each Sunday.

A deep and hearty thanks to all of you who walked forward in July. This resulted in gifts of \$430.15 that went to the Tacoma Rescue Mission.

I suggest reading Matthew 25:31-46 as you contemplate your walk. It keeps me walking.

ELCA World Hunger Appeal

Dear Members of St. Mark's,

This past year, St. Mark's Lutheran Church by The Narrows was one of our top-giving congregations to the ELCA World Hunger Appeal, and I am so grateful for your partnership and leadership. **Your congregation's gifts, along with the faithful commitment from individuals, congregations and synods across our church, helped the ELCA World Hunger Appeal to exceed our 2007 income goal by over \$2 million.** Thanks be to God!

Indeed, those unexpected funds were available to us just as the impact of the current hunger crisis became most keenly felt among our partners. I'm sure you've also heard the dire news. An additional one million people could die from starvation this year, above, and beyond the nine million people who die every year. It's a frightening tragedy.

Thankfully, and with help from your congregation's giving, our church could respond to this crisis with

additional funding to our World Hunger partners to help strengthen their work fighting hunger and poverty in light of this crisis. Our partners could quickly put these funds to work to fight hunger and poverty in their communities through sustainable development strategies.

In the miracle of the loaves and fishes, we witness God's abundant love made manifest through generous giving. Similarly, your gifts to ELCA World Hunger Appeal make real God's love and mercy to our neighbors who struggle to survive amid hunger, poverty and disaster. Thank you for your partnership in this ministry and for your continued commitment to walk with our neighbors in our fight to end hunger in our world.

In Christ's service,

Kathryn Sime
Director, ELCA World Hunger and Disaster Appeal



Peace Lutheran Church, Tacoma

During 2009 Peace Lutheran Church in Tacoma will be celebrating its 100th Anniversary. This congregation was begun on the Hilltop in Tacoma by German immigrants, some of whom came to Tacoma through Russia. We are interested in obtaining names and addresses of people in the area who are descendents of these early settlers or people who have been a part of Peace Lutheran in the past. We hope to gather historical information and extend an invitation to Peace anniversary events. If someone you know has any historical con-

nection to Peace Lutheran please contact us with the name (s) and address(es) and phone numbers. Contact the Peace Lutheran Church office by phone (253) 383-1317, or email plcadmin@peacetacoma.org, or call Marilyn 253-565-0179.



Living Stones Prison Congregation

Greetings from The Living Stones Prison Congregation to St. Mark's Lutheran Church:

Thank you for coming to worship with us. Thank you for being a blessing to our congregation within the walls of W.C.C. Prison. So many of our parishioners appreciate the fellowship and presence of Christ Jesus that you have brought to us January 26, 2008.

The next date that St. Mark's is scheduled to worship with The Living Stones Prison congregation is Saturday, April 18, 2009.

Youth & Family Ministry

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

Reflection on the Rocky Boy Mission Trip

by Tony Daniels

When I signed up to be a chaperone for this year's youth mission trip to Montana I didn't know what to expect. I had never been on a mission trip before or chaperoned a group of youth. What I did know was that this would be a great experience for my son, and a great one for me to share with him. I thought the trip would be special for us, but never really put any thought into anything else. Little did I know what the Lord had in store for me, and that this would be a truly amazing adventure.

The significance of the situation didn't really hit me until we were somewhere in Eastern Washington. We were taking 12 middle school aged kids far away from home with no TV, cell phone service, Internet access or video games for a week. I remember thinking "this is going to be disastrous, what are we going to do?" As I would find out in the coming days, things would be just fine.

As we arrived in Havre, MT we were greeted by Pastor Linda and Tom, Our Saviour Lutherans maintenance man. After a quick stop at McDonalds we headed south to Rocky Boy Indian Reservation.

The week we spent at Rocky Boy was great! I knew we were going to do a lot of work, but what I did-

n't expect was the education we received on Native American culture. We had the privilege of experiencing a traditional Indian wake, elders from the church visited us and told us about their experiences, we learned how to bead, and got to participate in a circle dance. We even had the opportunity to walk the *Bear Paw Battlefield* and stand where great Chiefs had died and fought, and where Chief Joseph surrendered to the Army. This was stuff you couldn't get from a book in history class.

The work our youth did during the week was a surprise to me too. There was a lot to do and I honestly didn't think we could get it all done in a week. The kids did quite a bit of landscaping, they did some painting (on fences and each other), carpentry and a little roof repair. At times I would have thought they were older than they really were. And at that moment they would do something that would remind me how young they really were. But they represented themselves very well.

For me though, the biggest thing I got out of this trip wasn't the education, or the satisfaction from the work we did; it was the new friends I made, and the comfort the Lord provided for us, in what could have been an uncomfortable situation.

In the weeks since returning

home from Rocky Boy I often think about and am still amazed that while I was away from the comforts of home, my wife, and my girls, in a place I had never been, I found comfort. In what should have been by all accounts very uncomfortable for all of us, we felt at home. I am reminded of 2 Corinthians 1:5 'For just as the sufferings of Christ flow over into our lives, so also through Christ our comfort overflows.' I couldn't have said it better myself.



Thanks to Laura and Matt Oelrich for hosting the Rocky Boy—Mission trip to Montana, follow up lunch in August

Kid's Club Tuesday Nights (2nd -5th grade) will begin Tuesday, September 23rd and run from 5:15-5:40 each week, during music rehearsals.

JR/SR ALYVE Kick-Off Party— Saturday, September 27th. Location and Time TBA.

Kid's Coloring Page

What man of you, having an hundred sheep, if he lose one of them, doth not leave the ninety and nine in the wilderness, and go after that which is lost, until he find it?

Luke 15:4



September Birthdays

Sept. 1	Laura Spaulding	Sept. 13	Andy Albaugh Krissy Gala Joe McWherter	Sept. 23	Sophia Augino Sally Dorland Ted Hoiland
Sept. 2	Brian Berg	Sept. 14	Ren Gallier Teresa Handy Ann Hillman		Annika Hoseth Michael Menefee
Sept. 3	Leslie Young		Ryan Jones	Sept. 24	Becki Christian Davis Hartman Ann Miller
Sept. 4	Carolyn Flynn Alison Gray Eleanor Larson Lauren Meade Moniece Mueller Ruth Saathoff	Sept. 15	Jill Christen Lorraine Collen Madeline Floyd Ryan Metcalf		Jan Ruud
Sept. 5	Arlyn Anderson Brian Ronich John Szentesi	Sept. 16	Marjorie Kellogg Parker Merchant Jeffrey Spaulding	Sept. 25	Pat Buck Marni Hamburg
Sept. 6	Julie Frazier	Sept. 17	Virginia Armstrong David Anderson	Sept. 26	Alaina Spaulding
Sept. 7	Elsie Fagerlin Maizie Orth Cheryl Smith	Sept. 19	Christine Anderson	Sept. 27	Mark Meade Tish Steigerwald
Sept. 8	Leah McConnell	Sept. 20	Helen Huseth Michael Kander Grace Laubach	Sept. 28	Vic Holme Roger Jones Peggy Krusemark Cooper Sherry
Sept. 9	Eddie Lawver Jordan Patterson Stephen Spaulding	Sept. 21	Carol Lichtenberg Megan McHugh John Thomas	Sept. 29	Kristin Bergh Benjamin Gonder Roger Lueck-Mammen Greta Myklegard Jerry Paulson
Sept. 10	Ivan Larson James Reuter Joseph Zelazny, Jr.	Sept. 22	Jean Steingrebe	Sept. 30	Jeremy Franklin

September Anniversaries Pastoral Acts

Sept. 4	Katie & Ryan Jones
Sept. 5	Barbara & Rod Boyd Hildegard & Joe Filar Andi & Howard Shouse Leslie & Mark Young
Sept. 8	Marcia & Dick Moe
Sept. 9	Cindy & Mike Nelson
Sept. 10	Marcy & Martin Duenhoelter
Sept. 11	Traci & Justin Richards
Sept. 12	Christine & Karl Anderson Melissa & Brian Laubach
Sept. 14	Gayle & Carl Martelli
Sept. 18	Donna & Bob Chapman
Sept. 19	Ladena & Richard Larson Nancy & Marty McClelland Lora Gross & Bob Stivers
Sept. 23	Anne & Dave Bettger
Sept. 27	Bebe & Tom Chapman
Sept. 28	Karen & Shane Silverthorn

Change of Address –

Ilmar Reinvald
PO Box 6367
Kamuela HI 96743
Ph. 808-887-1533

Rex & Susan Merchant
2214 Gardner Road
Hamilton OH 45013
513-535-1135

Parker Merchant
2950 Bixby Ln., Apt. A315
Boulder, CO 90303

Baptisms –

Hailey Rae Bundy—(daughter of Katina & Anthony Bundy)
Born – July 1, 2008
Baptized – August 17, 2008
Sponsors – Shanna Psomostithis, Matthew Gray

Gracie Mae Smith—(daughter of Jeanne & Jason Smith)
Born – April 8, 2008
Baptized – August 24, 2008
Sponsors – Steve Wolbrecht, Jennifer Gilbert

Carl John Finstuen—son of Ingrid & Andrew Finstuen
Baptized – August 31, 2008
Sponsors – Peter Finstuen, James & Beth Skillen

Death –

Norman Hokenstad
Died 7/23/08
Memorial Service
7/28/08
(at Tacoma Lutheran
Retirement Ctr.)

Theol Hoiland
Died 8/3/08
Memorial Service
8/11/08

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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 Laura Oellerich, Director of Preschool
 Becki Christian, Custodian and Hospitality Coordinator
 Darren Kerbs, Worship Team Director
 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
 Lori Neptun, Parish Nurse
 Ruth Saathoff, Parish Nurse
 Karen Grams, Parish Nurse
 Helen Bache, Parish Nurse
 Joan Torfin, Parish Nurse
 Christie Merry, Bookkeeper

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A Place for Grace

We're on the Web!
www.smlutheran.org

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.

