

Learn, Serve and Grow

2014-2015 Ministry Opportunities at

St. Mark's Lutheran Church

by The Narrows



A place for grace.

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Learn, Serve and Grow

Our Mission Statement

We are a people and a place for God's grace, claimed and called by Jesus Christ to worship, witness, learn, serve, and reach out with words and deeds of love.

Our Vision

- St. Mark's is a place in which every person is spiritually nourished.
- St. Mark's is a congregation in which all persons are active in our mission.
- St. Mark's is a church that is part of a larger, more diverse human community in which we both offer and receive gifts.

ADULT FAITH FORMATION

Adult Faith Formation Committee

Oversees the activities and mission of Adult Faith Formation. If you enjoy deep consideration and conversation of how adults form and grow in faith, please join the committee of people who engage in these questions and plan spiritual growth opportunities for adults at St. Mark's.

Contact: Mary Jo Larsen, larsenmj@plu.edu

Sunday Mornings

For specific information on topics, please check the bulletin board outside the Church Office, Parish Life or the Website.

Sunday 9:45am Adult Forum Series (Sept-Jun)

A lively, discussion-based gathering designed to challenge, enrich and engage us with the world around us. Topics and hosts vary week-to-week.

Sunday 11am Bible & Theology (Sept-Jun)

This series-based class offers the opportunity to dig into scripture and Christian tradition through study and conversation. All are welcome.

Midweek Gatherings

1st Mondays Gig Harbor Circle Study

This group meets the first Monday of the month at various homes.
Contact: Suzy Reynolds, 253-852-0593.

Tuesday 11am Study at Mortvedt Center, Tacoma Lutheran Retirement Center

Join Pastor Dick Rodning in a study of the Psalms.
Contact: Dick Rodning, 253-761-9198

Tuesday 5:15pm "Fully Alive" Bible Study (Fireside Room)

This fall, Linda Durant will lead us in the series, "Don't Sing Songs to a Heavy Heart."

Wednesday 9:30am Women's Bible Study (Parish Commons Classroom)

Wednesday noon Luncheon Bible Study (Parish Commons Classroom 1)

Conversation is guided by the pastor who will be preaching, and by the insights and questions of the group. All are welcome for lunch and discussion.

Wednesday 6:15pm Midweek Study & Renewal (Fireside Room)

Grab a bite to eat in the narthex and come to the Fireside Room for discussion and reflection on a variety of topics. This series-based group is lead by Pastor Shjerven.

CHILDREN & YOUTH FAITH FORMATION

Children & Youth Faith Formation Committee

Oversees the activities and mission of Children and Youth Faith Formation. A team of leaders who are involved with children or youth ministries and interested in the design and planning of faith formational environments with children and youth. We meet together every other month and share what contributes to children and youth growing, serving, and learning in faith and strive to apply St. Mark's ministry goals in children and youth settings.

Contact: Ingelaurie Lisher, ingelaurie@smlutheran.org, 253-752-4966 x104, Council representative Libby Postevoyt.

Volunteering in Children's Faith Formation

Adults and Sr. High Youth called to help children grow in faith and gifted with love of children and abilities to relate with them in faith are always needed. **Current need:** Substitute Assistant needed to help put together materials week to week (Sr. High Youth or Young Adult would be great!)

Also, although leadership is provided, we'll engage adults who attend the class in helping to tell the story out loud using the Holy Moly Bible Storybook.

Potential volunteers can download the "Invitation to the Ministry of Teaching and Faith Formation with Children" on the church website.

Sunday Mornings with Children

Ages: 3 years old - Grade 5

Contact: Char Leone, char.leone@smlutheran.org, 253-468-5281

Each Sunday, September - June, 9:45-10:45am (9:30 - 9:45am Gathering and greeting time in designated rooms)
Children's Faith Center Rooms

Children are encouraged to attend age-level Sunday school classes where they will actively learn and share Bible stories. Besides engaging in God's story, children also learn what it means to grow in faith and discipleship through faith practices, including prayer, worship, service, and giving.

Preschool Ages 3 and 4: Music, play time, Bible stories, and activities are all part of the Sunday school hour.

Kindergarten-age thru 5th Grade - Divided into groups (Kindergarten/K-age; 1st & 2nd; 3rd and 4th; and 5th grade)
Each week children have approximately 40 minutes of class time and rotate times of music and service or joining the congregation for communion.

Pick up a family information packet and registration form at the start of our Sunday school year or in the CFC Office.

Wednesday Church Night with Children: "Holy Moly"

Nursery Care - Infants to 4 years

Holy Moly Bible Story time - Children ages 5 to 8; 6:15 - 7:15pm

Children are welcome at Prayer Service starting at 7:30pm

Contact: Char Leone, char.leone@smlutheran.org, 253-468-5281

"Holy Moly! Bringing the Bible to Life." Meet in the Narthex after Church Night Dinner and we'll go to the Children's Faith Center for Holy Moly! interactive Bible stories. This year we'll cover Abraham & Sarah, Rebekah & Isaac, Jacob, Joseph, Naomi & Ruth, David, and Solomon. Led by Char Leone and Randi Kander.

CHILDREN & YOUTH FAITH FORMATION

Sunday Mornings with Youth

Contact: Ingelaurie Lisher, ingelaurie@smlutheran.org, 253-752-4966 x 104

6th Grade Sunday School

Discussion is focused on the Catechism including the Lord's Prayer, Apostles' Creed and how it applies to everyday life.

Sunday Mornings 9:45-10:45am in the Youth Wing.

7th & 8th Grade Confirmation

7th and 8th grade students meet on Sunday mornings in small groups.

Ninth grade students meet September to October to prepare for the Affirmation of Baptism service, held on Reformation Sunday (the last Sunday in October).

Sunday Mornings 9:45 to 10:45am, Youth Wing.

High School Sunday School

Thematic discussions on faith and life. Video resources are often used

Sunday Mornings 9:45 - 10:45am in the Fireside Room

Nursery Care

Youth grades 6-12th (with Babysitting training and First Aid CPR) are invited to work/volunteer to serve in our church nursery throughout the year. Adults/Parents are also invited to volunteer in our nursery on Sunday mornings during worship. Infants and toddlers up to 4 years old are welcome during Worship and church activities.

Contact: Ingelaurie Lisher, ingelaurie@smlutheran.org, 253-752-4966 x 104

JR ALYVE

Grades 6-8

This is a time of fellowship, discussion, prayer and fun.

The JR ALYVE group also meets at various times throughout the year for fellowship and service activities.

Youth Group (LOL) meets 1st & 3rd Thursdays, 5:30-6:15pm, Dinner 6:15-6:45pm

SR ALYVE

Grades 9-12

SR ALYVE Youth Group meets at various times throughout the year for fellowship and service activities. See the monthly calendar or the Parish Life on the youth board.

Youth Group meets for breakfast 1st Sunday of each month at 11am in Youth Room.

Leaders for Children & Youth

Ages: 21 and older

Adult volunteers are needed to assist with various music and youth events.

All participants are subject to background checks and personal interviews.

Summer Youth Ministries

- **Montana Mission, Jun 27- July 3rd/4th, 2015**, Grades 6-9 (completed)
The summer mission trip provides opportunities for Middle School youth to learn leadership skills, build relationships and serve the larger church by helping the community of Our Savior's Lutheran Church on the Rocky Boy Reservation. Contact: Bruce Sadler, bcsadler@harboret.com, 253-241-5878
- **Vacation Bible School, August 3-7, 2015**, Ages: 4 years-old through Grade 5
Each year at the beginning of August, we reach out into the community around us to share the good news of Jesus. All parts of our facility are used as members and non-members alike, of all ages, learn while having a great deal of fun. Teachers, assistants, craft leaders and helpers, snack providers, and musicians all are needed.
- **2015 ELCA Youth Gathering, July 15-19, 2015**, Grades 8-12 (currently)
See the Youth Board for registration materials and information

CHILDREN & YOUTH FAITH FORMATION

Milestones & Markers

Meaningful, memorable moments woven into a life lived in faith. Tell the stories. Bless the days. Share the prayers

PLEASE NOTE THESE DATES ON YOUR CALENDAR.

Communion Instruction, Young Children & Parent Sept. 28, 9:45-11:00am, CFC, Rm. 4

Children learn they are welcome at the table for Holy Communion as they participate in an age-appropriate learning experience along with their parents.

Volunteers: Needed to help bake bread with ages 4-6

Interactive Learning about prayer and The Lord's Prayer, with 1st graders and parents To be scheduled in January

Growing in relationship to God through prayer. Children and parents will explore The Lord's Prayer together using the book "I Can Pray with Jesus." Together they will also make a prayer cube as a reminder of different types of prayer.

3rd Grade Bibles Palm Sunday, March 29, 2015

9:45 Worship ~ St. Mark's children in 3rd grade receive their own NRSV Bible during Palm Sunday worship. Bibles are presented by parents and congregation.

11:00 - 12:00 in Parish Commons, for 3rd graders, parents, and others who have guided them in faith.

Created in God's Image ("CGI") with 5th Graders and parents ~ To be scheduled in May

Markers & Blessings learning event involving 5th grade children and their parents as children get ready to progress to youth ministry. Together parent and child will create a mosaic mirror as a reminder they are created in God's image ("CGI").

LEARNING & SERVING OPPORTUNITIES

Annual and special one-time projects for Children, Youth & Families throughout the year

Oct 5 – Associated Ministries Hunger Walk

Oct 19 – Assemble kits for Lutheran World Relief

Nov – Donate food at Thanksgiving time

Dec 14 – Children's Christmas Program & Advent Music Festival

Volunteers are always needed!

If you can help in any way, contact Char Leone char.leone@smlutheran.org

Preschool

Ages: 2 1/2- PreK, begins September and follows the Tacoma Public Schools district calendar.

Learning, growing, and sharing in God's love is at the heart of St. Mark's Preschool philosophy. We emphasize the hands-on approach for all of our learning experiences. We support a developmentally appropriate program which allows children to grow and develop at their own rate. We believe early childhood should be a time of fun, warmth, security, exploring, and discovery. Preschool children are creative and receptive; the staff strives to nurture and encourage these qualities in the children who attend. The curriculum includes sharing and conversation time; stories, songs, and fingerplays; activities and crafts; games and large muscle activities; field trips throughout the community; baking, science and nature activities; family nights; chapel; exposure to shapes, colors, numbers, and letters; and celebration of birthdays, holidays, and cultural events.

Contact: Laura Oellerich, preschool@smlutheran.org, 253-752-4929

STEWARDSHIP & FINANCE

Stewardship Committee

Emphasizes stewardship as the faithful, conscientious, grateful response to all the gifts God gives us in life. Promote opportunities for growth in the stewardship of time, abilities and financial resources through education and inspirational activities throughout the year. Help the congregation to gather all the resources we need as a church to live out our mission locally, nationally and globally. Lead congregation through a renewal process to help clarify our commitment to grow in our faith and to serve out of our unique gifts and abilities.

Meets the 2nd Tuesday monthly at 6:30pm

Contact: James Gallegos, 253-267-1552

Finance & Operations Committee

Adults

- Oversees management of the church's finances including implementing sound fiscal management procedures and an annual audit.
- Responsible for accurate record keeping of contributions of members, including offerings and financial gifts, and appropriate reporting of the same.
- Provides monthly financial reports to Church Council and prepares the preliminary budget for Church Council and congregation approval.
- Monitors the invested assets of the congregation and the building mortgage.

Contact: Larry Bitter, 253-853-3741

Property Team

All Ages

- Helps us to be good stewards of all the physical properties that have been entrusted to us.
- Regular maintenance and improvements to the building and grounds.
- Join on a weekly basis or choose a special task and do it on your own time schedule.
- Currently there is a Thursday crew which gathers every week to do a variety of tasks, both indoors and out.
- Enjoy good fellowship around the coffee pot in the kitchen.

Contact:
Chuck Droubay, 253-759-6720

Meets Thursday mornings.

Care of Creation

All Ages

- Provide leadership to the St. Mark's family in fostering and modeling environmental stewardship within the church community as well as within the broader community.
- Past activities have included current topic discussions at the Adult Forum on Sunday, Summer day hikes, and camping trips.
- Suggestions welcome for future activities that celebrate God's creation and encourages all members to join in our activities.

Contact:
Tom Hulst, thulst@harbornet.com,
253-460-2683

Children's Stewardship

Children will hear more about the faith practices of "Giving" and "Sharing" during Sunday school.

They are given offering envelopes and encouraged to donate from their own funds (if possible) towards St. Mark's hunger and poverty benevolences. Families are encouraged to participate in Stewardship-sponsored learning events, including cross-generational events that may be scheduled during the year at the 11am hour.

St. Mark's encourages children and families to practice "Share, Save, Spend" with a divided piggy bank and Thrivent's helpful resource entitled "Parents, Kids and Money."

Children will complete a special "Learn, Serve, Grow" response form and return it on Commitment Sunday.

CONGREGATIONAL CARE

Congregational Care Committee

Ages: All confirmed members

This committee encourages the development and maintenance of a sense of belonging at St. Mark's. The committee assists all members to participate in the ministries of St. Mark's so as to manifest the unity given to the people of God in Christ. The committee is concerned with the well-being of people with vocation, reaching out to inactive members, and supporting people through various life situations.

Contact: Maggie Conley, memacconley@gmail.com, 253-581-8985

Baptismal Quilts

St. Mark's gives the gift of a quilt to those who are baptized here. Do you quilt? If you are interested in making baptismal quilts please contact the church office at 253-752-4966

Gay Straight Alliance

All Ages, meets 3rd Monday, 6-8pm for potluck and discussion.

The GSA group's identity statement is: "We are an intergenerational gathering of St. Mark's members and friends who acknowledge and celebrate human diversity, particularly 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 and strive to make this gathering a place of safety and healing for all who participate."

Contact: Jan Ruud, jruud@smlutheran.org

Cooks Club

Open to all who are interested in building fellowship through cooking, setting up, and dish washing for various meals needed at St. Mark's and twice a year at Peace Lutheran Church for those in need. The Cooks Club has also met to learn new recipes and cook a meal for themselves.

Contact: John Wascher, jwascher@mac.com, 253-503-6765

Bus Driver

Ages: 25-69

St. Mark's offers transportation on Sunday mornings for people who are unable to drive. The Tacoma Lutheran Retirement Center allows qualified drivers to use one of their buses. More drivers are needed. If you are accustomed to driving larger vehicles, please consider joining this team.

**Seeking Coordinator: Please call the church office you are interested. 253-752-4990

Visting the Homebound

Those who for one reason or another are unable to participate in congregational worship and activities are kept in contact with their church family through regular visits. Team members who are able meet monthly to ensure that we know and are responsive to the needs of our members who are homebound. Your gifts in this ministry are needed and welcome.

Contact: Pastor Phil Rue, philmaryrue@comcast.net, 360-790-5489

Stephen Ministry

Ages: 18 and older

Stephen Ministers supplement the pastoral staff by providing one-on-one care to people experiencing life transitions and challenges (for example: impending death, recovery from illness, loss of a job or a relationship, dealing with a chronic illness).

Contact: Sarah Callow, 253-566-9233

CONGREGATIONAL CARE

Parish Nursing

- Open to any health care provider
- Help with Blood Pressure Sundays, and/or writing articles for the Bridge newsletter.
- Work to address the physical, emotional, and spiritual needs of the congregation.
- Coordinate health programs and facilitate the use of church and community resources.
- Parish Nurse office: Music Wing off the upper parking lot. A Parish Nurse is available on Wednesday evenings during Church Night activities for consultations and blood pressure checks by appointment.

Contact: Patty Reinkensmeyer, pardcr@comcast.net, 253-857-7977 or call church office 253-752-4996

Women of St. Mark's

Women of All Ages

- Active group hosts fall gathering, Advent brunch, and spring luncheon or tea, all with wonderful programs, food, crafts, and outreach projects.
- In November, this group hosts the annual fundraiser, the Holiday Bazaar. The bazaar profits are divided between our Church needs and Outreach.
- In addition, they support the ongoing work of Lutheran World Relief and share their talents with many of the ministries of St. Mark's.

Contact: Bonnie Wascher, bwascher@mac.com, 253-503-6765 or Carol Paulson, 253-564-6838, iamnanaberry@hotmail.com

Prayer Shawl Ministry

When you combine knitting and praying, what do you get? A tangible, warm, beautiful sign of God's love to wrap around someone who is hurting. Can be done at home, while waiting for appointments or in groups.

Contact: Jan Pence, janpence@smlutheran.org, 253-752-4996,

Sunday Morning Care Ministry

- Welcome and reach out to visitors and newcomers with conversation and care.
- No set Sundays or committees, but a commitment to outreach during Coffee Hour on every Sunday that you are at St. Mark's.

Contact: Jan Ruud, jruud@smlutheran.org, 253-752-4966

Office Support & Odd Jobs

(Helpful and Occasional Tasks)

- **Office Support**, occasional mailings, answering phone and other office duties
Contact: Jan Pence, janpence@smlutheran.org, 253-752-4966.
- **Pew Clean-up and Straightening**, weekly—contact Jan Pence
- **Prayer Station**, weekly—contact Jan Pence
- **Food Bank**: Take food from the bins near the office to the Food Bank at Mason United Methodist Church, 2710 N. Madison, Tacoma, WA 98407. Wednesday (noon to 4pm) or Saturday (11:30am-3pm). Phone 253-756-4974. (weekly or bi-monthly)
- **Kitchen Help**, contact Becki Christian 253-686-1486 or Mike Trygstad 253-985-1992
 - Sunday coffee hour
 - Wednesday evening meals (Sept-June)
 - Sunday luncheon (Sept-June)
 - Other events (funerals, receptions, etc.)

PEACE & JUSTICE

Peace & Justice Committee

All Ages

Equips, motivates and supports the members of St. Mark's in extending compassion to the poor and oppressed and to persons in need and advocating for them as needed.

Contact: John Avery, 253-759-6365

Fair Trade

All Ages

Fairly Traded coffee, tea and chocolate are available for purchase the first Sunday of each month. Fall Fair Trade Bazaar in Nov or Dec, where other items from all over the world may be purchased.

Contact: Christine Harris,
christine@raincity.com,
253-686-3047

Peace Community Center

All Ages

Twice a year St. Mark's members prepare and serve a meal. Members are also involved with tutoring local students each week.

Contact: Phil Birkeland,
p.birkeland@comcast.net,
253-564-9109 or John Wascher,
253-503-6765, jwascher@mac

Habitat for Humanity

Youth & Adults

St. Mark's builds as a group at least one day a year in our local community and we travel to other countries through the Habitat Global Village Program.

Contact: Tom Geary, TWGeary@aol.com or
Jan Ruud, jruud@smlutheran.org

Christmas Family Project

All Ages

St. Mark's individuals provide Christmas gifts and food to low-income families in our area and help to provide a very merry Christmas.

Contact: Judy Droubay, jcdroubay@hotmail.com,
253-759-6720 or Mary Jo Holum, 253-752-3304

Mexico Mission

Ages: High School Youth & Adults, last week of June

Each year, an inter-generational group travels to Mexico to support the work of local Mexican congregations seeking to share the love of Christ with their neighbors. This involves building houses for needy families, sharing food with the hungry, providing snacks and daily activities for children, helping with the renovation of facilities, and serving in any other way that is needed on a year-to-year basis.

Diverse talents are needed! Skill with building, language, culinary, music, ability to work with children, and more gifts that enhance the overall mission. Interest forms are available in January of each year and the mission team meets on a regular basis from March to June.

There are many ways for the whole congregation to support the Mexico Mission, including help with the dinner and auction that serves as the principle fundraiser in early May.

Contact: Jan Ruud, jruud@smlutheran.org

Lutheran Volunteer Corps, Local Support Committee

All Ages

LVC offers a one-year opportunity for spiritual and personal exploration while working for social justice, living in intentional community and simplifying their lifestyles. The Local Support Committee provides ongoing hospitality and encouragement to volunteers placed in Tacoma, addressing any needs that come up throughout the year and raising funds for the ongoing work of LVC.

Contact: Ray Shjerven, rshjerven@comcast.net

PEACE & JUSTICE

Advocacy Team

All Ages

The team meets a few times a year to learn about and address issues of hunger and homelessness. We stay in contact with our elected officials, urging them to support legislation that remembers and supports those who are most vulnerable in our midst.

Contact: Pastor Rebecca Shjerven,
rebecca@smlutheran.org

Bread for the World

All Ages

BFW is a collective Christian voice urging our nation's leaders to end hunger at home and abroad. As a congregation, we participate in an annual Offering of Letters and seek to educate ourselves on issues of hunger.

Contact: Herman Diers,
raindiers@harbornet.com

Nativity House

Ages: Youth & Adults

St. Mark's serves a mid-day meal every 4th Saturday to an average of 200 people at this drop-in day shelter in Tacoma. Families to serve together and really make difference in the lives of those who are less fortunate. If you are unable to serve the meal, you may donate bottles of juice or cookies (homemade especially desired). Place in the bin in the narthex the week before we serve.

Donations of clothing are occasionally needed—watch the Parish Life for updates.

Contact: Melanie Summerour
summerour@msn.com,
253-857-8872

Lutheran World Relief

All Ages

A group meets weekly at St. Mark's to sew and tie quilts. If you are not available on Mondays, you could work at home cutting fabric squares, sewing diapers or creating baby hats. The group also creates Quilts, Health Kits, School Kits, baby hats, Layette and Midwife Kits. Donations can also be made to the Lutheran Boxcar Fund.

Contact: Celesta Smith or Elaine Rodning, 253-761-9198, decnelan@att.net
Special Events: Jack and Catherine Terrill, catherineterrill@comcast.net,
253-274-0891

Phoenix Housing Network

All Ages

St. Mark's serves as home to homeless families for two weeks during the year. Help is needed with all areas of hospitality: set-up, clean-up, food preparation, visiting, overnight hosting. The rewards are great as relationships are formed with our neighbors from Pierce County.

Contact: Paula Friedmann, pfzebra@me.com

Empowering Life

All Ages

This faith-based non-profit works to support the incarcerated women at Washington Corrections Center in Purdy and at Mission Creek Center for Women in Belfair. Programs include one-on-one life-coaching, pastoral care, mentorships during the re-entry process, classes, and therapeutic arts workshops.

Contact: Joan Nelson, joan2nelson@comcast.net

DeLong Programs

All Ages

BackPack Program—Donate specified food to go home each weekend with students from DeLong Elementary who are at-risk for hunger OR pack sacks of food each Wednesday at 1:15 at St. Mark's.

Contact: Jean Steingrebe, jsteingrebe@gmail.com

Art Enrichment—Work in teams of two to present Art project once-per-month. No need to plan the project—it will be all ready for you to teach!

Contact: Kim Meade, kimberly.meade@comcast.net

Lunch Buddies—Eat and enjoy conversation with students who are in need of extra adult attention and care.

Contact: Mary Olsen, 253-752-2844, maryolsen@yahoo.com

OUTREACH

Outreach Committee

Youth & Adults

Meets: 1st Tuesdays of January, March, May, July, September, November at 6:30pm

A new mission this year to focus attention on the congregational goal of being a public presence in our neighborhood. This is an opportunity to be part of an emerging ministry at St. Mark's! Explore ways to better understand and connect with the people who live in the vicinity of our church and to reach out to them with words and deeds of love.

Contact: Linda Dieckhoff, ldieckhoff@comcast.net, 253-376-1446



Faith Journey Companions

Ages: Youth & Adults

Members of St. Mark's walk side by side with new people in a Faith Journey that leads them to baptism or affirmation of baptism.

Contact: Pastor Jan Ruud, jruud@smlutheran.org, 253-752-4996



Technology Team

Ages: Youth & Adults

The Technology Team at St. Mark's is a volunteer group of technology professionals and enthusiasts who partner with the staff and ministry teams to further ministry goals through technology. Some projects that we have worked on include: installing software, computers, servers, printers, and networking components, telephone systems, website and e-mail support, procurement and strategic planning. We also provide some technical assistance to the staff as needed. We value diverse technical backgrounds and welcome anyone with enthusiasm for technology, ideas on how St. Mark's can use it, or simply a willingness to share your "nerdy" gifts with us!

Contact: Levin Conway, 253-572-5158

Welcome Table Host

All Ages

The Welcome Center in the Narthex is our one-stop information center for all who visit St. Mark's on Sunday morning, whether they are first-time or returning visitors, or long-standing members of our congregation.

As a Welcome Table Host, you'll be an integral part of making people comfortable, welcome, and "known" at our church. Hosts serve during Sunday Morning Coffee Hour and provide hospitality and conversation for those who join you. This role does not require an extensive knowledge of what is happening at St. Mark's; Welcome Table Hosts are there to help people feel at home here and to learn more about us.

If you are called to a ministry of hospitality, enjoy meeting new people, or simply want to help foster a sense of community in our church home, please let us know! This is a wonderful opportunity for anyone willing to "Reach Out with Words and Deeds of Love."

Contact: Linda Dieckhoff, ldieckhoff@comcast.net, 253-376-1446



WORSHIP & MUSIC

Worship and Music Committee

Ages: Youth & Adults Meets 2nd Tuesdays, January, March, May, July, September, November, 6pm

Support pastors and music staff in nurturing the worship life of the congregation. Advise, encourage, assist, share feedback and make appropriate recommendations which enhance congregational worship and music in ways that reflect our rich Lutheran heritage. Contact: Jon Rodin email: jonanddawn@harbornet.com 253-627-5186

Music Ensembles... Unless otherwise noted, contact Cooper Sherry, coop-n-sarah@nventure.com, 253-752-0554	
Celebration Ensemble 8:30am Service Ages: Adults Rehearsals: Thursdays, 7:30-9pm and Sunday, 7:45am	Acts as liturgical host through musical ministry, preparing anthems, psalms, calls to worship, and hymns to support and enhance the worship life of the congregation. The eclectic musical nature of blended worship involves many styles and genres, including many global traditions from faith communities around the world.
Praise Team 9:45 Service Ages: Adults Rehearsals: Wednesdays, 6-7:30pm	For those with a desire to lead worship and praise God through contemporary Christian popular music. Music repertoire also reaches to other genres, including blended, gospel and global. This group leads worship and rehearses every week, year-round, and collaborates several times a year with other St. Mark's ensembles. Contact: Darren Kerbs, darren@smlutheran.org
Canticle Choir 11am Service Ages: Adults Rehearsals: Last Sunday of the month, 7-8pm	Prepare traditional classical choral music for the 11am service. The full group prepares one or two anthems per month, but members may serve weekly on rotating quartets as song leaders in worship. Rehearsal time is limited, so singers with choral reading skills and vocal confidence are needed.
St. Mark's Chorale All Ages Rehearsals: Once a month, see Cooper or the Church Office for specific schedule.	A chance for families and friends of all ages to come together to sing. No prior experience or skills necessary. The goal is to bring as many people from the larger St. Mark's community together once each month to form the biggest choir possible to prepare an anthem for the 11am service. Join us one of these months!
Choir Librarians	Help needed to sort and file music for various choirs. Training available.
Bells of St. Mark's Ages: Adults and Youth Rehearsals: Thursdays, 6-7:20pm	Intermediate to advanced bell choir. For success, ringers need to read music and commit to weekly rehearsals, missing when only absolutely necessary. No bell ringing experience is necessary to join - all bell techniques will be taught during rehearsals. Rehearses weekly, Sept-Jun.
Liturgical Bells Team 11am Service	Opportunity for all who currently ring or have rung bells in the past to lead worship through the liturgy and hymns at the 11am worship service. Contact the Church Office for more information. 253-752-4996

Children & Youth Music Opportunities... Begin Oct 1, unless otherwise noted

Sing Together! Age 0-2 (w/parent/guardian) Wednesday 5-5:25pm, Children's Faith Center	Little Angels Choir Ages 3-5 (preschoolers) Wednesday 5-5:25pm Children's Faith Center	Joyful Noise Choir K - 2nd Grade Wednesday 5:30-6pm, Choir Room	Upper Elementary Choir Grades 3 - 5 Wednesday 6-7pm, Choir Room
Infants, toddlers, and young preschoolers experience the joy of music, accompanied by their parent(s).	Independent preschoolers and pre-K kids use music and movement techniques to find their singing voices.	Learn unison anthems and hymns and share these with the St. Mark's community during Sunday morning worship.	Learn to read music and use healthy vocal techniques to lift their voices to God. Oct-Dec, sing at 11am Service.
Youth Bell Choir Grades 6-12, 2nd & 4th Thursdays, Oct 9-Dec 2014, 5:30-6:15pm Learn and practice bell skills, led by Jon Rodin.	Music for Worship Children and youth are invited to share pieces they've learned for instrument or voice during worship services and/or church events. A great opportunity to share musical gifts with your faith community!		

Sunday Morning Worship

There are a variety of ways to be involved in Sunday morning worship in addition to music groups. Training is available! Contact the church office unless otherwise noted. 253-752-4966 jan.pence@smlutheran.org.

Greeters All Ages	Greeters meet worshippers as they enter the church. Warmly greet, welcome, acknowledge, and provide help and information as needed.
Ushers All Ages	Ushers meet worshippers as they enter the sanctuary. Distribute worship bulletins and oversee congregational physical well-being during worship. Guide worshippers to open seats, direct congregation during communion, gather prayer requests cards and offering, and count attendance.
Lectors (Scripture Readers) Ages: Confirmed Members	Read the lessons during Sunday morning worship. The lessons are sent to the readers the week before the service so you can familiarize yourself with the text.
Communion Servers Ages: Confirmed members	Assist pastors to distribute wine, juice, and bread during the Lord's Supper.
Acolytes (11am Worship) Ages: Grades 3-7	Acolytes process in with the pastor, light candles on the altar, hold the Bible for the Gospel reading, serve the gluten-free wafers at communion, extinguish candles at the end of the service, and process out with the pastor. Arrive by 10:45am. A pastor or acolyte coordinator will help them find a robe to wear and make sure they have a candle lighter that is in good condition. Pastor Ruud will provide training and orientation for all who sign up.
Altar Guild Ages: Youth and Adults (Children welcome with adult supervision)	Sign up for a variety of responsibilities, according to personal schedules. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prepare Sunday Communion – 1st shift 8:05 to 9:45am, 2nd shift 10:45 to 12:15pm. A shared responsibility once or twice a month. • Stock wafers, wine, grape juice, and candles – as necessary; approximately 4 times per year. • Pick up/deliver communion bread—a shared responsibility; weekly. • Refill/replace candles and candle oil – can be shared responsibility; weekly. • Clean and press communion linens – a shared responsibility; weekly. Contact: Linda Dieckhoff, ldieckhoff@comcast.net, 253-376-1446
Greeters All Ages	Greeters meet worshippers as they enter the church. Warmly greet, welcome, acknowledge, and provide help and information as needed.
Ushers All Ages	Ushers meet worshippers as they enter the sanctuary. Distribute worship bulletins and oversee congregational physical well-being during worship. Guide worshippers to open seats, direct congregation during communion, gather prayer requests cards and offering, and count attendance.

ELECTED & APPOINTED POSITIONS

Church Council

Confirmed Members, elected by the congregation

General oversight of the life and activities of this congregation. Lead the congregation in stating its mission, does long range planning, sets goals and priorities, and evaluates its activities in light of its mission and goals.

Contact: Derek Smith, derek.smith26036@gmail.com

Endowment Fund Committee

Confirmed Members, elected by the congregation

Meets quarterly in the evening to manage St. Mark's Endowment fund and to plan educational events about the many ways to leave a legacy at St. Mark's.

Contact: Don Reinkensmeyer, 253-857-7977,
pandcr@comcast.net

Leadership Development Team

Confirmed Members, appointed by Church Council

Strengthen the work of the staff and of congregational leaders by providing useful resources, mentoring, orientation and training, facilitation of meetings and retreats, and on-going support as needed.

Contact: Pastor Jan Ruud, jruud@smlutheran.org,
253-752-4996

Memorial Committee

Confirmed Members, appointed by Church Council

Maintains the church Memorial Gift Fund Policy and selects appropriate memorials from church needs. Maintains a current record of all memorial gifts. Keeps track of all memorial gifts given to St. Mark's.

Contact: Carol Paulson, 253-564-6838

Personnel Committee

Confirmed Members, appointed by Church Council

Works with staff administrators and the Church Council to develop and implement personnel policies for St. Mark's. Serves as an advisory board to these leaders in personnel matters that need attention.

Nominating Committee

Confirmed Members, elected by the congregation

Identifies and nominates candidates for congregationally elected positions

Contact:
Derek Smith,
derek.smith26036@gmail.com

Preschool Board

Confirmed Members, appointed by Church Council

Make policies and oversee the health of St. Mark's Preschool.

Contact:
Pastor Rebecca Shjerven,
rebecca@smlutheran.org

Scholarship Committee

Confirmed Members, elected by the congregation

Meets three times a year to prepare forms for, review submitted applications from, and distribute scholarships to students attending Lutheran colleges or seminaries.

Contact:
Pastor Rebecca Shjerven,
rebecca@smlutheran.org



A Place for Grace

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