

The Grapevine

July 2011

I am the vine, you are the branches. – John 15:5

Over the course of this transition period, we have looked at many things together. We have shared historical events to create a shared history between long-standing and newer members. We have assessed patterns of functioning as a congregation together. We have stated visions, goals, and dreams for the future. And soon we will be discerning who might be called as pastor to lead St. Mark into the next phase of its life together.

One of the goals that has been expressed has to do with reaching out and bringing additional members into the congregation. In order to do that effectively, two areas in our current ministry have to be looked at:

- 1) What will we do with the 11:00 a.m. worship service?
- 2) How will we create additional “entry points” for guests and newer members?

I will address the first of these issues today and the second in the August *Grapevine*.

What are some of the benefits of offering two worship services? In our fast-paced and extremely busy lifestyle, having multiple options to attend worship tends to draw additional people. Choices are important. Some people have schedules that preclude them from attending an early service and can only attend at a later hour – or vice versa. Multiple services also can provide for different styles of worship that resonate with different people. With limited space in the sanctuary, multiple services can accommodate more people.

However, in order to make having multiple services an asset, we need to have enough people in attendance at each service to worship comfortably. Research has concluded that the number of worshippers in a given space can make the church feel either comfortably full, uncomfortably full, comfortably empty, or uncomfortably empty. About 70-80 percent full is optimal for people to feel comfortable.

Now here’s the dilemma. With having just one service, we are at our capacity for being comfortably full. If a sanctuary is too crowded (except for Christmas and Easter) newcomers do not feel comfortable. People tend to come once, and then not return. So, St. Mark has regularly provided two services during the school year. But offering the later service also has had a drawback; it is uncomfortably empty. With a sanctuary our size, having an average of 42 people attending the 11:00 a.m. service, it is hard to sing together, hard to get a sense of community, and it gives the impression to newcomers that this place is dying (not an accurate impression at all!). Another thing to note is that most of the visitors to St. Mark come to the 11:00 a.m. service.

Though we say that we want to attract additional members to St. Mark, our present worship practice is “shooting us in the foot.” If we truly want to grow, are we willing to make the necessary changes to help make that happen? This is a discussion I’d like to invite you to participate in at a special forum on July 24 at 11:15 following worship. Please put the date on your calendar and plan to attend.

– Pastor Linda Nou, Interim Pastor

A MUSICIAN'S MUSINGS

As I sit and write it's a beautiful day in the Northwest – high clouds and not too hot – highs are only supposed to be in the mid-60s. Ah, the beauty of summer – well, almost. And so I watch the bumblebees out in the labyrinth and listen to kids out of school for the day (almost summer vacation!). Choir music is being cataloged and put away, staff reviews are finished and we look forward to the goals of another year.

I thought I'd share with you some of the goals we came up with for me during my review. Because we'll still be in a transition time for the next several months, much of my efforts will focus on keeping stability in music and worship programming with Pastor, musical groups, and other individuals interested in this area of our congregational life. Another goal is to create opportunities for our music ministry to be out in the community even more – a few ways this will happen will be PraisRing has been asked to play in a Kokua event in mid-September and Chancel Choir has been asked to sing with the Olympia Choral Society in their performance of Mozart's Requiem on Sunday, September 11 at 3pm when we will remember the victims of the terrorist attacks in New York and note the passing of ten years time since this occurred. Of course, we'll sing Christmas carols in our community again, and a few talent shows and other musical fun will round out a year, not mention that we will be (hopefully) preparing for the installation of a new pastor among us.

Lastly, but certainly not least, I will be working on professional and personal balance. Partly I let you know this because I will need your help, but also it provides accountability for me. I can only share the best parts of myself if I am taking care of myself. So, I'll make sure continuing education is being taken – actually, ask me about it sometime – I'm pretty excited about it. I've also accrued a good deal of vacation and personal days and so throughout the year I will take some much needed time off – don't worry, I'll be around for all the important days: Advent, Christmas, Lent, Easter, Oktoberfest – you know, the important days!

Stop in and say hi. Tell me your favorite hymns and songs or write them on the sheet on my door. We'll see how they can fit into worship services. And I will put dates next to them as we sing them so you know when they happened. If you visit other churches while you're on your summer excursions, bring back a bulletin – I love to see what other churches are doing together.

There a few occasions to share special music in August, if you're interested. Again, let me know.

Peace. And rest.

– Kerstin Shaffer, Minister of Music

PARISH UPDATES

TRANSITION TEAM

Please extend your thanks to the members of your Transition Team for their fine work. Other than receiving a final written report, their work has now concluded.

CALL COMMITTEE

Your newly-elected Call Committee is: Brent, David E., Trudy, Carrie, Kevin, and Jim S. Alternates are: Angie and Ken L.

ST. MARK MISSION ENDOWMENT FUNDS SUPPORT PROGRAMS

The purpose of the St. Mark Mission Endowment Fund is to fund mission work here at home, regionally, and around the world above and beyond programs supported through regular offering. The Endowment Fund is another form of our Christian stewardship and becomes an ongoing legacy that is maintained for providing funds or resources for worthwhile programs. Each year the St. Mark Mission Endowment Committee allocates between four and six percent of the value of the Fund to support projects or programs. The committee allocates funds to projects and programs that may not otherwise be feasible using the regular stewardship or benevolence programs of the congregation.

In 2011, \$1200 was designated for each of the following recipients:

- ✓ Usa River Orphanage in Tanzania – This amount was matched by a like amount from the Safi Foundation.
- ✓ The Living Stones Congregation at the Washington Correction Center in Shelton.
- ✓ The St. Mark Building Fund for future use for the construction of an outdoor equipment storage facility.

Continuing donations and bequests to the St. Mark Mission Endowment Fund make it possible to support these and other worthwhile programs.

Contributions can be made to the St Mark Mission Endowment Fund at any time by simply designating an amount to the Mission Endowment Fund, establishing a bequest in one's will or living trust, or a number of other mechanisms. Anyone wanting more information about the St. Mark Mission Endowment Fund can contact a member of the Mission Endowment Committee, a member of the Council, or the pastor.

–Mission Endowment Committee Members
Chuck C., Chair
Inara, Secretary
Bob B., Treasurer
Rhys and Verna

CHURCH COUNCIL NEWS – FINANCIAL UPDATE

<u>MONTH</u>	MONTHLY			YEAR TO DATE		
	Income	Expenses	Income Less Expenses	Income	Expenses	Income Less Expenses
March	\$28,697	\$27,317	\$1,380	\$ 87,215	\$ 86,853	\$ 362
April	\$28,606	\$31,156	(\$2,550)	\$115,821	\$118,009	(\$2,188)
May	\$38,162	\$29,287	\$ 875	\$145,983	\$147,296	(\$1,313)

COMMUNITY GARDEN NEWS

Join the fun as we FEED 'N WEED the **first, third and fifth Wednesday nights** during July and August at 6:00 p.m. Bring a potluck dish to share, your favorite garden tools, and (dare we say) SUNSCREEN.



July 6 & 20



August 3, 17 & 31

WE STILL NEED PEOPLE TO ADOPT A POTATO ROW
PLEASE CALL THE CHURCH OFFICE 491-2052 IF YOU CAN HELP

USHER TRAINING UPDATE

On June 5, about 25 people attended an overview of new usher guidelines. These guidelines are now available in a notebook in the narthex for your use. There seemed to be a bit of a misunderstanding on one aspect of the duties of those serving at the 11:00 am service – locking up. All doors can be locked directly following the service. People are able to leave through all doors except the main sanctuary after doors have been locked. Ushers are not expected to remain until every person has left the building nor return later to make sure the building is secure. Members or outside groups using the building beyond the worship hour are responsible for lights and doors after they leave.

UPCOMING ST. MARK EVENTS

JULY 3 – FOOD BANK SUNDAY

A basket is located in the Narthex to collect your gifts of non-perishable food, pet food, and disposable diapers. *Monetary gifts multiply efficiency.* The Food Bank has sources that provide larger quantities at low cost. Make your check out to St. Mark, designating “**Food Bank**” in the memo, and place it in the offering or Narthex drop box.

JULY 4 – HOLIDAY – OFFICE CLOSED

JULY 7 – BIBLE STUDY

Thursday morning Bible study will continue throughout the summer. Join us at 10:00 a.m. in the lounge for stimulating conversation and learning.

JULY 19 – SENIOR FELLOWSHIP KICK-OFF EVENT

Are you over 70 years young and looking for an opportunity to get to know and spend some time with your peers? Well here's your chance. On July 19 at noon, you are invited to a potluck lunch in the Parish Hall. If you aren't able to bring a potluck dish, don't let that stop you from coming – there's always plenty of food.

After sharing a great meal, there will be time to talk about what kind of group you might want this to be and schedule future events. The thought is that this would become a regular monthly meeting for you and your friends!

JULY 20 – SUNDAY SCHOOL PARENTS/TEACHERS

On July 20, directly following the Weed 'n Feed potluck at 6:00 pm, you are invited to meet with Pastor Linda to discuss an exciting new approach to Sunday School this Fall. Let's talk, let's eat, and let's get energized about faith formation for our kids. Please make every effort to attend this important meeting.

JULY 25 – SPECIAL CRAFT NIGHT/EMBROIDERY CLASS

Craft night is always open to everyone, but we want to extend a special invitation for you to join us for a **class on Shahiko**, a form of Japanese embroidery.

- ✓ The class will be taught by Yuki Taylor whom many of you will recognize from the Olympia Farmers' Market where she has a booth most weeks.
- ✓ The cost of the class is **\$15 per person** which you can bring with you on the 25th. A pair of small scissors would also be helpful to bring.
- ✓ Yuki will provide fabric, needles, patterns, and her expertise.
- ✓ We would appreciate your preregistering – for both dinner and embroidery kit purposes. Please contact Jan Spaid at 791-2921, or Dorothy Reed at 438-1352 to preregister.

See you on the 25th!

AUGUST 7 – ST. MARK SUMMER PICNIC



RIDDLE: What has LOTS of food, LOTS of sun (think positive!), a BUNCH of St. Mark people, and a LOT of fun?

ANSWER: The St. Mark Summer Picnic, of course!

Mark your calendars for Sunday, August 7 and watch for the details because you won't want to miss it!

AROUND ST. MARK

SUMMER WORSHIP HOURS One service at 10:00 a.m. thru September 4. No children or adult Sunday School classes during the summer, though there will be some special forums (see weekly announcements).



WORSHIP VOLUNTEERS are needed. Please check the website for available dates and/or contact the office (491-2052 or office@stmarklacey.org) to plug your name in.

ST. MARK'S GREEN MINISTRY

Our environment has changed dramatically in the past decade and we are being challenged as never before to take responsibility for the impact we have on the environment.

In upcoming weeks you will notice changes in how St. Mark disposes of refuse, you'll hear language that includes terms like "co-mingle" and "food plus organic," and you will see special containers around the church for the collection of our recyclables (with specific instruction as to what is allowable refuse for that container). This is an exciting new ministry – one that St. Mark youth will eventually oversee. Please be open to learning and applying new ways to preserve God's creation of the earth and all that exists upon it.



DID YOU KNOW... Recycling **ONE** plastic bottle not only saves anywhere from 100 to 1,000 years in the landfill but also saves the environment from the emissions in producing new bottles as well as the oil used to produce that bottle?

COMMUNION BREAD SCHEDULE

Month	Baker	Month	Baker
July	Liz	October	Laura and Sandi H.
August	Laura	November	Sandi H.
September	Carol	December	Joyce B.

If you would like to be involved in baking communion bread, please contact Pam Buckner in the office (office@stmarklacey.org or 491-2052).

WHO WE ARE

QUILTING GROUP

The quilters are on hiatus during the months of July and August while they focus on gardening projects. Enjoy sewing and fellowship? Keep an eye on the September *Grapevine* regarding how you can participate this crucial ministry.

QUARTER CIRCLE

The next Quarter Circle potluck and book discussion is **Tuesday, August 9** at Kristina's home. This quarter's read is *Traveling with Pomegranates* by Sue Monk Kidd and Ann Kidd Taylor. Please bring a main dish, salad, or dessert to share.

PASSIONATE PEOPLE

Hi! My name is Diane, and I have been a member of St. Mark Lutheran Church for 35 years. When my husband and I came to St. Mark in 1975, we had a five-year-old son, Jeffrey. Between 1978 and 1981 we added three more sons to our family – Matthew, Chad, and Todd – in quick succession.

I wanted to become involved in activities at St. Mark, but what could I do that wouldn't be too time-consuming? After all, I worked full-time for the state and had my family to care for. It didn't take me long to figure out that being on the Altar Guild would be the perfect activity for me!

In the 1970s the Altar Guild was comprised entirely of women of the church. We had six teams of two women each and we rotated every month, so each team did the Altar Guild duties once every six months. At that time we served communion only on the first Sunday of the month and on special church holidays.

The makeup of the Altar Guild and its duties has changed over the years based on changes to our worship service. We now serve communion at both services every Sunday. Another change is that the three teams that we have now are husband and wife teams. We still rotate every month, so each team does the Altar Guild duties four months out of the year.

One of our newer duties is to prepare the communion kits so church members can take communion to our members who cannot attend Sunday services. As I prepare the kits I feel a real connection to these members of our St. Mark family, and I say a prayer of thanks for the people who take communion to the homebound. That visit from a church member and the opportunity to receive communion keeps the homebound members linked to their church family.

As my sons have grown up and become less labor-intensive, I have been able to participate in more church activities. Over the years I have served on the Church Council, been the Sunday School coordinator, taught Sunday School and Vacation Bible School, sang in the choir, and served on various committees and ministry teams. The two main activities I participate in now are the Altar Guild and the handbell choir.

If you are a newer member to St. Mark, I hope you can find one activity that you would like to participate in at church. Then, as you become more assimilated into St. Mark and perhaps have more time, maybe you'll find a few more activities that you enjoy. As Pastor Linda has said in her sermon, it's not the pastor that keeps the church going – it's the members working together that keep the church strong and vibrant.

– Diane M.

WOMEN OF THE ELCA - Triennial Event: Raising Up Healthy Women and Girls

Women of the ELCA groups all around the country have been busy working on their emotional, spiritual, and physical health, as well as pledging to assist other women and girls in doing the same since our health initiative was launched in 2005.

Once again there will be a 5K **Run, Walk and Roll** at the 8th Triennial Gathering being held in Spokane July 14-17; this event is the major fundraiser for the initiative. Even if you are not going to the triennial, you can participate by supporting members of St. Mark who will be walking in the event (Bergel and Dorothy R.), or collect pledges on behalf of all the participants.



JULY POSTABLE

We often hope to change God to our way of thinking when we pray, but scripture tells us:

"I am the Lord, and I do not change." (Malachi 3:6)

"Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever." (Hebrews 13:8, NLT)

Our prayers will change us, bringing hope to replace despair, courage to face fear, comfort for grief, forgiveness in anger, guidance in confusion, and softened hearts to better hear and follow God's will for us. "Let us pray," often and about everything.

– Elizabeth Anne

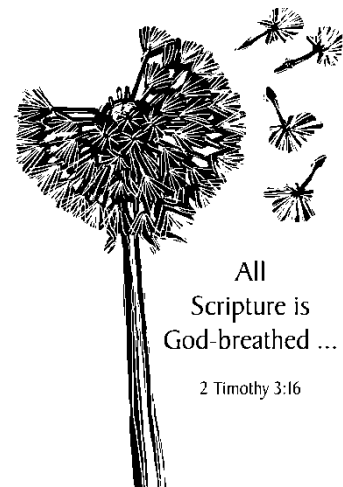
JULY SCRIPTURE READINGS

Week of July 3: Zechariah 9:9-12
Psalm 145:8-14
Romans 7:15-25a
Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30

Week of July 10: Isaiah 55:10-13
Psalm 65:[1-8] 9-13
Romans 8:1-11
Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

Week of July 17: Isaiah 44:6-8
Psalm 86:11-17
Romans 8:12-25
Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43

Week of July 24: 1 Kings 3:5-12
Psalm 119:129-136
Romans 8:26-39
Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52



Week of July 31: Isaiah 55:1-5
Psalm 145:8-9, 14-21
Roman 9:1-5
Matthew 14:13-21

BLESSED ARE YOU, O GOD, MAKER OF ALL THINGS. THROUGH YOUR GOODNESS YOU HAVE BLESSED US WITH THESE GIFTS ...



OURSELVES

- † From Dorothe W. – “Blessings and thanks to so many caring friends at St. Mark for your cards, phone calls, and prayers while I heal from my recent car accident.”
- † Many thanks to Jo and Vicki for opening their home for a BBQ to welcome back the John M. and his family a year-long adventure around the world. The food was great, the fellowship great, and the kids that jumped into the 68-degree pool said the water was great (adults not so brave)!

OUR TIME

- † We are thankful for all who make a vital contribution of time to the various ministries we share as God’s people.

OUR POSSESSIONS

- † We are blessed with the talents of people who worked so hard to bring water to the Community Garden – and for WATER.
- † We are blessed with the gift of warm sunshine – we see the results all around us.

USE US, AND WHAT WE HAVE GATHERED, IN FEEDING THE WORLD WITH YOUR LOVE, THROUGH THE ONE WHO GAVE HIMSELF FOR US, JESUS CHRIST, OUR SAVIOR AND LORD. AMEN.

St. Mark Ev. Lutheran Church

2109 College Street SE

Lacey, WA 98503

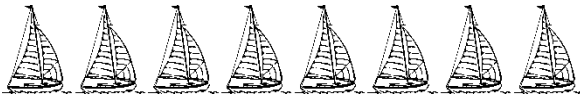
Phone: 360-491-2052 – Fax: 360-491-1360

Email: office@stmarklacey.org

Website: www.stmarklacey.org

SUMMER Sunday Worship (May-Sept):

ONE worship service at 10:00 - NO Sunday School



Staff

Linda Nou, Interim Pastor (360-292-9858)

Kerstin Shaffer, Minister of Music

Pam Buckner, Office Administrator

Paul Lundborg, Visitation Pastor (360-491-2052)

Rae, Organist

Michele, Childcare

Bob S., Custodian

Vance, Assistant Custodian

August Grapevine Deadline is JULY 15

Please email your information to
office@stmarklacey.org or place hardcopy in
Pam's box in the hallway.

Monthly Newsletters/Grapevine2011-07

ST MARK EV LUTHERAN CHURCH

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