



The Grapevine

February 2012

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

On January 26, 2012, Pastor Linda Nou tendered her letter of resignation to Council; this letter was presented to the congregation of St. Mark at both services on Sunday, January 29, 2012.

St. Mark's Executive Committee (Kate, James R., and Cathy) has met with Pastor Linda and staff members Kerstin Shaffer and Pam Buckner to discuss not only the ongoing worship, but the "behind the scenes" needs of the congregation while we wait for God to answer our call for a new pastor.

A farewell party will be held for Pastor Linda on Sunday, February 19, following the 11:00 service; watch for details over the next couple of weeks.

Should you have questions or concerns during this transition time, feel free to contact any of the following Council members to discuss: Cathy, Kate, Dave E., Wade, Vicki, James R., or Joshua.

– Kate, Council President

January 26, 2012

Dear Church Council and Brothers and Sisters of St. Mark Lutheran Church,

From the day I arrived among you eighteen months ago, I have been working myself out of a job. That's the nature of interim ministry. The time has now come that I resign my call as interim pastor of St. Mark Lutheran Church effective March 31, 2012. My last day in the office will be on February 19, 2012 after which I will use up my accrued leave time.

It is with deep sadness that I leave my ministry among you. I have enjoyed our worship together, our work, our fellowship, and our friendship. You are an amazingly gifted group of people and I will miss you.

Thank you for opening your hearts to me and allowing me the privilege of sharing in your joys, sorrows and all that life has brought us in these days. I will forever hold you in my heart.

May you continue to be blessed to be a blessing, as you journey on into God's future.

With much love in Jesus,

Pastor Linda Nou

"I thank my God in all my remembrance of you, always in every prayer of mine for you all making my prayer with joy, thankful for your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now. And I am sure that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ."

– Philippians 1:3-6

A MUSICIAN'S MUSINGS

This past month I had the privilege of flying to Chicago to ELCA headquarters to stand among 35 other people from around the country who are excited to share Christ's story with others. Specifically we sang songs from around the globe. We intentionally shared stories of our own journeys and tried to figure out how each of us got there. It was a fun week of exploring songs, stories, and social justice in the context of global mission and global music.

There is a statement on the ELCA website (<http://www.elca.org/Who-We-Are/Our-Three-Expressions/Churchwide-Organization/Global-Mission/Who-We-Are.aspx>): "The church does not have a mission—the mission of God has a church! God is in charge of God's mission to the world...God drives the mission, and invites us into relationship to love and serve one another. Through our hands, heart, and feet, God creates and nurtures the relationships that are instruments for reconciliation in God's creation." I love this quote, it helps support my belief that I serve a larger church than the one that I serve on a single Sunday.

So now what happens? I was asked to share my availability to be willing to lead Global Music Events around the country and into other countries – don't worry this may or may not happen. Then I have a responsibility to share this music and the stories behind the music with as many people as are willing to hear it and participate in it as well. Lucky St. Mark! We'll be singing some of these songs over the coming months and exploring as many of the expressions of God's love, grace, and mercy as we can.



We're beginning rehearsals for Lent and Easter on February 1. Consider joining us for the rest of the choir season.

PraisRing (Hand Bells & Chimes)

- Come talk to me first, you need to read music
- Rehearsals are Wednesday evenings at 6pm in the choir room

Chancel Choir

- Teenagers in late high school (check in with me first to make sure this is a good fit) through adult are invited to join – you don't even need to read music!
- Rehearsals are Wednesdays 7:15-8:30 pm in the Sanctuary. During Lent they begin after mid-week worship services have ended.

Serving & Singing.

– Kerstin Shaffer, Minister of Music

CALL COMMITTEE UPDATE

The Call Committee has been working hard over the last weeks.

We received a candidate's information late and have put in enough time to get him to the same point in the process as the others in the pool. We are visiting other churches to see candidates preach over the next couple weeks and are praying for the Holy Spirit to help us have an announcement for the congregation before the next *Grapevine*.

We welcome your prayers and patience with this important process. Believe us that we are as interested in having our new pastor as you are.

– Dave E.

COUNCIL NEWS

FINANCIAL UPDATE

<u>MONTH</u>	<u>MONTHLY</u>			<u>YEAR TO DATE</u>		
	<u>Income</u>	<u>Expenses</u>	<u>Income Less Expenses</u>	<u>Income</u>	<u>Expenses</u>	<u>Income Less Expenses</u>
October	\$31,405	\$36,766	\$(5,361)	\$285,047	\$299,357	\$(14,311)
November	\$25,960	\$24,775	\$ 1,185	\$311,007	\$324,133	\$(13,126)
December	\$33,804	\$34,611	\$ (807)	\$344,811	\$358,744	\$(13,933)

Benevolent God, every good gift comes from you. We pray for the stewardship ministries of our congregation, that in being faithful with what you have given us, others might discover the true riches of your grace.

ADULT EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES



Classes for All Ages

Adult education classes begin at **10:00 am** and are held in various locations. Grab your coffee and join us for a wonderful time of fellowship and learning.

SUNDAY MORNING ADULT CLASS

- The Gospel of Mark led by Pastor Linda; meets in the Lounge.
- *Heaven is for Real* lead by Betty; meets in Classroom #9 of the Education Building.

THURSDAY MORNING STUDY

- Lectionary Text Study. Each week, we will study the lessons appointed for the following Sunday; class meets at 10:00 am in the Lounge.

AROUND ST. MARK

2011 RECORD OF CONTRIBUTIONS

The 2011 contribution reports are here and ready for pick up. You can find your envelope in the box on the table outside the Parish Hall. If you have questions or concerns regarding your record, please discuss with Marsha McB., Financial Secretary.

OUR LENTEN JOURNEY

Each Wednesday, February 29 – March 28, join us for soup and bread supper beginning at 5:45 in the Parish Hall; worship follows at 6:30 pm.

Watch for a sign-up sheet to provide soup and bread for our mid-week Lenten meal. Are food allergies a concern? Don't let that stop you from sharing in this time of worship and fellowship; contact staff to discuss.

ANNUAL SPRING CLEAN-UP

Dare we think ahead to ~~SPRING~~ while we are dodging raindrops and snowflakes? Soon birds will be singing, daffodils blooming, and we need to be prepared! Sprucing up the church and campus is much more enjoyable as a group of people with the promise of a tasty lunch when done. Join in on the fun **Saturday, March 31 from 9:00 to noon**. Bring rakes and shovels for outdoor clean-up (rain or shine), and favorite cleaning supplies, gadgets, and gizmos for indoor cleaning. Lunch will be provided. If you have questions, please contact Lloyd or Kevin.

ENDOWMENT COMMITTEE

Now that the holidays are happy memories, perhaps it's time to give thought to the St. Mark Endowment Fund.

Many of us have made arrangements to leave a gift to St. Mark at our own passing or that of a loved one; however, another option is to give an amount in celebration of a birthday or anniversary, or to make a gift on a monthly or quarterly basis. What a perfect way to enjoy seeing how your contribution makes a difference while being an active member of St. Mark.

Endowment Sunday is on April 29, 2012. If you have a project or program that would benefit from the celebration of God's love through an Endowment Fund Grant, submit your request to a member of the Endowment Committee by March 31, 2012. (Distribution of the funds is limited to between four and six percent of the total assets of the Endowment Fund, and recipients must be nonprofit, 501c(3), organizations.) The three categories that can benefit from the Endowment Fund are:

- Local agencies, organizations, institutions, or charities
- International charitable endeavors,
- Special maintenance or capital improvements to St. Mark Lutheran Church

Please prayerfully consider making a gift – large or small; let this year be the beginning of a new tradition. If you have questions, contact a member of the Endowment Committee: Chuck C., Robert, Rhys, Inara, or Verna.

WOMEN OF THE ELCA (WELCA)

It's not too early to be thinking ahead to WELCA Spring events.



The Olympic Cluster Spring Celebration "DO UNTO OTHERS" is planned for **Saturday, March 17** at Ellm Lutheran Church in Port Orchard; cost is \$12 and includes lunch.



Mark **April 20-22** on your calendar for "FULFILLING THE PROMISE OF EVE", WELCA's 2012 Spring Retreat to be held in Federal Way.

More details for both of these events can be found on the flyer posted on the bulletin board located near the Lounge, or on the WELCA website: www.lutheranssw.org/women-of-the-elca.

SENIORS TOGETHER

"Love is like a beautiful flower which I may not touch, but whose fragrance makes the garden a place of delight just the same." – Helen Keller

Seniors Together are planning a Valentine's party on **Tuesday, February 14 at 1:00**. Bring a story or poem, or share the story of how you met your spouse. We will have ice cream sundaes and other goodies. Please join us for fun, a lot of laughs, and good fellowship. If you need a ride, contact Audrey.



SUNDAY SCHOOL HAPPENINGS

St. Mark Sunday School children are mid-way through their study of the Lord's Prayer. We are learning the story and meaning of this prayer from many different angles, enjoying everything from games, singing and chanting, to making picture books, and having fun with food in the kitchen. We're working on getting the prayer memorized, and having fun with and getting to know those who have volunteered to lead a lesson.

Following the Lord's Prayer, we'll spend the Lenten season talking and learning about the Palm Sunday to Easter story. Finishing up the year will be a study of the 23rd Psalm, "The Lord is My Shepherd."

Many thanks go to those of you who are showing your love for the children of St. Mark by planning and leading a one-hour lesson. For those who haven't yet had the opportunity, there are still spots available to fill between now and the end of May. Check out the poster in the Narthex for dates and subjects so you don't miss out on the chance to share your interest in art, music, cooking, drama, science, or games while getting to know our children better. We'll provide lesson plans for you from the Spark curriculum, or if you have an idea of something you'd like to do but aren't sure where it might fit in, please talk to us. We'd love for YOU to get involved!

– Carrie and Angie, Sunday School Coordinators

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

FEBRUARY 5 – GIFTS FOR FOOD BANK

To help keep the Narthex free of items that can be tripping hazards, the Food Bank basket has moved to the Parish Hall. If you are donating egg cartons, paper and plastic bags, etc., please place them with the cart so they can be delivered with the food.

FEBRUARY 5 – BARNYARDS AND BIRTHDAYS

Celebrate your birthday by contributing to “God’s Global Barnyard.” We are getting closer to our goal of purchasing a FARM!

FEBRUARY 14 – SENIORS TOGETHER

FEBRUARY 14 – QUARTER CIRCLE

FEBRUARY 22 – ASH WEDNESDAY WORSHIP SERVICES

Services are planned for 11:00 am and 7:00 pm on Ash Wednesday.

FEBRUARY 27 – CRAFT NIGHT

Meet in the Parish Hall for dinner at **6:00 pm**. Everyone interested in crafting – or learning a craft – is invited. Bring your unfinished projects to work on following dinner.

FEBRUARY 29 thru MARCH 28 – LENT MID-WEEK SOUP SUPPER AND WORSHIP

Soup and bread supper at 5:45 pm; worship at 6:30.

MARCH 31 – ST. MARK SPRING CLEAN UP

AROUND OUR COMMUNITY

ST. VALENTINE’S CELEBRATION AND FUNDRAISER

You are invited to a fundraiser for our Synod’s only ministry for incarcerated women and their families – “Empowering Life” – on **Saturday, February 11 from 7:00 – 9:00 pm** at St. Mark’s Lutheran Church by the Narrows (6730 N 17th St, Tacoma). Enjoy entertainment by Gig Harbor’s “Harbor Bells”, elegant desserts, a silent auction, and an opportunity to meet and hear from women and their families who have been a part of this ministry. A \$15 donation is suggested.

For reservations, contact Joan Nelson at joan2nelson@comcast.net or 253-208-3307, or send your check to Empowering Life, PO Box 1803, Gig Harbor 98335. To learn more about this exciting ministry, visit:

<http://www.kitsapsun.com/news/2011/jan/20/christian-based-nonprofit-focused-empowering-lives/>.

CROP HUNGER WALK RECRUITER RALLY

On **Saturday, February 25 at 10:00 am** join other faith communities, civic and service organizations, and just plain neighbors, at the First United Methodist Church, 1224 Legion Way SE in Olympia 98501 to begin planning for the 2012 CROP Hunger Walk (May 6). For more information call Interfaith Works at 357-7224, or CROP Hunger Walk Committee Chair Wayne Gruen at 352-9703, or visit www.cropwalkonline.org/olympiawa.

THE GIFT THAT WILL KEEP ON GIVING

Married couples – be creative this Valentine’s Day! Marital intimacy is God’s gift for husbands and wives who enter his holy covenant of marriage. Reaffirm your love for your spouse on a Lutheran Marriage Encounter Weekend, **March 2-4** or **May 4-6**.

Apply for weekend attendance online at www.GodLovesMarriage.org by February 10 for the March weekend and by April 13 for the May weekend; or contact Carl and Dallas Anne Presley at carl.presley@comcast.net or 206-522-5849.

THE ROCK & WORSHIP ROADSHOW

The Rock & Worship Roadshow have ministered to close to 400,000 over the past three years, and will visit 27 cities in 2012 – SEATTLE BEING ONE OF THEM! The mission of the Roadshow is to create an atmosphere where young and old can come together to Rock & Worship by offering the top names in Christian music and to present a message of inspiration that will have a positive impact on everyone. Every seat in the arena is only 10 BUCKS, paid at the door – no advance tickets. Let’s get a group together and head north to Key Arena for a rockin’ good time! Mark your calendar – **March 3, 2012 – 6:00 pm** (doors open at 4:30 pm).



This year’s artist lineup features: *MercyMe* (Billboard’s #1 Christian Songs Artist of the Decade), *Tenth Avenue North*, youth group favorite *LeCrae*, *Hawk Nelson*, and *Sidewalk Prophets* – and bringing up the rock will be *Disciple*. Bart Millard will present a message that is fitting for all ages. Check out the Roadshow’s website at www.therockandworshiproadshow.com.

SYNOD COMBINED YOUTH GATHERING

It’s a YOUTH RALLY! **“One Body, One Christ – Ephesians 2:14-20”** at Black Lake Bible Camp, **March 9-11, 2012**. Planned and put on by the ALYVE Board, this is a weekend for worship, fellowship, games, service, and FUN! Speaker for the weekend is seminarian and local youth director, Keith Marshall. Cost is \$125 per person.

For more information, contact Justin Snider at YouthDirector@GloriaDeiOlympia.org. Register as a church online at www.SWWAYouthMinistry.org.

LUTHERAN COMMUNITY SERVICES – ANNUAL FUNDRAISING BRUNCH

South Puget Sound's Annual Fundraising Brunch is scheduled for **Sunday, March 11, 2012**, at the Landmark Convention Center in Tacoma. Social hour begins at 12:30 pm; buffet and program at 1:30. Contact James R. for more information or to reserve a spot at the table he will be sponsoring.

INTERFAITH CONNECTION

Interfaith Works is an association of congregations, affiliated non-profit organizations, and individuals whose purpose is to promote interfaith understanding, and serve the community through charitable, social, and educational endeavors. If you are interested in learning more about Interfaith Works and upcoming events, their newsletter, *Interfaith Connection*, is posted on the bulletin board outside the Lounge.

AROUND OUR WORLD

YOUNG ADULTS: NEW OPPORTUNITY FOR SERVICE

The Young Adults in Global Mission program is offering Madagascar as a new country program for 2012! In addition to Madagascar, opportunities abound for service in nine other countries around the world. This volunteer program is open to young people between the ages of 19-29. Final application deadline is March 1. Learn more at www.elca.org/yagm.

LUTHERANS INVITE STUDENTS TO HELP END MALARIA

The ELCA Malaria Campaign will provide new opportunities for college and university students attending Lutheran schools and ELCA campus ministries to engage in the global fight against malaria. See www.elca.org/malaria/grants for more information and application materials. Read this story and more at www.elca.org/news (click on News Releases in the left-hand column).



FEBRUARY SCRIPTURE READINGS

Week of February 5 (5 Epiphany)	Isa 40:21-31 1 Cor 9:16-23	Ps 147:1-11, 20c Mark 1:29-39
Week of February 12 (6 Epiphany)	2 Kings 5:1-14 1 Cor 9:24-27	Ps 30 Mark 1:40-45
Week of February 19 (Transfiguration of Our Lord)	2 Kings 2:1-12 2 Cor 4:3-6	Ps 50:1-6 Mark 9:2-9
February 22 (Ash Wednesday)	Isa 58:1-12 2 Cor 5:20b-6:10	Ps 51:1-17 Matt 6:1-6, 16-21
Week of February 26 (1 Lent)	Gen 9:8-17 1 Peter 3:18-22	Ps 25:1-10 Mark 1:9-15



Scriptures
FOR THE MONTH

Blessed are you, O God, maker of all things. Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts ...

Ourselves

✠ Dear St. Mark Friends: Thank you for your prayers, cards and visits. They helped lift my spirits while I was in the hospital and convalescent center. I am home now and feeling better every day.

Your sister in Christ, Marie

✠ We thank you, Lord, for this assembly; for those who read the lessons and lead music; for greeters and ushers; for Sunday school teachers and students; for longtime members and first-time visitors.

Our Time

✠ Many thanks go to all who, despite dangerous weather conditions, reached out to each other and the community during our recent storm (feeding the hungry, checking on the sick, sheltering those without power, etc.).

✠ Thank you to Marsha McB., Financial Secretary; Kitty, Bookkeeper; and Pat S., Treasurer (soon to be Bookkeeper/Treasurer) for the countless hours they contribute to maintaining financial records for St. Mark. We thank God for you!

Our Possessions

✠ "The Thurston County Food Bank is very grateful to you and your congregation for your 2011 October and December donations of \$2,592. We appreciate your support of our mission to end hunger in our community."

– Robert Coit, Executive Director

✠ Thanks to Laurel and Chuck for sharing their Christmas tree with us this season, and to you for the many memories added with your personal decorations and ornaments. Having a Christmas tree in the Parish Hall during Advent and for our Old-Fashioned Family Christmas celebration was such a blessing! Ornaments are now stored; if you wish to retrieve your ornament, please see Laurel or Margit.

✠ For EVERYTHING you give us. Your world is full of abundance, yet too many go with nothing. Help us to share with those for whom nothing is prepared.

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.

WORSHIP ASSISTANT SCHEDULE FOR FEBRUARY 2012

FEBRUARY 5	8:30 am (Chancel Choir)		11:00 am
Ushers	Len & Liz B.		
Acolyte			
Communion Servers	1) David V.	2) Pam B.	1)
	3) Sharon J.	4)	2)
Lay Reader	Marilyn A.		Karen G.
Hospitality Hosts	Thierry & Pam B.		
Flowers	Jim & Jan S.		

FEBRUARY 12	8:30 am (Chancel Choir)		11:00 am
Ushers			Dave & Pat S.
Acolyte			
Communion Servers	1) Gail F.	2)	1)
	3) George G.	4) Nancy G.	2)
Lay Reader	Elaine R.		Brent C.
Hospitality Hosts	Jan C.		
Flowers	Darrin & Vicki L.		

FEBRUARY 19	8:30 am		11:00 am (Chancel Choir)
Ushers			Brent & Cathy C.
Acolyte			Zach C.
Communion Servers	1) Kem J.	2) Kay J.	1)
	3)	4)	2)
Lay Reader	Ruth B.		Jenny B.
Hospitality Hosts	Gail F.		
Flowers			

FEBRUARY 26	8:30 am (PraisRing)		11:00 am (PraisRing)
Ushers			Thierry & Pam B.
Acolyte			Dakota M.
Communion Servers	1) Audrey H.	2) Claudia B.	1)
	3) Gail F.	4)	2)
Lay Reader	Karen B.		Dave E.
Hospitality Hosts			
Flowers			

Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by doing that some have entertained angels without knowing it. – Hebrews 13:2

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

Sunday Worship Schedule:

8:30 am – Worship
9:45 am – Sunday School
10:00 am – Adult Education
11:00 am – Worship



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 Corbin, Organist
Michele Neely, Childcare
Bob Smith, Custodian
Vance Cochran, Assistant Custodian

*Email your Grapevine submission to
office@stmarklacey.org by February 16
for the March issue*

Docs/Monthly Newsletters/Grapevine2012-02

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