

The Grapevine

November 2017

St. Mark Lutheran Church + 2109 College Street SE + Lacey, WA 98503 + 360-491-2052



"I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing." – John 15:5

Pastor's Ponderings

*In everything, give thanks,
for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.*

+1 Thessalonians 5:18

Although it is not always easy to live this way, there are many benefits to being thankful. Studies show gratitude has a way of not only improving our happiness, but also has a positive impact on our relationships, resiliency, health, habits, and peace of mind. Being grateful helps us appreciate the good in life.

It is God's will for us to be thankful. God desires us to give thanks because being grateful shifts our focus from the things we lack to the blessings that are already present -- to how God has blessed our lives.

As we approach Thanksgiving Day, it is my prayer that THANKSGIVING is not only a day you celebrate, but it is a way of living, loving, and looking for God in life. We give thanks to God with our words, our songs, our prayers, our actions. We give thanks by who we are and how we live. We give thanks by offering our very lives for loving service in Christ's name.

Thanks be to God.

May you have a blessed Thanksgiving!

+Pastor Beth

CHURCH COUNCIL NEWS

ANNUAL ST. MARK CONGREGATION MEETING

St. Mark's Congregation Meeting to vote on the 2017 Spending Plan will be held in the sanctuary on **Sunday, November 19, between worship services**. There will be no women's study or adult education classes that day (children's Sunday School will meet).

FINANCIAL UPDATE

MONTH	MONTHLY			YEAR TO DATE		
	Income	Expenses	Income Less Expenses	Income	Expenses	Income Less Expenses
June	\$29,155	\$34,679	-\$5,524	\$187,924	\$207,927	-\$20,003
July	\$42,775	\$33,444	\$9,331	\$230,699	\$241,371	-\$14,768
August	\$38,561	\$29,203	\$9,458	\$269,260	\$270,474	-\$1,214
September	\$36,948	\$33,397	\$3,551	\$306,208	\$303,870	\$2,338

GOD'S WORK. OUR HANDS.

Each holiday season, St. Mark anticipates and relies on a seasonal increase in contributions. It is through the donations of every individual and family in the congregation that we are able to carry on God's work now and throughout the year.

If you need a convenient way to make recurring contributions or plan to make an additional gift before the end of the year, we encourage you to check out our electronic giving options. As the pace of life speeds up around the holidays, you may find electronic giving a most welcome way to contribute.

Here are some convenient options to set up a recurring giving schedule:

- ❖ Contact your financial institution and request an automatic check be debited from your account and sent to St. Mark. No check writing, no stamps, no fees.
- ❖ Visit us online at www.stmarklacey.org and locate the "Online Giving" button. Follow the instructions. If needed, anyone from St. Mark's web team will be happy to assist you.
- ❖ If you are a smartphone user, you can also use this QR code:
Please be aware there is a 3% charge to St. Mark for each credit card transaction processed.



No matter how and when you choose to give to St. Mark and its many ministries, we thank you for doing so! **God's work. Our hands.** Thanks be to God!

BRANCHING OUT



St. Mark's "**Branching Out**" ministry is providing fast food restaurant gift cards to North Thurston unaccompanied youth during Thanksgiving and Christmas breaks.

Unaccompanied youth are identified as not living with a custodial or legal guardian. Although this definition includes even a kindergartener living with a non-custodial family member, this particular drive will be for the benefit of those older, usually high school age, unaccompanied youth.

If you can provide **fast food restaurant gift cards** in the amount of **\$5 – \$10**, please bring them to the church office or place them in the offering basket by this Sunday, November 12. If it is easier for you to provide cash/checks for the members of Branching Out to purchase the gift cards that works too. Be sure to designate on the check or envelope "Youth Gift Cards."

Thank you for your generosity and support! God bless you!!

THANKSGIVING MEAL OUTREACH

Thanksgiving is almost here! St. Mark will again collect **grocery store gift cards** for Mountain View Elementary School families that might not otherwise be able to have a holiday meal. As we know, Mountain View Elementary School is a big school with over 50 percent of their students eligible for the free or reduced lunch program. The Thanksgiving outreach has been a ministry of St. Mark for over six years – and one that needs to continue.

Why do we ask for grocery store gift cards rather than creating “real food” baskets? For several reasons:

- Not everyone has adequate cooking/storage facilities for fresh or frozen food.
- We want to honor the cultural differences for holiday meals.
- Storage is a nightmare at St. Mark and we teeter on violating health codes with storing foods here at the church.
- It is a logistical nightmare for the school.

Fred Meyer and Safeway expect meal prices to cost somewhere between \$40-\$45.

If you have questions or would like to contribute grocery store gift cards, please give them to Gail F. or bring them to the office by **November 20**. You can also put them in the offering basket but please remember to **write “Mountain View” on the envelope**. If it would be easier for you, checks or cash can also be given. Again, write “Mountain View” on the memo line or envelope.



HEAD START GIVING TREE 2017

St. Mark families are again providing gifts of new clothing or shoes for children from the Hawk's Prairie and Family Partnership Centers for Head Start. We will begin handing out names for 124 children on Sunday, November 19.

Basically, the Giving Tree works like this. We receive names, clothing suggestions and gift tags from the schools. You choose a child, purchase and wrap the gift, being sure to attach the all-important gift tag, then return the gift (and "in kind" donation form) to St. Mark by Sunday, December 10. The gifts are sorted on that Sunday afternoon and delivered to the schools bright and early Monday morning.

Helpers needed:

Elf helpers are needed each Sunday following both services to hand out names and gift tags for the children; (November 19 and 26 and December 3.)

On Sunday, December 10, a few "elves" are needed to sort and bag the gifts after second service.

Then some "Santas" with big "sleds" would be greatly appreciated on Monday morning, December 11, to deliver the packages to the schools.

Please contact Jan S. or the church office if you can help with any of the above or have questions.



CONFIRMATION NEWS

It's time for Confirmation Classes to begin! Woo-hoo!

All 7th and 8th grade students are invited to attend Confirmation at St. Mark. Confirmation is an opportunity for you to grow in your faith and to have fun together!



Classes are held from **6:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.** and are normally on the **second and fourth Monday of every month.** The confirmation program is taught by me with Dan B. assisting. Any questions, suggestions, and comments can be directed to me.

Dinner will be served to the students at 6:30 p.m. and the meal starts off with “table talk.” Class activities follow. We close in prayer at 7:50 p.m. Parents can pick up their students at 8:00 p.m.

First class will be held on Monday, November 13. There will be **no class** on Monday, November 27.

Confirmation will include service projects and fellowship events; we will talk more about these things. Students will sign up to assist with worship (usher, lector, liturgist, or communion assistant) twice during the Confirmation year.

I love teaching Confirmation. My philosophy of Confirmation is not as “content” oriented, as it is oriented around nurturing a relationship between the students and God. In our two-year cycle, we will focus on Bible Stories and the tenets of our faith (baptism, communion, worship, the Bible, the Creed, the Ten Commandments, Prayer/The Lord’s Prayer, Lutheran history, etc.) as a basis for this relationship building. Content is still very important. Students help shape our curriculum with their own questions.

MENTOR NIGHTS: Each student will have a mentor – an adult member of St. Mark who will meet with you several times this year to talk about faith and life! This is a FAVORITE part of confirmation for all of my past students.

On the Sunday our 8th grade students affirm and celebrate their faith, the 7th graders will help on this Sunday too. Our 8th graders plan their own Confirmation Service with songs, prayers, lessons, and reflections written by them. It is a wonderful celebration of faith of our students.

I am looking forward to a great year of classes! Please don’t hesitate to call 491-2052, or email me, bethbug@aol.com, if you have questions. Thank you for your support of this important ministry.

+ Pastor Beth

EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL

Sundays, 10:00 a.m. – Lounge
Leader: Brian S.

First Light – Jesus and the Kingdom of God. Our study continues as we make our way through viewing a 12-session DVD presentation. New Testament scholars Marcus Borg and John Dominic Crossan present the life, mission, and ministry of Jesus in a unique, visual way. The teachings of Jesus are presented in the context of the physical environment where Jesus lived and taught, throughout Galilee and Jerusalem, which adds a different dimension to the familiar stories.

WOMEN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS

Sundays, 10:00 a.m. – Room No. 9
Leader: Betty R.

This class continues reading Max Lucado's *Fearless – Imagine Your Life Without Fear*. You do not need to purchase the book – there are always plenty to share. This year we are encouraging women to take turns leading the class, but facilitating is NOT a requirement. This class is a good fit for women college age or older, and you are welcome to drop in when it fits your schedule. Grab a snack and some coffee, and we'll see you in Room 9!

There will be no class on November 19 as we plan to attend the Congregation Meeting to vote on the 2018 Spending Plan.

THE GATHERING

Mondays – Lounge
Leader: Various Women

We have two Women of the ELCA Bible Studies at St. Mark – one during the day (second Monday of the month) and one in the evening (first Monday of the month). This study group uses the *Gather* study from the WELCA *Gather* Magazine. Consider yourself invited, even if you do not receive the publication.

November 6	6:30 p.m. in the lounge. Dinner is provided.
November 13	11:30 a.m. in the lounge. Bring your own lunch.
December 4	6:30 p.m. in the lounge. Dinner is provided.
December 11	11:30 a.m. in the lounge. Bring your own lunch.

TUESDAY PASTOR'S BIBLE STUDY

Tuesdays, 10:00 a.m. – Lounge
Leader: Pastor Eric

Every Tuesday morning at **10 a.m.** in the church lounge, a group of faithful learners led by Pastor Eric, gathers to learn and study the Bible. We will be completing during the next two weeks the book "Reviving Old Scratch – Demons and the Devil for Doubters and the Disenchanted" by Richard Beck. After finishing the book, we will begin studying the book of Acts. This is an on-going study, with no homework, so you can simply step right in. Join us!

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Keep up on all things St. Mark by visiting: www.stmarklacey.org

NOVEMBER 14 – QUARTER CIRCLE BOOK GROUP

Quarter Circle is more than just dinner and chatter – it’s a reading group experience! If you enjoy books and talking about what you have read, join us! We meet quarterly and our next gathering is **Tuesday, November 14, at 6:30 p.m.**, at the home of Lenora S. (address available in the office). This quarter’s book is *Find Me Unafraid: Love, Loss, and Hope in an African Slum* by Kennedy Odede and Jessica Posner.

Find Me Unafraid tells the uncommon love story between two uncommon people whose collaboration sparked a successful movement to transform the lives of vulnerable girls and the urban poor.

NOVEMBER 19 – COUNTRY MUSIC SUNDAY

NOVEMBER 26 – CHRIST THE KING SUNDAY

During the past couple years, it has become a newer tradition at St. Mark for us to have several members reflect during the sermon time on what it means to them that Christ reigns in their lives. On this Sunday, the students who attended the Western States Youth Gathering this summer will be sharing with us through stories, pictures, and music how this experience helped them grow in their faith and grow closer in their friendships with one another. Please come and hear what Skyler C., Nick E., Erin H., Benjamin and Lisha M., MacKenzie K., and Isaiah U-G have to say.

NOVEMBER 27 – ARTICLES FOR THE DECEMBER GRAPEVINE DUE



ADVENT ACTIVITIES

Here are just some of the events planned for Advent and Christmas at St. Mark. Check your weekly email, Sunday bulletin, the church website, and the December *Grapevine* for updated information regarding these and other Advent and Christmas happenings.

SUNDAY WORSHIP DURING ADVENT

December 3, 10, and 17 Worship services with Holy Communion at 8:30 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.

WEDNESDAY EVENING POTLUCK AND WORSHIP

December 6, 13, and 20

5:45 p.m. – 6:25 p.m. Potluck dinner (please bring a dish to share)

6:30 p.m. – 7:10 p.m. Holden Vespers (worship around tables)

DECEMBER 3 – ADVENT FAIR

9:45 a.m. – 10:45 a.m. Advent Fun and Festivities

Come enjoy some Christmas crafts and lots of fun for all ages. Please bring some goodies to share for coffee hour. Please note there will be **no** Sunday School or adult education classes.

DECEMBER 4 - SENIORS TOGETHER

10:00 a.m. Merry Making

David and Arvis O. will lead all those gathered in a sing-a-long of your favorite Christmas hymns and songs of the season. You're encouraged to wear your favorite Christmas sweater and bring along some of your favorite baked goodies.

SUNDAY SCHOOL CHRISTMAS PROGRAM – DECEMBER 10

This program will be a play titled Super Christmas which finds Super Heroes searching for Jesus. This program will be presented at both services.

CHRISTMAS ARTS AND MUSIC FESTIVAL – DECEMBER 17

5:00 p.m. The Art of Christmas
A celebration of Christmas offered through artistic gifts and talents of St. Mark members and friends. There will be some sort of food involved also!

CHRISTMAS EVE CELEBRATIONS – DECEMBER 24

10:00 a.m. One worship service for the morning. No Sunday School or adult education classes.
5:00 p.m. Family Service with candlelight and Holy Communion
10:00 p.m. Choral service with candlelight and Holy Communion

NEW YEAR'S EVE DAY WORSHIP – DECEMBER 31

10:00 a.m. One worship service with Holy Communion. No Sunday School
or
adult education classes.



LEARN MORE ABOUT . . .

ALTAR GUILD

Altar Guild members set up communion for Sunday mornings' worship services and for special services, clean up the communion supplies after each service, and launder and maintain the regular and seasonal altar linens. Intrigued? Please talk to or call Diane M. if you have questions about Altar Guild or would like to assist with set up or cleanup of communion. There is always a need for more volunteers for this ministry.

CRAFT NIGHT

Craft Night will not meet during the busy months of November and December. All crafters – and anyone who might want to learn a craft – are invited to **join us on January 22 at 6:00 p.m.** as we gather to work on our handwork projects together. This is a wonderful evening of fellowship and dinner followed by sharing projects. (Dinner is provided.)

HOMEBOUND COMMUNION TEAM

We invite you to join the Homebound Communion Ministry Team. What does team membership entail? Visiting assigned shut-ins once a month, serving them communion and praying with them, if they wish. This ministry is an incredible way to share God's love with those who cannot join us in fellowship anymore or for a short time due to illness. You may be assigned one or more people; it is totally up to you and your availability. Communion kits are blessed and distributed the first Sunday of each month at both worship services and we ask that visits be made some time during that first week.

There is still a need for more people to be willing to bring some of our homebound members communion and spend a few minutes visiting with them once a month. If you would like to take part or have questions, please contact Jan H. or Pastor Beth. Training and support is provided!

Thank you for prayerfully considering this ministry.

PRAYING HANDS MINISTRY

St. Mark's Praying Hands Ministry ministers through the gift of knitted or crocheted prayer shawls to people in need of comfort, strength, peace, patience, and so much more. The shawl gives a tangible example of God's love and care as the recipient wraps up in the soft fibers of the yarn – feeling God's arms around him or her. A prayer shawl is made with prayer; the maker of the shawl prays before, during, and after they work on the shawl.

The Praying Hands Ministry is intended to be a community ministry, one that reaches outside the walls of St. Mark. If you know someone who might benefit from a prayer shawl or if you would like to be part of this ministry team, please contact the church office.

SAFI SCHOOL PROJECT

The Safi auction was a big success!!! The money raised will enable many students to continue their education. We are grateful to all who sponsor students in their education journeys.

Plans for a new purposeful travel trip in February of 2018 are underway. We will visit with students we sponsor, Tamiha orphan project, Arusha Lutheran Medical Center Nursing School, and Mwangaza education counseling organization. The Great Migration will be a part of our safari. You can email, text, or call Mary N. for more information.

SMOGs

St. Mark Old Guys (SMOGs) are a group of St. Mark men who enjoy fellowship, preparing and sharing breakfast, and tending to fix-it projects around the church. You do not have to be a senior to be part of this group! SMOGs meet weekly on **Thursdays at 8:30 a.m.** in the Parish Hall.

ST. MARK QUILTERS

Are you interested in quilting but just don't know where to start? Consider this your invitation to learn from some of the best! St. Mark has an active quilting group.

Quilters meet in Room No. 8 of the education building every **Wednesday from 9:30 a.m.- 11:00 a.m.** You are welcome to join us on Wednesdays or to help with sewing at home anytime. There will be no gathering on Wednesday, November 22, as the quilters will take their first break in preparation and in celebration of Thanksgiving. Have fabric or yardage to donate, or want to see what our creative quilters are up to? Stop in any Wednesday morning. There is room at the quilting table for you regardless of quilting experience.

IN OUR COMMUNITY



COMMUNITY HARVEST DINNER

First Baptist Church of Lacey will be holding a Community Harvest Dinner on Saturday, November 18, from 3 p.m. – 5 p.m. Everyone is invited to this free dinner, and people will be served on a first come, first served basis.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

The Northwest Lions Eyeglass Recycling Center (NWLERC) was founded by area Lions Clubs and is recognized by Lions Clubs International as an official Lions Eyeglass Recycling Center. Their mission is to provide eyeglasses free of charge to people in remote areas of developing countries, delivered at the hands of volunteer eye care professionals. NWLERC is staffed entirely by volunteers. If you are looking for a volunteer opportunity, please call 360.923.2075 or 360.556.4798.

MEMORY LOSS SUPPORT GROUP

Caring for someone with memory loss? Alzheimer's Association caregiver support groups provide a consistent and caring place for people to learn, share, and gain emotional support from others who are also on a unique journey of providing care to a person with memory loss.

A free information and support group for unpaid care partners, family members, and friends is held the **first Thursday of each month from 6 p.m. - 8 p.m.** at the Olympia Senior Center (222 Columbia Street NW, Olympia); and the **fourth Friday of each month from 1 p.m. - 3 p.m.** here at St. Mark. Contact Alzheimer's Association at 800.848.7097 or www.alzwa.org for more information or to find other support groups in our area.

FRED MEYER COMMUNITY REWARDS PROGRAM

The Kroger Family of Stores (Fred Meyer) is committed to bringing hope and help to local communities. They do this through a variety of activities, including charitable giving, sponsorships, and the unique *Community Rewards Program of Fred Meyer*.

For more information about this program or to link your Fred Meyer Reward Card to St. Mark (our number is #86193), go to www.fredmeyer.com/communityrewards. The more supporters who shop Fred Meyer (and use their reward cards), the more money St. Mark will earn! This past quarter (July 1 – September 30, 2017), St. Mark supporters who shopped at Fred Meyer contributed to a donation of **\$57.70** for St. Mark. Thank you, St. Mark shoppers!

BLESSED ARE WE

On **Sunday, October 15**, we warmly received and welcomed the following new members to our St. Mark family: Tom F. and Pam H.-F.; Cathy H.; Dotty I.; Alan and Anne L.; Jim and Cathy V E and their children Hailey, Kylie, Casey, Matigan, Declan, and Carrson. How thankful we are to have these newest members as part of our faith community.

Thank you for all the concern and prayers before, during, and after my back surgery. A "BIG" thank you for the meals, cards, and phone calls. It was very greatly appreciated not only by myself but by Don. We have a wonderful church family that helps make things like this bearable. Again a very big thank you to all. Karen and Don G.

November 2017

Worship Assistant Calendar

November 5	8:30 a.m.	11:00 a.m.
All Saints Sunday		
Usher/Acolyte	Ken A., Margit S.	Gerry and Sachi H.
Communion Servers	Dan and Joyce B. Laura S., Bergel Z.	Marv and Margot M. Jan H., Cathy C.
Lector	David E.	Karen G.
Liturgist	Vicki L.	Jan H.
Coffee Host	Both Gather Groups	
Flowers	Robert and Juliana A.	
Altar Guild	Dan and Ellen A.	
Recycling	Donna H.	
Welcome Desk	Ken and Joy L.	Jan H.

November 12	8:30 a.m.	11:00 a.m.
Usher/Acolyte	Ken and Linda A.	Gerry and Sachi H.
Communion Servers	Susan G., Pam S. Gary and Sandie J.	Marv and Margot M. Judy D, Jan H.
Lector	Jerry C.	Julie T-K and Ellianna
Liturgist	Nancy M.	Marv M.
Coffee Host	Tuesday Morning Pastor's Study	
Flowers	Dorothy R.	
Altar Guild	Laurel S., Bergel Z.	
Recycling	C Family	
Welcome Desk	Susan G.	Judy D.

November 19	8:30 a.m.	11:00 a.m.
Usher/Acolyte	R. family	Gerry and Sachi H.
Communion Servers	Josh E. and Rogue Andris and Inara K.	Jenny and Sarah B. Marv and Margot M.
Lector	Nancy G.	Julie T-K and Ellianna
Liturgist	Jerry C.	Jan H.
Coffee Host	Altar Guild and Quarter Circle	
Flowers	John and Carrie M.	
Altar Guild	Robert and Diane M.	
Recycling	Laurel S.	
Welcome Desk	Jerry C.	Gerry and Sachi H.

November 26 Christ the King Sunday	8:30 a.m.	11:00 a.m.
Usher/Acolyte	Members of High School Group	Members of High School Group
Communion Servers	Members of High School Group	Members of High School Group
Lector	Member of High School Group	Member of High School Group
Liturgist	Member of High School Group	Member of High School Group
Coffee Host	Chancel Choir – Altos	
Flowers	Earla F.	
Altar Guild	Dan and Ellen A.	
Recycling	H family	
Welcome Desk	Linda A.	Brent C.

SUNDAYS & FESTIVALS READINGS

Sunday – Festival	First Reading	Psalm	Second Reading	Gospel
Nov. 5 All Saints Sunday	Revelation 7:9-17	Psalm 34:1-10, 22	1 John 3:1-3	Matthew 5:1-12
Nov. 12 Pent 23	Amos 5:18-24	Psalm 70	1 Thess 4:13-18	Matthew 25:1-13
Nov. 19 Pent 24	Zephaniah 1:7, 12-18	Psalm 90:1-8 [9-11] 12	1 Thess 5:1-11	Matthew 25:14-30
Nov. 26 Christ the King	Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24	Psalm 95:1-7a	Ephesians 1:15-23	Matthew 25:31-46
Dec. 3 1 Advent	Isaiah 64:1-9	Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19	1 Corinthians 1:3-9	Mark 13:24-37
Dec. 10 2 Advent	Isaiah 40:1-11	Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13	2 Peter 3:8-15a	Mark 1:1-8
Dec. 18 3 Advent	Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11	Psalm 126	1 Thess 5:16-24	John 1:6-8, 19-28
Dec. 24 4 Advent	2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16	Psalm 89:1-4, 19-26	Romans 16:25-27	Luke 1:26-38]

*Give Thanks to the Lord,
for He is good.*

Psalm 107:1



St. Mark Lutheran Church

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Rae Corbin, Accompanist

Michele Neely, Childcare Attendant

Vance Cochran, Custodian

thanksgiving
gather
thankful family
blessed grateful
together blessings
november

The image features a collection of Thanksgiving-themed words and phrases arranged in a vertical, overlapping layout. The words are written in various fonts, including a classic serif for 'thanksgiving', a cursive script for 'gather', 'thankful', 'together', and 'november', and a bold, slightly stylized serif for 'family', 'blessed', and 'blessings'. The color palette is warm, with shades of gold, brown, and red. Several decorative elements are interspersed: a red branch with leaves at the top left, a brown leaf to the right of 'together', and two gold leaves at the bottom left.