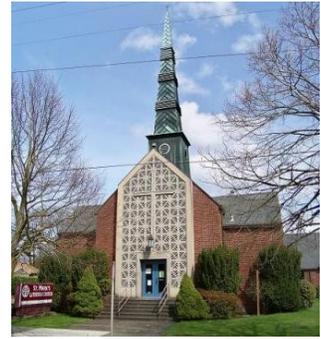


The Messenger

November 2014



A Publication of St. Mark's Lutheran Church, 5415 SE Powell Blvd., Portland OR 97206

Pastor's Page

By Pastor Elizabeth Larsen

“Oh wow!” I still remember that that’s how I started my first sermon from the St. Mark’s pulpit five years ago. That pulpit is high up, and there’s something about being in it, seeing all those faces looking at you, waiting for you to say something brilliant, that makes the most courageous person weak at the knees.

I was thinking about all this on Reformation Sunday, because I didn’t preach most of the sermon that day, and I wasn’t in the pulpit. Rather, three courageous lay people found out what it was like to be up there, trying to speak the Word of the Lord to the group of people called St. Mark’s. And they found out it was significantly different than going to the lectern to do the announcements.

So why do this? Why not have the pastor, who’s presumably trained and fairly practiced in the art, do the sermon and spare the laypeople?

There was a very basic reason, and then there was a bigger reason.

The basic reason: Al Bowen, Brenda Richards and

Brian Steves were reporting back to the congregation on our Oct. 19th congregational conversation check-in. (You can read the results on p. 3). As the conversation leaders discussed what we’d heard, they decided it was important that lay people report to lay people on how they are hearing God calling the congregation. How God is speaking to us here and now is one simple definition of a sermon, and so it was right and fitting that the “report-back” be in the sermon time.

The bigger reason: the pastor isn’t the only person who can speak about how God is calling (nudging, pushing) the congregation. For which I thank God! In fact, one of my greatest joys in these congregational conversations has been to stand back and watch how hard the people of St. Mark’s listen for God, and how clearly they speak about the sometimes uncomfortable work God is calling us to. Sometimes far more boldly and directly than I have the courage to.

So if the people of St. Mark’s can hear and speak God’s uncomfortable call over brunch in the social hall, then it’s time they got up in the

pulpit and spoke it in the sanctuary.

Because it is not God’s call to me to do all these wonderful, scary things. It is yours. My calling is to the “equipping of the saints.” My work is to help you sort out what God is calling you to — but no more than you actually need the help. My task is to encourage you always to go deeper and reach out further — but not to do it for you. My assignment is to help you find the resources, training, etc that will equip you to do *your* assignment. And my obligation is to remind you day in and day out that you are God’s beloved people, listening for God’s voice and busy with God’s work.

And, finally, it is sometimes my joy and delight to sit back and listen as God’s beloved people listen, discuss, and proclaim how God is calling them as a community to “bring forth the kingdom” and how they’re going to go about doing that.

Exciting stuff. Be sure and tell me how I can help.

Pastor Elizabeth

Who's Who at St. Mark's

Pastor:

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SERVANT FUND GRANTS

OPPORTUNITY WORTH SERIOUS CONSIDERATION

Each year the Servant Fund Board makes available approximately 5% of our endowment for grants. These grants are to enhance and expand outreach ministry, to our community and partners in faith, as well as new spiritual, educational, and stewardship opportunities of St. Mark's Lutheran Church, apart from the general operation of the congregation.

The Servant Fund still has money available to distribute before the end of the year. We are asking for ideas to award grants. Please review the following guidelines and contact one of the Servant Fund Board Members to help you with a grant application.

Four ministry areas to be considered for support with earnings from Endowment Funds:

- 1. New ministry opportunities, capital needs, etc. beyond the congregation budget.*
- 2. Outreach into the community in ways that will let the light of Christ's love shine in our community.*
- 3. Grants to the Oregon synod and its agency and institution ministries*
- 4. Grants to the ELCA, its national and worldwide ministries.*

So take time to give it some thought, talk it around, brainstorm..

Then come see us or give us a call.

Board members: Laura Donnelley, Sally Durham, Gary Lippert, Dolores Morelli, Vicki Rutger.

From Dorothy Trimble and Fay Day

Oct. 20, '14

Dear friends at St. Mark's

Fay and I want to thank you for the lovely flowers.

We appreciate your thoughtfulness and friendship so much.

Thanks again

Dorothy and Fay.

Social Ministry

The Social Ministry is very pleased to have raised \$330 for the annual Back To School Shoe Drive. A very huge "Thank You" to all our members who gave generously to a very worthwhile project. We also extend our appreciate to the Servant Fund for matching that amount, bringing the total to \$660. Thank you all!!
Pie Fest/Noc 26th following TK'g Eve Service.....Quilters 11/20 10:00

Report on the Sunday, October 19th, congregational conversation

It's been nearly a year since we gathered for a three-part congregational conversation around "What is God calling us to do and to be as Servants of Christ the Servant?" and "how do we live this out?" It was time for another delicious brunch and a check-in on how we were doing.

Gathered at tables in the St. Mark's basement on October 19th, here's what the congregation lifted up:

Together we are doing lots of great stuff

*we enjoy **helping the needy** with the food pantry, clothes closet, community basket

***opening up the space** to other group: Asamble, Narcotics Anonymous, etc

*thanks to the Servant Fund, everyone will soon be receiving the Lutheran magazine, and, beginning in January we'll have monthly discussion sessions using their cover articles as a way to begin **adapting to this changing world**

As a congregation we can be proud and thankful at the way so many people have been putting their time energy and prayers into the wonderful work that we're doing.

We as a congregation also know we're never quite done, never quite complete. The congregation has said we need to adapt to a changing world; here's what the group named as focuses to build up the strength of the St. Mark's community

*continue to **deepen our efforts with the homebound** by offering rides, particularly for evening events, and deepening visitation with training and a regular pool of people

***Communication**: There's a sense that if I'm not here on a given Sunday, I don't know – and, since knowledge is power, If I'm not in the loop, I'm being told I don't count. SO every group and individual working on projects and activities will be expected to have an explanation ready for the previous month's newsletter (deadline the 21st of each month), which will include an explanation of what it is and why I should care. This piece is really crucial, because in order to put out reminders and invitations via e-mail, phone calls, face-to-face, the leadership needs to have simple straight-forward "cut and paste" ready info. We will continue to improve and coordinate the website, and the pastor will work on

turning her e-mail devotions into a blog, that will give people beyond the congregation a chance to read it.

***Stewardship**: we have a sense of "I want to help But . . ." and a need to "help me find my place, help me sort out my stewardship of calling, time, energy and volunteering" SO a group will be forming to read Mark Allan Powell's "giving to God" as starter for talking about how our relationship with God influences how we prioritize our time talents and money.

In return, your leadership will try find a 21st century way for scheduling volunteers, as well as thinking about what could be done from home, and the financial folks are going to work on transparency – how things are funded and supported and getting done – without spreadsheets

Here's what surfaced as focuses for reaching out beyond ourselves

***Signage** – inside and outside. This begins with a group doing a physical, walk-around assessment. All signs to be trilingual (English, Spanish and Chinese), and flexible yet durable

*work on **being welcoming to guests/newcomers**: at the peace, acknowledging someone's presence, and then following up, walking up and introducing oneself, taking the time to find out who you are, inviting folks to sit with you, and becoming more aware of who we see and who we don't see. This would include lots of training, guidance, hints and reminders

*Keep working on **forming relationships with the neighbors** around the church building. The next step is to form a team of people willing to do one-to-ones with neighbors, perhaps starting with the question "what's the view like from your front porch?"

Out of all you've heard today, what is it that each of you says "I want to make that happen?" Make a note now! Groups will be forming soon to begin on this great work!

Appeals from the food pantry and clothes closet



Looking this over, Pastor had an idea. Could we share this list of needs with friends, family and co-workers? What about each of us running a mini food or clothing drive in our social groups? Sometimes people are just waiting to be asked!



During a quiet moment before the Bethlehem Children's Clothes Closet opened on Oct. 25th, some volunteers did some dreaming, and made a wish list of some things are needed and some things we'd really like to have. Can you help?

- ◆ Boys' and girls' coats size 4-14
- ◆ New socks for boys in sizes for 8-12 year olds
- ◆ Coloring books and mini packs of crayons to hand out as Christmas presents at the November closet
- ◆ kids' books
- ◆ slippers in all sizes
- ◆ the mirrors and cork boards hung up
- ◆ lighting in the desk/sorting area
- ◆ shelves behind the desk between the closet doors (this would let us display games and puzzles without the smaller kids getting into them)
- ◆ hooks on the pillars for hats, scarves, etc.

Thank you to everyone for all the donations, the volunteer hours, and the prayers! The next closet will be Nov. 22nd, and then it will be closed in December. It will reopen January 24th.

Food pantry also had a quiet moment for a little stock-taking. Here's some things you might pick up while shopping

- ◆ hamburger helper,
- ◆ bags of rice,
- ◆ Cereal (not too sugary, please)
- ◆ spaghetti sauce

Thank you to all the good folks who regularly donate what they can, and to the volunteers who put their patience and energy to the test each week. Pastor is working expanding our volunteer pool with the PEM group.

Meanwhile, if you volunteer regularly at pantry, consider inviting a relative, friend or neighbor to join you in the good work. If each current volunteer brought one more person, we could double our work crew!

And . . . because St. Mark's always takes it a step further:

FEASTING IN THE KINGDOM

Mark your calendar: the next **Tri-congregational potluck** is scheduled for **Sunday, Dec. 7th**. Join with our sisters and brothers from the Asamblea Apostolica and the Heavenly Peace Lutheran Fellowship for a wide variety of delicious food. We are also thinking about doing some simple crafts or food activities. Please speak with Pastor Elizabeth if you'd like to help make this happen.

SOUP SEASON IS HERE

Thank you to everyone who turned out to serve soup on Oct. 24th! Yes, we're doing soup once a month at the Food Pantry and we're hoping we can count on you to bring soup, help serve soup, or bring some rolls or crackers to go with the soup. The next dates are November 7th, December 12th, and January 16th, and there is a signup sheet in the Coffee Room.

COMING UP:

There's all kinds of interesting things coming up this fall. Here's a list, with our best explanations. Mark your calendars!

Sunday, Nov 2rd: All Saints Sunday. We understand the saints to be God's holy people, living and dead, who have been baptized into Christ, not just martyrs and famous Christians.

All Saints Sunday is a day to remember that the church is a communion not only of the living and the local, but of the dead and the distant as well. It is the day we celebrate that even death cannot divide us from the body of Christ, because Jesus Christ has conquered death. So, on All Saints Sunday we commemorate those who have died and celebrate what God has done through them.

At the beginning of the service, we will read out the names of the friends and family of the St. Mark's community who have died in the last year, and light a candle for each one. The candles will be placed on the altar, until the altar is ablaze with the light of those saints, who, although they have departed from us, continue to share Christ's table with us.

Sunday, Nov 2rd: 90th Anniversary Celebration. We chose to celebrate the anniversary on All Saints Day because we recognize that the building we worship in and the ministry we carry forward are all built on the prayers, faithfulness and giving of those who have gone before us. This will be a celebration of where we've come from and where we're going.

We'll begin with a short worship service in the sanctuary at 1pm, and then move downstairs for lunch, a slideshow, and a chance to review 90 years of history.

Saturday, Nov. 15th: Christmas worship planning. 10am in the coffee room. The Music and Worship committee invites ushers, lectors, communion folks and everyone interested to come together to think through and plan Christmas Eve and Christmas Day worship.

Sunday, Nov. 16th: During the offering time,

the kids of the congregation will gather a “**noisy offering**” of **spare change for the Bethlehem Clothes Closet** for socks, underwear, or whatever might be needed. A “noisy” offering is one of coins dropped into pans for maximal sound. So clean out your coin jars, empty the bottom of your purse, look between the couch cushions – God has a use for everything we've got!

Sunday, Nov. 23rd: Christ the King. Joint Portland Eastside Ministries worship at Central Lutheran (1820 NE 21st Ave), time TBA. *We're going to have a bus! So, come to St. Mark's as usual that morning — coffee and treats will be available in the coffee room. Then, we'll board the bus and be delivered to the joint worship in style. No worries about parking, no chance of getting lost. We might even sing. Reserve your seat today!*

Wednesday, Nov. 26th Thanksgiving Eve Pie Fest! Yes, we'll gather for worship at 7pm on Wednesday Nov. 27th, and share some pie, and then send most of the pies to the St. Francis Dining Hall for their Thanksgiving feast. Dust off those pie tins and start baking!

Sunday, Nov. 30th: The first Sunday in Advent! Just as the cold nights in the northern hemisphere reach their longest, Mark addresses us with promises that the signs of the coming of the Son of Man will include the darkening of the sun, moon, and stars. Hold on, there is hope!

The promise of Advent is that God is always at work in the world, bringing new beginnings and a new creation to people and powers long bent on destruction. Yet, because we live in the generation that exists between the "already" of Christ's resurrection and the "not yet" of God's full restoration of the creation, we cannot know when that final day will arrive. Instead of becoming preoccupied with the end times, we are counseled to live our lives in a state of preparedness—trusting that our home is God's home and that God is coming once again to dwell with us.

Celebrate Life Together

Birthdays November, 2014

Linda Olsrud, 1st
 Billie Smith 2nd
 Scot Brende, 4th
 Joshua Fajardo, 4th
 Max Cheskin, 8th
 Brian Etzel, 9th
 Donah Baribeau, 23th
 Virginia Langley, 24th
 Vicki Deo, 15th
 Marcia Olney, 16th
 Sally Durham, 19th
 Terry Thompson, 25th

Anniversaries

Lorie & Gene Petrasso, 30th

Prayers & Concerns

Unable to worship with us: Fay Day, Lenora Johnson, Ceil Libke, Fern Luke, Don McLaughlin, Pauline McNeff, Audrey Rutger, Billie Smith, Lucille Stariha, Dorothy Swanson, Clareann Teeters, Carol Thompson, Marguerite Thomson, Ruth Wentzein, Dorothy Trimble, & Doris Zilk.

Continued Needs: Fern Luke, Robert Thiringer, Lucille Stariha, Carol Deo, Sr, Esther Stotik, Laura Keith-Byland, John Etzel, Dorothy Trimble, Mark Gardner, Lorna Schwartz, Crystal and her children, James Langley.

In mourning: The friends and families of everyone we remember on All Saints Sunday: Chester Schink, Sondra Tacket, Arthur Williams, Don Jones, Francis Knapp, Joel Cheskin, Gail Walsh, Kim Evensen, Dave Larsen, Joyce Gullixson, Elsie Richards, Robert Kreimeyer, John Kennedy, Dick Welk, Lois Gogl, Tom Karter, Sr., and Sven Bramstedt

The Church & Beyond: The Oregon Synod and our partner churches; the Portland Eastside Ministry Coalition; Pastor Yong's & Terry's Ministry to the Chinese Community; Pastor Cruz and the Asamblea Apostolica; our service men and women, our Muslim brothers and sisters; the volunteers and clients of the food pantry, clothes closet and community basket; for peace and compromise in the Mideast, and in Ukraine. Prayers of gratitude for the mediators, every cease fire and aid box .

FOOD PANTRY: Fridays from 3 to 6 PM

A MINIMUM OF 5 VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED EACH WEEK

Date	Lead Volunteer	Volunteers
NOV 7TH	Mary Karter	Al Bowen, Jenny Winter, Dean Winter
NOV. 14TH	Ed Thiringer	Teresa Osgood
NOV. 21ST	Mary Karter	Brenda Richards, Ruth Griffith, Jerry Griffith, Pastor & Max, D.B.
NOV. 28TH	<i>Closed for Holiday Weekend</i>	

BETHLEHEM CHILDREN'S CLOTHING CLOSET

Coordinated by Brenda Richards and Deb Schulz

4th Saturday from NOON to 2 PM

Date	*Volunteers
November 22nd	Lynda Kennedy Five Additional Volunteers Needed
December 26th	<i>Closed for Holiday Weekend</i>
January 23rd	Lynda Kennedy *Five volunteers needed

***A MAXIMUM OF SIX VOLUNTEERS FOR EFFICIENCY**

Worship Ministries at St. Mark's

Please speak with one of the coordinators (whose names are below each of the ministries listed) if you would like to get involved with one of these important ministries.

<u>November</u> <u>2014</u>	<u>2</u> <u>All Saints Sunday</u>	<u>9</u> <u>Pentecost 22</u>	<u>16</u> <u>Pentecost 23</u>	<u>23</u> <u>Christ the King</u>	<u>30</u> <u>1 Advent</u>
Greeters <i>Ed Thiringer</i>	Dorothy Long	Al & Lorna Schwartz	Jean Johnson	Portland Eastside Ministries Joint worship service at Central Lutheran	Marg Lyseng
Prayers of the People <i>Joyce Nance</i>	Mary Karter	Sally Durham	Dolores Morelli		Jon Cheskin
Readers <i>Lori Petrasso</i>	Dean Winter	Mary Karter	Jeri Dayton		Brian Steves
Nursery Attendant <i>Jeri Dayton</i>	Vicki Rutger	Dolores Morelli	Carole Johnson Lorie Petrasso		Jeri Dayton
Ushers <i>Brian Etzel</i>	David Sawyer Don Olney Travis Osgood	Madeline Grimm Marg Lyseng Brenda Richards Terry Larson	Gene Petrasso Ruth Griffith Buck Johnson Vicki Rutger		Brian Etzel Brian Fajardo Lynda Kennedy Lafe Hallum
Wholly Love <i>Sally Durham & Dolores Morelli</i>	Madeline Grimm	Teresa Osgood	Dolores Morelli		Lynda Kennedy
Communion Assistants <i>Lori Petrasso</i>	Marge Lyseng, Virginia Langley, Brenda Richards	Gene Petrasso, Lorie Petrasso, Brian Fajardo`	Don Olney, Marcia Olney, Lynda Kennedy		Marcia Olney, Don Olney, Brenda Richards
Communion Prep <i>Vicki Rutger</i>	Lynda Kennedy	Jeri & Gary Dayton	Vicki & Tom Rutger		Brenda Richards
Bread Baker <i>Brenda Richards</i>	Brenda Richards	Jeri Dayton	Vicki Rutger		Brenda Richards
Sound System	Bob Olsrud	Bob Olsrud	Brian Fajardo		Bob Olsrud
Announcements <i>Terry Larson</i>					
Refreshments <i>Lynda Kennedy</i>	Jeanne Anderson	TBA	Lynda Kennedy	TBA	
Counters <i>Mary Karter</i>	Brian Etzel Mary Karter Ed Thiringer	Sally Durham Bob Olsrud Edgar Ronning	Al Bowen Dolores Morelli Jean Johnson	Brian Etzel Madeline Grimm Gary Lippert Marg Lyseng	

Scripture Readings for November 2014

Sunday, November 2, 2014, *All Saints Sunday*, Revelation 7:9-17, Psalm 34:1-10,22, 1 John 3:1-3, Matthew 5:1-12,
 Sunday, November 9, 2014, Lectionary 32, Amos 5:18-24, Psalm 70, 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18, Matthew 25:1-13
 Sunday, November 16, 2014, *Lectionary 33*, Zephaniah, 1:7, 12-18, Psalm 90:1-8(9-11)12, 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11, Matthew 25:14-30
 Sunday, November 23, 2014, *Christ the King*, Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24, Psalm 95:1-7a, Ephesians 1:15-23, Matthew 25:31-46
 Sunday, November 30, 2014, *1 Advent*, Isaiah 64:1-9, Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19, 1 Corinthians 1:3-9, Mark 13:24-37

Results on the Lutheran World Relief backpacks

Wow! 57 backpacks loaded with school supplies and trundled into the sanctuary to be blessed on Reformation Sunday! Thank you to Sally and Dolores for keeping us organized, Vicki Rutger for sorting the supplies, the Wholly Love kids for putting the supplies in the backpacks, and *everyone* for buying and bringing in those supplies.

Why school supplies? To the children who receive School Kits, these supplies mean the difference between getting an education or not. Public school is usually free, but in the places where LWR works, even a few required supplies, like pens and paper, may be more than many families can afford.



Sunday morning Bible study

The Sunday bible study is back, and it's time to wrap up Genesis by working our way through the Joseph narrative (Genesis 37:1— 50:26). Here's the schedule of what we'll be discussing when. So that we can jump right in on the discussion, please read through the day's selection before 11am on Sunday. You can read the whole story straight through or read each passage just before Bible study, come to the study every single Sunday, or pop in for the sections that really interest you.

Sunday, November 2 **All Saints Sunday** Genesis 42:1-44:34

Sunday, November 9 Genesis 45: 1-28

Sunday, November 16 Genesis 46: 1-47:31

Sunday, November 23 **Christ the King** The PEM joint worship will be at Central Lutheran this year.

Sunday, November 30 **Advent begins!** Genesis 48:1-50:26

Once we wrap up Genesis, we'll take a break to let Advent and Christmas wash over us. When we regroup in January, we'll go on . . . to Exodus???



NOISY OFFERING

Hooray, people of God! We put \$250 dollars in those pots for Lutheran World Relief's Ebola Outbreak Response, and the Servant (Endowment) Fund is matching that. The money will go to supply gear and supplies to two hospitals in Liberia, food assistance to the Lutheran Church in Liberia and Evangelical Lutheran Church in Sierra Leone, and otherwise help out.

Still got loose change? Set it aside for Sunday, November 16th, when we'll have a "noisy offering" for the Bethlehem Children's Clothing Closet in our basement.





St. Mark's Lutheran Church
5415 SE Powell Blvd.
Portland OR 97206

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“Servants of Christ the Servant”

Pastor: Pr. Elizabeth Larsen
Heavenly Peace Ministry Pastors: Pr. Andrew
Yong & Pr. Terry Yang
Organ/Piano: Arlan Evensen
Administrative Assistant: Joyce Nance
Custodian: Robert Thomas
Webmaster: Scot Brende

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED.

All God's Children are invited to Sunday Worship

9:30 a.m. Worship with Communion Every Sunday

10:45a.m. Coffee Fellowship

11:00 a.m. Bible Study & Choir Practice

11:30 a.m. Mandarin Chinese Worship

3:00 p.m. Asamblea Apostolica

www.smpdx.org