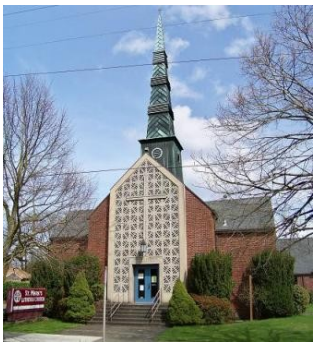
November 2015

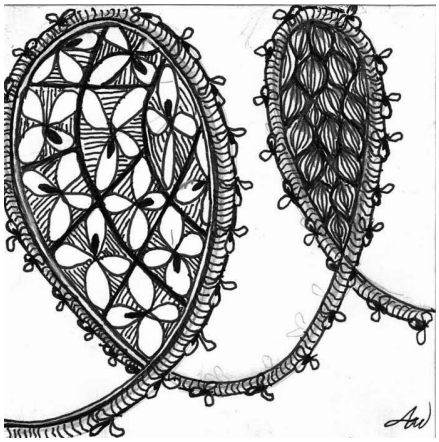
The Messenger

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



November has the final turns in this spiral of the church year. All Saints, when we name those dear to us who entered eternal rest this year. Christ the King, when we celebrate already the triumph of the kingdom that we are anticipating/leaning into. And then, on the last Sunday in November, we turn into the spiral with Advent — the eager anticipation of God coming to dwell with us (which is what we celebrate as Christmas).

It looks something like this:



What seems to bind all these together is a certain ache. The ache of missing our beloved saints, the ache of the gap between how things are and how God intends things to be, the ache of anticipation as we move toward Christmas and learn again the surprising ways in which Christ appears in our midst.

That might not sound like a journey to invite people into. We tend to think people want church to be a place of comfort and security.

There *is* comfort and security being offered: You are a beloved child of God. Each one of you. And this is a community in which we try to see one another and the stranger as beloved children of God. Should you doubt or forget this, we will remember and believe it for you. (My current definition of "church").

In the comfort and security of knowing who we are, we can be honest about that ache we feel. The ache for those who have died and can no longer gift us with their presence and wisdom. The ache of knowing that we too will die. The ache of knowing at least somewhat of how things should be (everybody with a safe place to sleep at night, everybody with enough healthy food, everybody loved for exactly who they are) and the painful knowledge of how things are. The ache for everything bound up in God's promises to be with us.

What if what we were inviting friends and neighbors and new acquaintances into was a place of naming this aches, of being honest with ourselves, one another and God about our hopes and our disappointments, of the possibility living joyously in the gap?

Would you come to that? Would you bring your friends?

C'mon lets enter the next loop of the spiral and let the journey begin!

Pastor Elizabeth Larsen

Thank you to everyone who responded to the Christmas Eve survey! The results are in!

Christmas Eve worship will be at 9pm.

We will be getting in touch with folks shortly to schedule "who is doing what"

Now is the time to prayerfully consider who you will invite.

If you're unable to be at worship on Christmas Eve, remember that there is a Christmas Day service at 10am.

Who's Who at St. Mark's

Pastor:
Rev. Elizabeth Larsen
pastor@smpdx.org
Office: 503-777-1443
Monday-Thursday: 9:00-2:00 pm
Off Fridays
Cell Phone: 503-267-8053

Organ/Piano: Arlan Evensen
aevensen@qwest.net

Administrative Assistant/ Newsletter Editor:
Joyce Nance
office@smpdx.org
Office: 503-777-1443
Monday-Thursday: 8:30-1:30 pm
Off Fridays

Council President: Brian Steves
bsteves@gmail.com

Custodian: Epic Janitorial

Webmaster: Scot Brende
brendes75@hotmail.com

Servant Fund Chair:
Sally Durham
sallyanddennis@comcast.net

Ministers to Chinese Community:
Pastors Andrew Yong & Terry Yang
503-860-3388 (Pr. Andrew)

Asamblea Apostolica: Pastor Andres Cruz 503-333-5038

As Servants of Christ the Servant, We are Called by God to:

- Spread the Word of God through worship, prayer, discipleship and education
- Spread God's love by example through service, advocacy and community
- Be spirit-led stewards of our time, talents and money

God's work. Our hands.

Food Drive

On Sunday, November 8th we are having an "**In-Kind Offering for Food Pantry",** to help supply the pantry as we head into winter**.** Items the Pantry is most in need of are:

>oatmeal
>rice
>cereal

Things to also take into consideration are people without cooking facilities, or refrigeration; people with diabetes or who are gluten intolerant. All donations will be greatly appreciated.

Welcome, Bethlehem!

You remember Bethlehem, right? That first joint worship service was at their building over at "39th & the freeway."

Then they boldly gave up their building to focus on being a *congregation*. They've been "nesting" with different congregations around town, while holding their own gatherings once a month. (one of their chosen nicknames is "the vagabond Lutheran").

Well, now they are coming to nest with St. Mark's, from Advent through Epiphany. The "holiday season" is a traditional time for family visits, and we're getting a whole passel of brothers and sisters in Christ to celebrate with!

TOY DRIVE COMING UP!

We will be having a Toy Drive for the Clothes Closet to help create some Christmas smiles**.** Items may be dropped at the office and on **Nov. 22nd** we'll be wrapping them. There will also be a **Closet Work Day** on the **21s**t from **10 to noon**. We will appreciate any and all helping hands to get everything sorted and hung.

Possible gifts for teens could be a gift card. Other suggestions include baby toys, board games, little cars & trucks, dolls, color books & crayons. puzzles, Til the jolly season so have fun with it!

Fall and Winter Events

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

Sunday, Nov 1st: **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.

This year, members of the Portland Chamber Music group will provide special music during the worship service.

Sunday, Nov. 22rd: **Christ the King**. The end of the church year, celebrating the anticipated victory of Christ, knowing his victory will be the nonviolent victory of love.

Wednesday, Nov. 25th **Thanksgiving Eve Pie Fest!** Yes, we'll gather for worship at 7pm on Wednesday Nov. 25th, 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. 29th: The **first Sunday in Advent**! 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. That trust is the strength that sustains us as we "wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ" (1 Cor. 1:7).

We'll practice preparation for Christ in three ways:

***the "giving tree"** will go up in the sanctuary on Thanksgiving Eve, as part of our Advent preparations. As part of preparing our hearts for God's dwelling among us, we have a not-quite-Christmas tree which will be 'decorated' with things that a modern-day Jesus, Mary and Joseph could use. That is, the clients of the St. Mark's food pantry and Bethlehem Children's Clothes Closet: warm scarves as garland, a knit cap with a bobble as a topper. Hang toothbrushes for icicles, tie on packages of soap. Things you normally buy while you are grocery shopping, but that food stamps do not cover.

*a **month-long noisy offering.** On the 1st Sunday in Advent (Nov. 29), little cardboard barns from ELCA Hunger will be distributed. We'll gather them in on the 4th Sunday in Advent (Dec. 20th) along with other contributions. Could we buy a duck, maybe a fish farm, even a cow? Every penny will help a family escape the cycle of hunger and poverty.

*one of the things the people of St. Mark's have lifted up was to deepen our efforts to reach out to our sisters and brothers who aren't able to worship with us frequently. So, our **Advent weekday services** will be held at two facilities where some of our folks reside:

- Wednesday, Dec. 2rd at 12:30 at the Courtyard (2nd floor Community Room of the "Park" Building,6323 SE Division)
- Wednesday, Dec. 9th, 2pm at Powell Valley (in the library, 4001 SE 182nd).
- Wednesday, Dec. 16th time and location to be determine (suggestions welcomed!)

Free Neighborhood Concert

The Portland Chamber Music group, which rehearses Saturday evenings in the St. Mark's sanctuary, is offering a **free concert** on **Saturday, Nov. 7th at 7pm** in the St. Mark's coffee room (they've chosen this space in order to provide a more intimate experience). They promise beautiful music by Mozart, Bach, Spohr and more. While admission is free, donations are accepted.

You'll recognize some faces at this concert: Zita Jefferson has played organ for worship on several occasions, and teaches piano lessons on Saturdays in the sanctuary; Jon Cheskin is our choir director (and married to the pastor).

If you missed Erik Stotik's show at the Laura Russo Gallery last month, there's still time to see his enormous (5ft by 45ft) painting *Fugue*, as well as other pieces, at Lewis and Clark College's Ronna and Eric Hoffman Gallery of Contemporary Art until Dec. 13 (Tuesday through Sunday, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. The gallery is free and open to the public; parking on campus is free on weekends.) *And Linda Brady Tesner is writing an art book on Erik and his work: all kinds of cool St. Mark's connections.*

All Saints 2015

These are all the names that have been on the prayer list section "in mourning" since November 1st 2014. We will give thanks for ALL the saints on Sunday, Nov. 1st.

Lois Turner.	Member.
Laura Keith-Byland.	Sister of Joyce Nance's next-door neighbor
Dorothy Trimble.	Member.
Jeanne Raigner,	former member (Pastor Larsen did the service).
Joanne Brady,	former member.
Jim Lee	Max & Ted Cheskin's "Idaho grandpa"
Grace Fadness	Former member
Gene Olson	Mary Karter's brother
Wilda "Billie" Smith	Member.
Pat Jacobson	Member
Martha Brandt	Friend of Rutgers and St. Mark's
Wayne Jackson	Member
Ed Thiringer.	Member.
Gale Teeters	Son of Clareann Teeters
David Brown	Brother in law of Kadie Brown
K.C. Brown	Father in law of Kadie Brown
Carol Thompson	Member
Bonnae Helber Lindley Hooff.	Former member, service at St. Mark's
Susan Martin	Attended NA @ St. Mark's
Hazel Davis.	Grandmother of Rev. Jim Flachsbart's daughter-in-law, Celeste *An informal memorial service was held at St. Mark's*
Steven Briggs	Jeanne Anderson's brother
Michael Williams	Joyce Nance's nephew
Eric Takemoto	Friend of Marilyn Conklin-Wegner's grandson
Anthony Howard	Friend of Marilyn Conklin-Wegner's grandson
Billie Jean Osgood	Tom Osgood's grandmother
John Lemnitzer.	Intern at St. Mark's under Pastor Knutson.

FOOD PANTRY: Fridays from 3 to 5:30 PM		
DATE	**LEAD**	**VOLUNTEERS**
NOVEMBER 6TH	Mary Karter:	Al Bowen. Dean & Jenny Winter, others TBA
NOVEMBER 13TH	TBA:	Sally Durham, Brenda Richards, others TBA
NOVEMBER 20TH	Mary Karter	Ruth & Jerry Griffith, Pastor & Max, D.B.
NOVEMBER 27TH		**CLOSED FOR HOLIDAY**

A MINIMUM OF <u>FIVE</u> VOLUNTEERS NEEDED EACH WEEK

BETHLEHAM CHILDREN/S CLOTHING CLOSET
Coordinated by Brenda Richards and Deb Schulz
4th Saturday **from NOON to 2 PM**

Date	*Volunteers
NOVEMBER 28TH	Brenda Richards, Lynda Kennedy Others TBA
DECEMBER 26TH	**<u>CLOSED FOR HOLIDAY</u>**
JANUARY 23 23RD	Lynda Kennedy Others TBA

LWR BACKPACK PROJECT ENDS SUCCESSFULLY!

Thanks to many hands St. Mark's produced **70 backpacks filled with school supplies** for this Lutheran World Relief project. We have so many of you to thank for everything from donating the school supplies to sewing the backpacks as well as the St. Mary's students for coming over to fill them.
And a special "thank you" to Sally Durham who coordinated the project. We are blessed with giving and talented folks who are willing to share. Thanks to all!

Bible study meets every Sunday at 8:30am in the coffee room, led by Dean Winter
Coming up:
Nov. 1-29: Science and Faith
Dec. 6-13: The Advent Narratives of Matthew and Luke

Celebrate Life Together

<u>Birthdays November, 2015</u>
Linda Olsrud, 1sr
Scot Brende, 4th
Joshua Fajardo, 4th
Max Cheskin, 8th
Brian Etzel, 9th
Donah Baribeau, 13th
Virginia Langley, 14th
Vicki Deo, 15th
Marcia Olney, 16th
Sally Durham, 19th
Terry Thompson, 25th

Anniversaries, November, 2015
Lorie & Gene Petrasso, 10th

<u>Prayers & Concerns</u>

<u>Unable to worship with us:</u> Fay Day, Lenora Johnson, Ceil Libke, Fern Luke, Don McLaughlin, Pauline McNeff, Audrey Rutger, Lucille Stariha, Dorothy Swanson, Clareann Teeters, Marguerite Thomson, Ruth Wentzein, Doris Zilk, Al & Lorna Schwartz

<u>Continued Needs</u>: Fern Luke, Robert Thiringer, Lucille Stariha, Carol Deo, Esther Stotik, John Etzel,, Mark Gardner, Lorna Schwartz, Crystal and her children, James Langley, Carole Cole, Robert Capozzi, Sally Hallum, Marguerite Thomson, Mike Giante, Vivian Huber, Bruce Huber, Zinnia, Laura Richards, Jackie Tschaggen, Deanna Huntley, Esther Huntley, Lucas & Savannah, Arlen Caudle, Gene Van Tassell, Carol Nickachos K. D. Brown, Diane Zimmerman.

<u>In Mourning</u>: Family and friends of Bonnae Helber Lindley Hooff, Susan Martin, Steven Briggs, Hazel Davis, Michael Williams and Billie Jean Osgood.

<u>The Church & Beyond</u>: 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 .

Worship Ministries at St. Mark's

Please speak with the office if you would like to get involved with one of these important ministries

November 2015	**1st Al Saints Day**	**8th Lectionary 32**	**15th Lectionary 33**	**22nd Christ the King**	**29th 1 Advent**
Greeters	Brian Fajardo	Mary Karter	Laura Donnelley	Dolores Morelli	Gary & Jeri Dayton
Prayers Of the People	Brenda Richards	Jon Cheskin	Sally Durham	Mary Karter	Dean Winter
Readers	Amy Larson	Marcia Olney	Jeri Dayton	Jon Cheskin	Brian Steves
Nursery Attendant	Vicki Rutger	Dolores Morelli	Carole Johnson Lorie Petrasso	Jeri Dayton	Jeri Dayton
Ushers	Travis Osgood, David Sawyer Don Olney	Madeline Grimm Marg Lyseng Brenda Richards Terry Larson	Gene Petrasso Ruth Griffith Buck Johnson Vicki Rutger	Brian Etzel Brian Fajardo Lynda Kennedy	Brian Etzel Brian Fajardo Lynda Kennedy
Wholly Love	Teresa Osgood	Madeline Grimm	Jon Cheskin	TBA	Teresa Osgood
Communion Assistants	Gene Petrasso Marcia Olney Taylor Osgood	Marcia Olney Amy Larson Grace or Owen	Marg Lyseng Laura Donnelley Lynda Kennedy	Mel Anderson Scot Brenda Paul Brenda	Brenda Richards TBA TBA
Communion Prep	Brenda Richards	Lynda Kennedy	Jeri & Gary Dayton	Vicki & Tom Rutger	Gene & Lori Petrasso
Bread Baker	Brenda Richards	Jeri Dayton	Vicki Rutger	Lorie Petrasso	Brenda Richards
Sound System	Bob Olsrud	Bob Olsrud	Brian Fajardo	Bob Olsrud	Bob Olsrud
Announcements	Teresa Osgood	Brenda Richards	Scot Brende	Mel Anderson	George Peters
Refreshment *Lynda Kenn*edy	K. D. Brown	Lynda Kennedy	Dot Long	Madeline Grimm	
Counters	Brian Etzel Mary Karter Kara Thiringer	Madeline Grimm Bob Olsrud Edgar Ronning	Al Bowen Dolores Jean Johnson	Brian Etzel Madeline Grimm Gary Lippert Marg Lyseng	Brian Etzel Madeline Grimm Gary Lippert Marg Lyseng

Scripture Readings for November, 2015

Sunday, November 1st: Isaiah 25:6-9, Psalm 24, Revelation 21:1-6a, John 11:32-44,
Sunday, November 8th: 1 Kings 17:8-16, Psalm 146, Hebrews 9:24-28, Mark 12:38-44
Sunday, November 15th: Daniel 12:1-3, Psalm 16, Hebrews 10:11-14 (15-18)19-25
Sunday, November 22nd: Daniel 7:9-10, 13-14, Psalm 93, Revelations 1:4b-8, John 28:33-37
Sunday, November 29th: Jeremiah 33:14-16, Psalm 25:1-10, 1 Thessalonians 3:9-13, Luke 21:25-36

November 2015

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 All Saints Day 8:30 Bible Study 9:30 Worship Service 10:45 Coffee Fellowship 11:00 Choir 11:30 Worship/Mandarin 12:30-4 HPLF 2:30-9 pm Asamblea	**2** 9:30-11 CCRPF English Class/Fireside Room 11-1:00 NA/Fireside Rm.	**3** 10 am-4 pm HPLF 11-1:00 NA/Fireside Room 7-9 pm NA/Social Hall 7-9:30 Asamblea/ Sanctuary	**4** 11-1 NA Fireside Room **12:30 Communion Service/Mt. Tabor Courtyard**	**5** **9 am Pantry/restocking** 10 am-5 pm HPLF 11-1 pm NA/Fireside Room	**6** 11-1 NA Fireside Room **3-5:30 Food Pantry** 7 pm Asamblea/Library	**7** 10 am-4 pm HPLF 12-5:30 Zita Piano/Sanctuary **7pm PDX Chamber Music concert**
8 Lectionary 31 8:30 Bible Study 9:30 Worship Service **In-kind offering for food pantry** 10:45 Coffee Fellowship 11:00 Choir 11:30 Worship/Mandarin 12:30-4 HPLF 2:30-9 pm Asamblea	**9** 9:30-11:00 CCRPF English Class/Fireside Rm. 11-1:00 NA/Fireside Rm	**10** 10 am-4 pm HPLF 11-1:00 NA/Fireside Room **7 pm Church Council** 7-9 pm NA Social Hall 7-9:30 Asamblea/ Sanctuary	**11** 11-1 NA/Fireside Room **2:00 Communion Service/Powell Valley**	**12** **9 am Pantry/restocking** 10 am-5 pm HPLF 11-1 pm NA/Fireside Room	**13** 11-1 NA/Fireside Room **3-5:30 Food Pantry** 7pm Asamblea;Library	**14** 10 am-4 pm HPLF 12-5:30 Zita J.– \ Piano /Sanctuary 6-8pm PDX Chamber/practice
15 Lectionary 32 8:30 Bible Study 9:30 Worship 10:45 Coffee Fellowship 11:00 Choir 11:30 Worship/Mandarin 12:30-4 HPLF 2:30-9pm Asamblea	**16** (no CCRPF class) 11-1:00 NA/Fireside Rm	**17** 10 am-4 pm HPLF 11-1 pm NA Fireside Room 7-9 pm NA, Social Hall 7-9:30 Asamblea/ Sanctuary	**18** 11-1 NA/Fireside Room	**19** **9 am Pantry/restocking** 10 am-5pm HPLF 11-1 pm NA /Fireside Room	**20** 11-1 NA/Fireside Room **3-5:30 Food Pantry** 7-10pm Railroad Society/Social Hall 7 pm Asamblea Library	**21** 10 am-4 pm HPLF 12-5:30 Zita J.— Piano Sanctuary **9-10:30 Community Basket** **10-Noon Closet Work Day** \ 6-8pm PDX Chamber/practice
22 Christ the King 8:30 Bible Study 9:30 am Worship 10:30 Coffee Fellowship **Wrap toys** 11:00 Choir 11:30 Worship/Mandarin 12:30-4 pm HPLF 2:30-9 pm Asamblea	**23** 9:30-11:00 CCRPF English Class/Fireside Rm 11-1:00 NA/Fireside Rm **7pm Music & Worship**	**24** 10 am-4 pm HPLF11-1 pm NA/Fireside Room 7-9 pm NA Social Hall 7-9:30 Asamblea/ Sanctuary	**25** 11-1 NA /Fireside Room **7pm Thanksgiving Eve pie fest**	**26 THANKSGIVING OFFICE CLOSED** 10 am-5 pm HPLF 11-1 pm NA/Fireside Room	**27** 11-1 NA/Fireside Room **3-5:30 <u>Pantry Closed</u>** 7-pm Asamblea/Library	**28** 10am -4pm HPLF 12-5:30 Zita J.— Piano/ Sanctuary **Noon-2 Clothes Closet toy distribution** 6-8pm PDX Chamber/Practice
29 1 Advent 8:30 Bible Study 9:30 am Worship 10:45 Coffee Fellowship 11:00 Choir; 11:30 Worship/Mandarin 12:30-4 pm HPLF 2:30-9 pm Asamblea	**30** 9:30-11:00 CCRPF English Class/Fireside Rm 11-1:00 NA/Fireside Rm					

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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: Epic Janitorial
Webmaster: Scot Brende

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED.

All God's Children are invited to Sunday Worship

8:30 a.m. Bible Study (coffee room)

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

10:45a.m. Coffee Fellowship

11:00 a.m. Choir Practice: Everyone Welcome!

11:30 a.m. Mandarin Chinese Worship

3:00 p.m. Asamblea Apostolica

www.smpdx.org