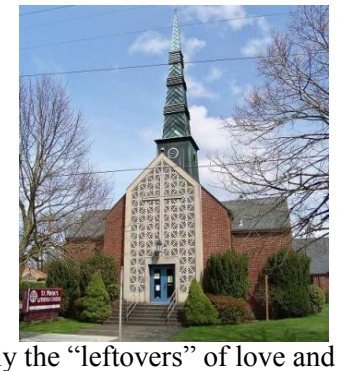
September 2015

The Messenger



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

In September our gospel reading return to the gospel of Mark and we get into some interesting places: an argument, which Jesus loses(!!), about who is at the table and who gets the leftovers; and then a plunge into how Jesus intends to go about being the Son of God – which is not what the disciples are expecting.

August has been connecting with long-time friends (and seeing how much we've changed), Erika Spaeth wrapping up her community organizing time at St. Mark's, some medical events that upset all my plans, getting ready for the kids to go back to school, attending worship with the Bethlehem community as they welcomed "Queering Sacred Spaces" to nest with them.

When Erika met with some us to go over what she'd heard in her summer talking with folks in and around St. Mark's, she displayed it as a Venn diagram, so that we could see what were "St. Mark's" concerns, what were "around St. Mark's concerns" and what was the overlap. The good news: there is some overlap! (This is good news because there are plenty of days when us churched folks feel like we aren't even speaking the same language as the not-church folks). There is overlap in the hunger for community and relationship, in the question of "where is God in all of this?" Great news, right?

Except . . . a smaller and smaller number of people, when they look at a building with a steeple and a cross, see a place to gather for relationship, community and discussing "where is God in all of this?". An increasingly large segment of society sees that building as a home for a group that's "hypocritical," "insensitive," and "judgmental,"* There's what WE think we're up to on Sunday morning and there's what everyone else thinks we're up to.

Let's be honest: those who are suspicious of the churches have a point. I bet every person reading this (and certainly the person writing this!) could tell stories of the church being hypocritical, insensitive, judgmental and probably worse.

When I attended the Bethlehem gathering, Pastor Finn Lambourn talked about attending a vigil for the eighteen trans women, that have been murdered thus far, this year. When Pastor Finn stepped forward to offer a song, the cross around Finn's neck made the folks in charge reluctant to hand over the mike. When a pastor in a clerical collar stepped up in support behind Pastor Finn, that made folks even more nervous. As my sister Deb Schulz commented on facebook, "There are so many messages that need to be erased. A person wearing a cross or a clerical collar around their neck should not cause people who are already afraid and grieving to be more afraid. There is so much healing that needs to take place."

I look at the readings from Mark for September. The Syrophoenician woman of 7:24-30 challenges me to wonder which groups get only the "leftovers" of love and care from the church. Peter's behavior in 8:31-33 challenges me to wonder about all the ways we resist entering into the sorrow and the love of Christ's crucifixtion. The disciples' quarreling in 9:33-37 challenges me with all the times we Jesus-followers get wrapped up in being the greatest, and miss Jesus reaching out to the lost children of God. And Jesus' "hard sayings" in 9:38-50 challenge me with all the times we've been careless with other's feelings and sense of self in defense of our egos and sense of self-righteousness.

I look over this newsletter, and I wonder: how could all the events and efforts in this newsletter be an opportunity for us as a congregation to show others what WE know the church to be? I think we know why we do all these things – could we invite others to participate and see how we are church? Could we not just do these things but also talk about why? Could we step into those places where people are fearful and suspicious – and surprise them with God's love and generosity?

Pastor Elizabeth

*Seriously. Get a copy of un-Christian: What a New Generation Really Thinks about Christianity...and Why It Matters by David Kinnaman and Gabe Lyons from the public library.

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

Erik Stotik is having an exhibition at the Gallery of Contemporary Art at Lewis & Clark College September 8 — December. More information at www.lclark.edu/dept/gallery

CONGRATULATIONS & BEST WISHES

Long-time St. Mark's member, Pauline McNeff, celebrated her 100th birthday on August 23rd. Pauline has been a member at St. Mark's since 1952.

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.

PANTRY GETS NEW FREEZER

The ever-so-needed freezer in the food pantry, after limping along for a while, finally went kapute!! But thanks to the Solie family and their generous donation to the pantry a new freezer has been purchased and will be delivered on Monday. We thank the Solie family for their generousity and the St. Mark's congregation for their continued support.

St. Mark's church council updates

- This winter, as the Montessori preschool moves into classroom #4, the quilters will move up to the room that has been the treasurer's office, and all the financial matters will move into the office next to the pastor's.
- Find a gracious gift to Pastor Young for his help.
- The youth group from Kent Lutheran camped in the coffee room the week of Aug. 3-Aug. 7; cleaned out the food pantry and the outside stairs and sorted and hung clothes in the clothes closet.
- The Roof replacement started August 10, 2015.
- 8:30am Sunday Bible Study is successful, and going strong.
- Clothes closet is planning a Toy Drive for Christmas.
- Treasury reported that we made about $4000 on Rummage Sale; Rummage Sale funds to go into General Fund.
- Welcoming emphasis came up again with Ministry Intern Erika Speat about how to address visitors and new members.
- Looking into Alarm Systems getting new codes for groups.
- Men's Bathroom repair is underway, and waiting for heavy rain to test the repair work before sheetrock work and finishing work.
- Administrative assistant position description needs to be rewritten.
- Discussed offer from Sally and Delores to have a dinner and turn it into a feast for surrounding neighbors, and friends, and groups close to St. Marks. Perhaps a fundraiser or pledge to commit to St. Mark's.
- October we need to have the Church focus on our direction and prepare for Reformation Sunday.

"God's work. Our hands" Sunday September 13

"God's work our hands" is not only the ELCA's current tagline, it's also a dedicated day of service; **"God's work. Our hands." Sunday** celebrates who we are as the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America — one church, freed in Christ to love and serve our neighbor.

Here's how we're going to celebrate it at St. Mark's:

*during the **9:30 worship service** that day, at the time of the offering, we will collect **in-kind offerings** for the St. Mark's food pantry and Bethlehem children's clothes closet (see list in the next column).

***at 12:30,** with Heavenly Peace, we'll have **a work day** for the clothes closet and food pantry: put away summer clothes, bring out winter clothes, bag dog food, put away the donations that came in that morning and more! *This would be an especially good event to invite friends and neighbors to: not too "churchy," lots of good work to do.*

While the St. Mark's Food Pantry continues to be well used by our neighbors in the 97206 zip code we are currently running low on a few items that we are having trouble getting from the Oregon Food Bank. The most needed items are:

--tuna
--rice
--cereal (cold or hot)

For the clothes closet: In addition to used children's clothing in good condition, we always need packages of *new* socks and underwear in all sizes for both boys and girls.

Coming up:

The annual **pet blessing**, which commemorates St. Francis of Assisi, will be Sunday October 4th in the parking lot at 2pm. Please bring your animals leashed, in carriers, or in cages. *All* creatures great and small are welcome.

The quilters, who tie themselves in knots for Lutheran World Relief, next meet Thursday September 24 beginning at 10 am. Bring your sack lunch and maybe a side dish to share to main-floor west classroom that day.

The St. Mark's Capital Campaign

The parking lot is paved. The work on the roof began the week of August 10th. The first round of work has been done on the infamous basement men's room.

And the Mission Investment Fund loan has come through. The monthly payments, beginning in August, are $651. The Servant (Endowment) Fund will match each donation to the capital drive.

We now have a generous offer from Jenny and Dean Winter to match the capital fund donations, which will double the match from the Servant Fund!

After a year-long congregational conversation about what God is calling us to do and to be as "Servants of Christ the Servant", the St. Mark's congregation has found that God still has lots of work for it on the corner of 54th and Powell.

As we invite co-workers in the kingdom, the hungry and the needy into our building for community, work together, and resources, we have a duty to keep the facilities in good repair.

And so the work has begun! Prayers for generous giving, for safety and success in the work, for God's welcoming love to shine in everything we do.

From Erika Spaeth, who did a community organizing internship through the Portland Eastside Ministries at St. Marks this summer:

To the saints of St. Mark's:
Well, time flies; my time as a community organizer with PEM for the summer has ended. It has been a real joy and blessing to share coffee and many wonderful conversations with you these past ten weeks. You all have so many gifts to give your neighborhood and broader community, and I was privileged to be a part of some of your dreaming and scheming. Thank you for your time and guidance and for being a part of my journey of learning and formation. May you continue to be curious about what God is up to in your congregation and in the community that surrounds it. Peace, hugs, and see you next time!

Erika

Noisy offering September 20th

Our next noisy offering will be Sunday, September 20th, which gives us plenty of time to gather up coins from under the couch cushions and in the corners of pockets. This time it will go the Community Transitional School, which is a private school dedicated entirely to the needs of children whose families are homeless, in transition and experiencing chronic poverty-related crises.

The students range in age from 5 to 14 and come from families living in the city of Portland, Oregon, and parts of East Multnomah County. They live in homeless and domestic violence shelters, cheap motels, on the floor of a friend's home and even outside in their cars. Some are from families that are on the brink of losing their housing. Some have just recently managed to move into permanent housing. All are in situations where poverty and uncertainty are dominant forces.

More information at www.transitionalschool.org

Time to start collecting school supplies for Lutheran World Relief backpacks

"Back to School" sales are in full swing. this is a great time to purchase the supplies needed to fill LWR Backpacks. Below is a list of needed items. You can bring them to church. A donation box will be in the coffee room. *As we move into fall, we'll set the dates for sewing backpacks and filling them.*

Items Needed for each Backpack:

- Four **70-shee**t **notebooks** (280-300 sheets total)
- One 30-centimeter **ruler**, or with both inches & centimeters
- One **pencil sharpener**
- One pair of **blunt scissors**
- Five **unsharpened #2 Pencils** w/ erasers
- Five black or blue **ballpoint pens,** no gel ink
- One box of 16 or 24 **crayons**
- One 2 1/2" **eraser**

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.

And when parents can only afford to send one of their children to school, girls rarely get priority…yet the education level of mothers has the biggest impact on development.

Please keep in mind that these kits are going all over the world, to very diverse locations. So school supplies with religious messages or military themes are not appropriate.

If you would like to help sew the backpacks, Sally Durham has the fabric and the pattern.

I

FOOD PANTRY: Fridays from 3 to 5:30 PM

DATE	LEAD	VOLUNTEERS
SEPTEMBER 4TH	Mary Karter:	Al Bowen. Dean & Jenny Winter, Madeline Grimm
SEPTEMBER 11TH	Dolores Morelli:	Madeline Grimm, Brenda Richards, others TBA
SEPTEMBER 18TH	Mary Karter	Madeline Grime, Ruth & Jerry Griffith, Pastor & Max, D.B.
SEPTEMBER 25TH	Madeline Grimm	Elise and Owen Christman Others TBA

A MINIMUM OF FIVE 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
September 26th	Brenda Richards, Lynda Kennedy Others TBA
October 24th	Lynda Kennedy Others TBA
November 28th	Lynda Kennedy Others TBA

As we ease into fall, it's not to early to be thinking about . . . Christmas. That's right. The Music and Worship committee is wondering: what time *should* Christmas Eve worship be? And who is going to help with what to make the whole celebration happen? As you think about that, look for more on this in the October newsletter

Bible study meets every Sunday at 8:30am in the coffee room, led by Dean Winter

Coming up:

Sept.6-Oct.4: Islam, Buddhism, and Christianity
Why can't we all just get along?
Oct. 11-25: NOOMA
Nov. 1-29: Science and Faith

Celebrate Life Together

Birthdays September, 2015

Brenda Richards, 2nd
Dorothy Seiffert, 5th
Madeline Grimm, 5th
Hannah Schink, 10th
Tom E. Rutger, 13th
Tom Curry, 13th
Grace Steves, 22nd
Dorothy Long, 22nd
Dororet Millett, 22nd
Alison Fajardo, 24th
Bob Olsrud, 28th
Vicki Rutger, 30th

Anniversaries, September, 2015

Jeri & Gary Dayton, 16th
Laura & William Donnelley, 19th
Ruth & Gerald Griffith, 15th
Dedi & Rich Juhala, 1st

Prayers & Concerns

Unable to worship with us: 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.

Continued Needs: 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, Michael Williams, Sally Hallum, Marguerite Thompson, Mike Giante, Vivian Huber, Bruce Huber, Zinnia, Laura Richards, Jackie Tschaggen, Deanna Huntley, Esther Huntley, Belinda, Lucas & Savannah, Brenda Richards

In Mourning: Family and friends of David Brown and K.C. Brown, family and friends of Carol Thompson

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 .

Worship Ministries at St. Mark's

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

SEPTEMBER 2015	6TH Lectionary 23rd	13th Lectionary 24th	20th Lectionary 25th	27th Lectionary 26th
Greeters	Mary Karter	Laura Donnelly	Dolores Morelli	Gary & Jeri Dayton
Prayers Of the People	Jon Cheskin	Sally Durham	Mary Karter	Dean Winter
Readers	Brian Steves	Jeri Dayton	Max Cheskin	Mel Anderson
Nursery Attendant	Vicki Rutger	Jeri Dayton	Carole Johnson Lorie Petrasso	Dolores Morelli
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
Wholly Love	(Summer Break)	Teresa Osgood	Dolores Morelli	Madeline Grimm
Communion Assistants	Mel Anderson Jenny Winter Taylor Osgood	Gene Petrasso Scot Brende Paul Brende	Marcia Olney David Clark Carla Clark	Marg Lyseng Travis Osgood Gary Dayton
Communion Prep	Lynda Kennedy	Jeri & Gary Dayton	Vicki & Tom Rutger	Gene & Lori Petrasso
Bread Baker	Brenda Richards	Jeri Dayton	Vicki Rutger	Lorie Petrasso
Sound System	Bob Olsrud	Bob Olsrud	Brian Fajardo	Bob Olsrud
Announcements	Teresa Osgood	Mel Anderson	Brenda Richards	Scot Brende
Refreshment *Lynda Kenn*edy	K. D. Brown	Lynda Kennedy	Dot Long	Madeline Grimm
Counters	Brian Etzel Mary Karter	Madeline Grimm Bob Olsrud Edgar Ronning	Al Bowen Dolores Morelli Jean Johnbson	Brian Etzel Madeline Grimm Gary Lippert Marg Lyseng

Scripture Readings for September, 2015

Sunday, September 6: Isaiah 35:4-7a, Psalms 146, James 2:1-17, Mark 7:24-37,
Sunday,September 13: Isaiah 50:4-9a, Psalms 116:1-9, James 3:1-12, Mark 8:27-38
Sunday, September 20: Jeremiah 11:18-20, Psalms 54, James 8:13, 7-8a, Mark 9:30-37
Sunday, September 27: Numbers 11:4-6, 10-16, 24-29, Psalms 19:7-14, James 5:13-20, Mark 10:2-16

September 2015

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 10 am-4 pm HPLF 11-1 pm NA/Social Hall 7-9 pm NA Social Hall 7-9:30 Amamblea/Sanctuary	**2** 11-1 pm NA/Social Hall **12:30 Communion Service/ Mt. Tabor Courtyard**	**3** 10 am-5 pm HPLF 11-1 pm NA/Social Hall	**4** 11-1 pm NA Social Hall **3-5:30 Food Pantry** 7 pm Asamblea/Library 8-9:15pm NA/Social Hall	**5** 10 am-4 pm HPLF 6-8pm PDX Chamber/ practice
6 Lectionary 23 8:30 Bible Study 9:30 Worship Service 11:30 Worship/Mandarin 12:30-4 HPLF 2:30-9 pm Asamblea	**7 LABOR DAY OFFICE CLOSED** 11-1 pm NA/Social Hall	**8** 10 am-4 pm HPLF 11-1 pm NA/Social Hall 7-9 pm NA Social Hall 7-9:30 Asamblea/Sanctuary	**9** 10 am-4 pm HPLF 11-1 NA/Fireside Room **2:00 Communion Service/ Powell Valley** **7 PM Council Meeting**	**10** 9 am Food Pantry/ restocking 10 am-5 pm HPLF 11-1 pm NA/Social Hall	**11** 11-1 NA/Social Hall **3-5:30 Food Pantry** 7pm Asamblea Prayer Mtg/.Library 8-9:15pm NA Social Hall	**12** 10 am-4 pm HPLF 6-8pm PDX Chamber/ practice
13 Lectionary 24 9:30 Worship 10:45 Coffee Fellowship; Choir 11:30 Worship((Mandarin) **12:30– God's Work, Our Hands** 2:30-9pm Asamblea	**14** 11-1 pm NA/Social Hall	**15** 10 am-4 pm HPLF 11-1 pm NA Social Hall 7-9 pm NA, Social Hall 7-9:30 Asamblea/Sanctuary	**16** 11-1 NA/Social Hall 7 pm Servant Fund	**17** **9 am Food Pantry restocking** 10 am-5pm HPLF 11-1 pm NA /Social Hall	**18** 11-1 pm NA/Social Hall **3-5:30 Food Pantry** 7-10pm Railroad Society/ Social Hall 7 pm Asamblea prayer Mtg. Library 8-9:15pm NA /Coffee Room	**19** 10 am-4 pm HPLF 6-8pm PDX Chamber/ practice
20 Lectionary 25 **9:30 am Worship/Noisy Offering** 10:30 Coffee Fellowship 11:00 "Adapting to a Changing World" 11:30 Worship/Mandarin 12:30-4 pm HPLF 2:30-9 pm Asamblea	**21** 11-1 am NA/Social Hall	**22** 10 am-4 pm HPLF 11-1 pm NA/Social Hall 7-9 pm NA Social Hall 7-9:30 Asamblea/Sanctuary	**23** 11-1 NA /Social Hall	**24** **9 am Food Pantry/ Restocking** **10am-1pm Quilters** 10 am-5 pm HPLF 11-1 pm NA/Social Hall **7 pm Music & Worship Meeting**	**25** 11-1 NA/Social Hall **3-5:30 Food Pantry** 7-9:30 pm Asamblea Prayer Mtg/.Library 8-9:15pm NA Social Hall	**26** 10am -4pm HPLF **9-10:30 Community Basket** **Noon-2 Clothes Closet** 6-8PM PDX Chamber/ Practice
27 Lectionary 26 9:30 am Worship 10:45 Coffee Fellowship; 11:30 Worship/Mandarin 12:30-4 pm HPLF 2:30-9 pm Asamblea	**28** 11-1 pm NA/Social Hall	**29** 10 am-4 pm HPLF 11-1 pm NA/Social Hall 7-9 pm NA/Social Hall 7-9:30 Asamblea/Sanctuary	**30** 11-1 NA/Social Hall			

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

"*Servants of Christ the Servant*"

NON-PROFIT ORG
US POSTAGE
PAID
PORTLAND, OR
PERMIT No. 1115

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