

**MARKSMAN**  
DECEMBER 2010

Pastor Ron Hovick  
(619) 632-7709



Church Office  
(619) 4 27-5515

Visitation  
Pastor Seiber

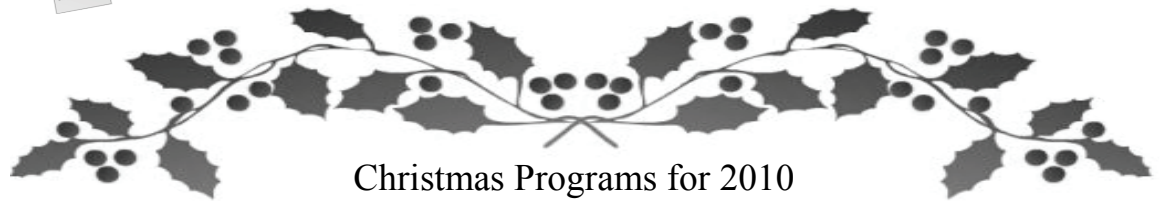
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Ministries Director

Nancy Dreesen  
Council President

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The ANGEL TREE Program : Wrapped gifts must be returned by **Sunday, Dec. 5.**



## Christmas Programs for 2010

**Christmas Concert at Chula Vista Presbyterian Church. December 19<sup>th</sup>**  
Friday 3 at 7 P.M. 940 Hilltop Drive, Chula Vista

**Children's Christmas Program in the Sanctuary. December 12<sup>th</sup>**  
Sunday at 9 A.M.

**Choir Cantata in the Sanctuary. December 19**  
Sunday at 9 A.M.



Advent and Christmas are a good time to reflect on God's gift of Jesus to each of us and how we respond to that gift. How do we represent Christ to our friends, neighbors, and co-workers? How are we really sharing the wonderful Christmas story?

We say we want to attract young people and reach outsiders; but what do our actions say? When a person "reads" our lives, what does it say? What does our faith look like to outsiders? Research shows that Christians are best known for what they are against. Is this how people perceive us? We are representing Christ to the world. Do we show compassion and love, or are we judgmental and quick to criticize the lifestyles and appearances of others?

I include myself as being less than welcoming at times to those who are different. I too fall short and need to ask forgiveness.

May each of us truly experience the Holy Spirit filling our hearts with love and grace to see the good in others and to see Christ in the faces of those around us.

This Christmas may we truly celebrate God's love and forgiveness; and be a blessing to Chula Vista and those we serve.

Have a blessed Christmas!

Nancy Dreesen, Council President

### Mission Statement

"Celebrating God's love and forgiveness, we serve others."

### Vision Statement

"Following Jesus' example we feed the hungry, clothe the naked, welcome the stranger, nurse the sick, and visit the imprisoned as we see Jesus in the faces of those we serve."

### Core Values

Prayer, Accessibility, Service, Communication, Education, Worship, Youth, Healthy Relationships

Five families to pray for: December 2010

Bill, Margaret, Ryan & Katie Lathan  
Mark, Renee, Cailin & Maren Lechner  
Bob, Debbie, Carolyn, Elizabeth & Robert Lechner  
Chris & Jean Lewis  
George & June Listug

### **1 Corinthians 13:1-8a and 13**

If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal. If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have a faith that can move mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. If I give all I possess to the poor and surrender my body to the flames, but have not love, I gain nothing.

Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.

Love never fails....

And now these three remain: faith, hope and love.

But the greatest of these is love.



## Please help with donations for Project Hand

Project Hand is an Emergency Assistance Food Pantry, located at St. Mark's Lutheran Church in Chula Vista, where food and hygiene items are provided to hundreds of individuals each month. We need support from individuals and churches in the area all year long, especially during these times of great unemployment. Thank you for your willingness to assist in helping these families. Following is a list of suggested items. Think nutritious-filling foods and meals when donating.

### Food items:

Breakfast: oatmeal or cold cereals, powdered milk, Pop Tarts, dried fruits, canned fruits and apple-sauce, juices.

Lunch or Dinner: bread, peanut butter, jelly, soups, saltine crackers, macaroni and cheese, spaghetti/pasta sauces, pasta, canned vegetables, canned meats (chicken, tuna, etc.), casserole makings (add the "cream of" soups, peas, or canned vegetables and pasta or rice along with the canned meat), dried beans (any size-can be divided), rice (any size-can be divided), non-perishable boxed items, prepared canned meals, Top Ramen soups.

Miscellaneous: fresh fruits and vegetables, baby food and formula, plastic grocery bags.

*Note: Please, no outdated items or dented cans.*

### Non-food items:

Diapers, baby wipes, toothbrushes and toothpaste, bath soap, shampoo and conditioner, shaving cream and disposable razors, laundry detergent, dish soap, paper towels, feminine hygiene items, combs and brushes.

Let us do the shopping for you!

St. Mark's has a pass-through account, so that we can accept money for Project Hand. This is for those who can't do their own shopping or would rather donate money. We have volunteers who like to shop and will do this for you. Your money will go farther, as shopping in larger quantities can be done. Just make out a check to St. Mark's Lutheran Church, and designate it to "Project Hand" in the memo space.

Do you have a few hours a month you would like to spend helping others?

St. Mark's Lutheran Church and Project Hand are looking for volunteers who would be willing to shop, stock shelves, sort foods for distribution, clean, or pick up donated foods from suppliers. If interested, please contact Susan Connors at (619) 427-6033, or [sconnors1@cox.net](mailto:sconnors1@cox.net).

## SAVE THE DATE!!!!

On Sunday, December 12<sup>th</sup>, immediately following the Children's Musical Worship Service, a "Pancake Breakfast To Benefit St. Mark's Youth" will be held in Jacobsen's Hall until 12 noon.

Buttermilk pancakes will be served, bacon, sausage, juice and coffee for only \$7. **Family rate-20.**

Youth will have tickets available after services in November and first Sunday of December. This will help us get a head-count to purchase all of the supplies needed for this fundraiser. We need some "busy-bees" to help out in the kitchen on Saturday and Sunday morning during service and after service to flip those pancakes. Senior High youth will be "runners" to get those pancakes hot off the griddle to serve you.

**SPECIAL GIFTS:** Each child will take home a wooden ornament that they can decorate during the Pancake Breakfast for their family Christmas tree. A gift from St. Mark's!

**SPIN TO WIN WHEEL:** A wheel will be waiting for you to spin and win remarkable prizes; gift certificates for food and tickets to local tourist attractions like Chula Vista Nature Center, and the San Diego Zoo, and more.

If you would like to donate gift certificates or small prizes, please call Ricky at St. Mark's office and drop them off. \$1 a spin for prizes valued under \$25. \$5 a spin for prizes for a value of \$25 and more. See you there and thank you for supporting our youth!!! Pat Dolan, Chair 619/410-5320

Drop off donations at the office for the wheel

"Play rehearsal (speaking & non-speaking) & Little Bells" was on Sunday, November 21, 2010.

Here are the event details:

**Date/Time:** Sunday, November 21, 2010, 9:30 AM to 10:45 AM

**Repeats:** Recur every 1 week(s) on Sunday until 1/17/2011 11:59:00 PM.

**Notes:** Play rehearsal follows children's sermon. Little Bells practice is right after play rehearsal.

Look for the Grocery Cart at worship. You may drop off your food donations any time you are at church. When in the grocery store, please remember those who are in need.

Thank you for helping.



## Prayer Quilting Corner

Roz Nelson

This month the Prayer Quilters will not meet, but prayer quilts may be requested as you are told of an illness, diagnosis, etc., and you wish to offer comfort in a tangible way for friends and relatives to feel the comfort of God's love and our prayers.

I would like to share a thank you note from one of our recent quilt recipients, Sue Buford, who brought lunch for us at our last quilting:

To the sweetest ladies on the face of the earth;

I cannot express how much your lovingly placed stitches mean to me. Many friends and family have said a prayer, tied a knot and signed my quilt.

Each stitch, each square your tired hands ironed, or each thread you placed for someone to tie means so much to me.

Thank you is just not an adequate word to express how I feel. God bless you all. May you receive in triplicate the happiness you have given me.

Love, Sue

Our quilters and our congregation have been and are blessed to be a blessing to others.

May your Christmas season be filled with the joy of the Christ child's birth.

Our next meeting will be Saturday, January 15th.

Wonderful Surprise:

LONG story short...

I got a receipt for my **Southbay Expressway** transponder on Monday or Tuesday of this week.

I normally delete before reading it. This time I did not. I read they are looking for folks to nominate community organizations which are worthy of their support.

On a whim, I nominated **Project Hand**.

I just got off the phone. There were over 230 applicants. I was told my application rose to the top, one of the top four. I thought...

"rats... but, nice try." He said, "And we are giving out grants to the top four".

On Friday, Raquel and I will go to the Otay Mesa office and receive a **\$5000.00 check!!!** This will be for food only.

Then, as part of a thank you for nominating, he said I will receive \$500 in gas cards. I told him I want those cards in increments of \$20 or so, so we can give them out to folks who come asking for that. He said he'll try to make that happen.

God is sooooooo good!

Spread the word.

Pastor Ron

Celebrating God's love and forgiveness, we serve others.

## Luther's Christmas Tree



The story of Luther's creation of a Christmas tree lit with candles is pure legend - with nothing in the intensive Luther Scholarship to support the tale. It was said that he was walking on a bright snow-covered, star-lit night pondering the birth of



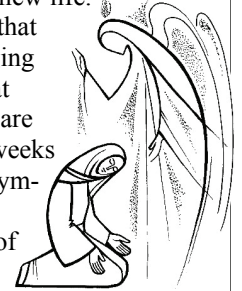
Christ. Enthralled by the evergreen trees, the stars and the landscape, he took a tree inside and put candles on it to represent the majesty he felt about Christ's birth as Jesus came down from the stars to bring us eternal life.

The first known decorated Christmas Tree however was at Riga in Latvia, in 1510. Tannenbaum songs date back to the late 1500's

## Christmas Wreaths

The Advent Wreath is a Lutheran custom that originated in Eastern Germany. They are round as a symbol of God's eternity and mercy, and of evergreens as symbols of God's "everlastingness" and our immortality. Green is also the Church's color of hope and new life.

Four candles, three purple or violet that represent penance, sorrow, and longing expectation and one rose or pink that represents the hope and coming joy are placed within to represent the four weeks of Advent. Wreaths are an ancient symbol of victory and symbolize the "fulfillment of time" in the coming of Christ and the glory of His birth.



I would like to thank the Altar committee for bringing me the wallflowers before my surgery; my Circle for the beautiful plant, and to all for the many prayers and cards sent.. It really uplifted me to feel my church family's support, My love to you all.  
Ruby Hultenius



## Church Attendance

	10/10	10/09
Week 1	236	214
Week 2	227	208
Week 3	217	203
Week 4	226	183
Week 5	<u>233</u>	<u>n/a</u>
Total	1139	808

