

Mission Statement:

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

Core Values:

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

Our Vision:

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."



MARKSMAN



JANUARY 2010

This is an excerpt from a sermon one Sunday in October. It caused much discussion and comments, so I wanted it available to help you understand the types of questions I ask myself when I think about doing ministry.

Remember, Jesus never said "INVITE folks to church"... he said, "GO, make disciples..."

Our Mission Statement reflects that command. Our vision and our goal are to reach out, in Jesus' name, to grow the Body of Christ.

Church in SURVIVAL MODE or church with a MISSION?

1. In measuring the *effectiveness of the pastor*, the congregation in survival mode asks, "How many pastoral visits are being made?" The mission-minded congregation has members who ask, "What am I doing to bring Jesus to those who don't yet know him?"

2. When contemplating some form of *change*, the congregation in survival mode says, "If this proves upsetting to any of our members, we can't do it." The mission-minded congregation says, "If this will help us reach someone outside the church, we will take the risk and do it."

3. When thinking about *change*, the congregation in survival mode has members who ask, "How will this affect ME?" The mission-minded congregation member asks, "How will this increase our ability to bring people, who don't yet know Jesus, into a relationship with Jesus?"

4. When thinking of its *vision for ministry*, the congregation in survival mode says, "We have to be faithful to our past." The mission-minded congregation says, "We have to be faithful to our future... for our children and grandchildren."

5. The pastor in the congregation in survival mode says to the *newcomer*, "I'd like to introduce you to some of our members." In the mission-minded congregation, the MEMBERS get to visitors first and say, "We'd like to introduce you to our pastor."

6. When confronted with a *challenge or concern*, the pastor in the congregation in survival mode will often feel overwhelmed. The pastor in the mission-minded congregation looks around at all the support he has around him.

7. The congregation in survival mode seeks to avoid conflict at any cost (never successfully mind you, but it tries). The mission-minded congregation faces conflict, confronts it, works through it, and moves on... it realizes that *conflict is often the price paid for following Jesus... and after all, Jesus was nailed to a cross for confronting the status quo...*

8. The *leadership style* in the congregation in survival mode is primarily *gate-keeping and stifling and controlling*. The leadership style in a mission-minded congregation focuses on *transformation, freedom-granting, future looking*, and see a vision of what can be, then marches off the map, in order to bring the God's vision into reality.

9. The congregation in survival mode is concerned with nicks and scratches, spots and dings, dirt and dust. The mission-minded congregation is concerned with how the buildings can be best used to bring Jesus to those who don't yet know him. The mission-minded congregation tries to determine people's needs and then fill those needs, in Jesus' name.

10. When thinking about *growth*, the congregations in survival mode asks, "*How many Lutherans* live within a twenty-minute drive of this church... we need them as members, because we need their money?" The mission-minded congregation asks, "*How many non-believers* live within a close-walk to this church... and what can we do to reach them?"

11. The congregation in survival mode looks at the community and asks, "*How can we get these people to support our congregation?*" The mission-minded congregation asks, "What can WE, the members of this congregation, do to support our community?"

12. The congregation in survival mode thinks about *how to save their congregation*. The mission-minded congregation thinks about *how to reach out and save souls*.

13. The congregation in survival mode doesn't just take care of their finances, but obsesses about them. The mission-minded congregation is realistic about money, but moves further and deeper, into a trusting relationship with God, resting our future in HIM, rather than what WE do.

14. The members of a congregation in survival mode look for someone else to do the work... saying
I'm too old, I'm too young,
I'm too tall, I'm too short,
I did it last time, it's their turn
We tried it that way once, it didn't work, we'll play it safe.
The members in a mission minded congregation say God has richly blessed us, beyond our imaginations... how can we, in turn, bless others. Mission minded members at the very least, pray for their church and community, every day.

15. Members of a congregation in survival mode say, "what can my church do to serve me?"
Members of a mission minded congregation live out, and mean it when they say, "Celebrating God's love and forgiveness, WE SERVE OTHERS."



To God be the glory!
Pastor Ron

PRAYER QUILTING CORNER

We are blessed to be a blessing -
Through Our Hands, Our Hearts, Our Prayers.



Please join us at Prayer Quilting Saturdays. No experience is necessary, and there are many ways you can help - putting quilts together, sewing, ironing, putting in ties for prayers, even threading needles. We meet for quilting and fellowship one Saturday a month from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. in Jacobson Hall. Lunch is provided.



Come check us out and stay to help.
Questions (?) or to request a prayer quilt -
call Roz Nelson at 619 - 422-5463.

PRAYER QUILTING SATURDAY DATES

Put them on your calendar
JAN. 16th, FEB 20th, MARCH 20th

HOMEBOUND MEMBERS

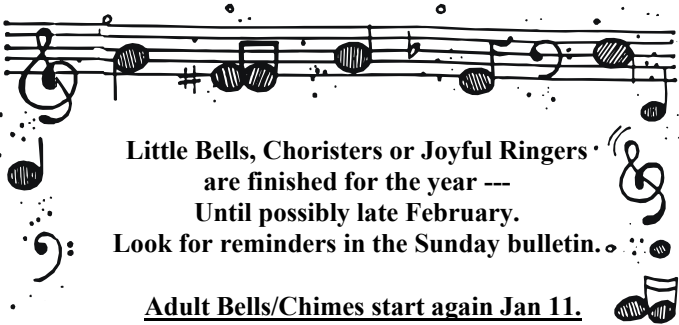
PASTOR SEIBER (619) 575-7212

If you or someone you know has a need and would like a visit from Pastor John, please call the church office at **(619) 427-5515**.



Please keep these people in your prayers. Remembering that most of them might appreciate visits from you.

Hilda Aubol	Esther Kort
Rocky Beebe	Olive Kramp
Betty Burgess	Lorrie Malonne
Kaho Chester	Arthur Mosen
Helen Dearmin	Ken Voight
Carol Graham	Jack Wahlquist
Florence Harris	Nora West
Peter Honrud	Bob Whittier



Little Bells, Choristers or Joyful Ringers
are finished for the year ---
Until possibly late February.
Look for reminders in the Sunday bulletin.

Adult Bells/Chimes start again Jan 11.

Musicians are taking a bit of a well deserved respite in January. Rehearsals will start again after the holidays.

A big thank you to all who shared their musical talents to make the past year so special.

Barb

I was delighted and proud of the members of our music ministry as they participated in the musical program at Chula Vista Presbyterian, presented a children's Christmas worship & program and a choir Christmas cantata.

We have a quality music program at St. Mark's due to the time and effort of both volunteers and paid staff and the support of parents.

The Christmas message of love was evident.
God bless you all!

When I look around St. Mark's, I see a lot of gray hair (me included). Those of us who have been active in our church still want to serve God and share the Gospel, especially here at Hilltop Dr. & "I" St

In 2010, we have choices we must continue to make. We can support ministries that attract unchurched, younger people to come hear the Good News, or continue to do ministry as we always have.

Valet Parking for Sunday Worship



If you or your loved one(s) have mobility issues that make it difficult for them to attend Sunday worship, we now can help.

Several members have agreed to meet those folks at the rear of the church near the Conference room, help them with walkers, wheel chairs, etc., and then park the car for you.

In order for this plan to work, we do need to know that you are coming and the approximate time of your arrival.

You may either call:
the Church Office (619-427-5515) during the week
Or call Pastor John (619-575-7212) on Saturday to notify us.

When you come:
please use the I Street entrance near Project Hand and the stop near the bench outside the rear of the Worship Center

Through the call process, we said that we were ready to reach out to neighbors, to be an inviting congregation, and to support doing some things differently...even when we are not in our comfort zone. This is both challenging and exciting.

I see us taking some first steps to move in a positive, healthy direction. Please continue your support and prayers for youth ministries and the praise worship in 2010. As the new year moves along, may we be open to new ways to reach out and to serve.

May God continue to bless St. Mark's and give us the direction and guidance of the Holy Spirit in 2010!

Nancy Dreesen
Council President

"Ask The Pastor" Bible Study

On January 2, 2010, at 10:00 a.m. in Jacobson Hall, Pastor Ron will meet with our women for questions about the studies we have done on Romans to date and with next month's study.



All of our circles enjoyed a holiday celebration in December. So our January study will be Session 4, "Moved to a New Address," from the December issue of Lutheran Woman Today.

Questions about this?
Contact Jill McGrew 619-216-3801

Five families to pray for:
January 2010

- Esther Fredrickson
- Jeanette Froslic
- Earle & Gloria Galbraith
- Herb & Dorothy Geier
- David & Jane Gerber

Church Attendance

	11/09	11/08
Week 1	249	271
Week 2	226	245
Week 3	258	262
Week 4	313	245
Week 5	<u>210</u>	<u>250</u>
Total	1256	1273

"One should not stand at the foot of a sick person's bed, because that place is reserved for the guardian angel."

- Jewish Folk Saying

If God be for us, who can be against us?" - Romans 8:31

"A baby is God's opinion that the world should go on."
- Carl Sandburg

The Budget Meeting has been changed from January 10th to January 17th. This was necessary, as we need to have the Dec. 31st closing Income Statement and 2010 Budget available for the Congregation to review in advance of the meeting. In the past we have mailed that to all of the members. In order to save money and trees, we will make it available in the Narthex on Sunday, Jan 10th.

Budget Meeting Notice

Sunday, January 17th following the 9:00 a.m. service, a meeting will be held in the sanctuary to review the proposed budget for 2010. Please plan to attend.

A New Year Wish

~ Garnett Ann Schultz ~

Perhaps a bit wiser,
a bit kinder, too,
a little bit braver,
a heart that's more true,
a touch of believing
I've not known before,
in joys I'm receiving
a little bit more.

A little more anxious
to reach out my hand,
despite hurt or problems
to still understand,
accepting the heartache
that life often brings,
a little more beauty
in life's simple things.

A prayer when I'm weary
as onward I trod,
a little more trusting,
believing in God,
'tis this I would wish for
within moments dear,
not a lot - just a little
this wondrous new year.



Religious Quotes

"Let your light shine before men so that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in Heaven."
- Matthew 5:16

"If God can work through me, he can work through anyone."
- St. Francis of Assisi

"I live and love in God's peculiar light." - Michelangelo

"God is our refuge and our strength, a very present help in trouble." - Psalms 16:1

