



M A R K S M A N



Mission Statement

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

Core Values

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

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. "

St. Mark's Lutheran Church 580 Hilltop Drive Chula Vista CA 91910 (619) 427-5515 Pastor Ron Hovick

In from Afghanistan via facebook:

The packages were perfect!! everyone loved them. Thank you so much!!

from Kyle: Thank you aunt Denise Jones **and her church** for the packages. They came in today and there is less than one box left. Great buys. Thank you so much.

from David: Kyle, tell your family thanks for all of the great stuff they sent!

(from Denise-- all 6 boxes arrived in 9 days, and he set them out in the common room for everyone to share, and it all disappeared FAST!).

Plus-- I heard from the one female soldier at the base, and she is very appreciative, and sends her thanks

Prayer Quilter's Corner

I wanted to share this letter with you - this is why we use our prayers, hearts, and hands to comfort others through our quilts -

"I requested two of your awesome prayer quilts.

One for my mother who greatly appreciated it. Her health is failing and her husband just had a stroke.

The other one was for a high school friend who was going through a horrible divorce after being married for 25 years and having 3 children.

Her husband cheated and turned to drugs. These people had NO faith left. My friend Angie was at a breaking point when her husband tried to kill her. Then she had nothing else to give when the Lord told me to ask Jean (Antis) for a quilt. The day she received the knock on the door to receive the quilt she had just gotten off the phone with her son who was giving a child up for adoption. Her 1st grandchild. It had only been a day and a half since the birth. She took the news so hard. The package was a sign from God for her.

When she opened the package she began to cry. Her family was there and they had to read the Bible passage, as it was a perfect fit to her life. (I send a personal card with these quilts.) She was taken to her knees. She later called me and said when she laid on the couch with the quilt it gave her peace and a sense of warmth came over her.

Since my husband has taken ill God has given me great comfort and has answered so many of my prayers for his recovery. I wanted to personally thank you for such a beautiful gift. You helped two people to believe in faith. Faith that God is real! I am forever grateful to you and your church and I'll never forget how precious those quilts really are!

Thank you for your loving hands -

Love,
The Hawthorn Family"

This is just one of many thanks you's I receive -I read some aloud when do our Saturday quilting - and they all go in the book of prayer quilts we have made and given. These letters are wonderful testimonies.

Please join us as we meet to sew, put together, and put ties in these quilts.
No experience necessary.



Next Meeting
On Saturday, July 17th
10:00 to 2:00 in Jacobson Hall.
Lunch and snacks will be provided -

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

Kyle Update: Just before I left for the holiday weekend, I heard from Kyle again-- they got the latest shipment in just 10 days! everything arrived. I got a short thank you note saying "everything was "PERFECT" from Kyle, and also got several short thank you notes via facebook from others at the base-- thanking me and the congregation for the support, and how much they appreciate everything! One of the gals there said they were all getting teary-eyes reading the notes I included.. and that we are "wonderful people".

I sent off 6 boxes this afternoon!

One extra due to 2 batches of home-made cookies that needed to go out, plus mountains of socks and t-shirts!!

The response from St Mark's has been totally overwhelming and wonderful!! There are no words to express how proud I am of my fellow members, and their generosity. I will do some fine-tuning for the list and get that out to you very soon too.

I am thinking NO MORE socks or t-shirts-- as so many have already been sent.

Keep the snacks coming!

PLEASE do NOT get huge bulk boxes from Costco, as they are very hard to pack—They don't fit into the PO boxes. ALSO-- please check expiration dates if you buy from discount stores...

Denise

TACO Blurb for July 2010

It's July! Time to get in the Christmas spirit because it's TACO's Christmas in July!

Starting now, TACO is raising money to purchase 250 Christmas gifts for our meal guests, and we won't stop until we reach our goal!

In the four years of this great fundraiser, we have continued Christmas in July into later months as needed. In years past, gifts have been sleeping bags, duffle bags, or backpacks. This year, we hope to purchase tents and tarps for \$20.

In December, these gifts will be wrapped and distributed to our meal guests. You can help make someone's Christmas brighter by contributing to this cause! Make checks payable to "TACO" with "Christmas in July" in the memo line.

Also, mark your calendars for Saturday, October 2 for Sunset by the Sea, 2010, a wonderful fundraiser for TACO including a live and silent auction, entertainment, and wonderful food.

TACO, through First Lutheran Church, is a non-profit charity that serves the homeless, elderly, and working poor primarily in downtown San Diego.

Offerings include free meals, free medical, dental, and acupuncture clinics, a free legal project, a program for those who are homeless and terminally ill, as well as free mental health counseling to any and all who come.

Through the support of over 35 congregations like yours in this area, we are able to continue this mission. Thank you for your generosity!

Rachel Line
TACO Volunteer Coordinator
1420 Third Avenue, San Diego, CA
92101
619-235-9445 tacod.org

From the Council President's Desk...

•A Video System Update: As of May 31, we have \$25,422.09 in the Video designated account. Last June the congregation approved spending up to \$30,000. The video committee has recommended accepting the bid of \$28,507.96 from ISS, a local company. So you can see that we still need to have additional funds to completely install the basic system. (This bid does not include the flat screen TV monitor for the far left side of the Worship Space.)

•Loan Update: Thank you so much for your support of our loan repayment! Our loan balance with the Mission Investment Fund is \$605,511. Beginning this year, we have included the loan payment in our operating budget. Our monthly payment remains at \$8277 through August. Mission Investment is re-evaluating our loan and interest rate, an adjustment will occur beginning with our September payment. This is done every 5 years as a part of our original loan agreement.

•Do you have small children? What are your expectations & wants for a church nursery? The Council wants your feedback. Of course, insurance requirements and finances must be considered in making any decisions on the nursery. Please speak with a Council member on this if you have small children.

•We received a thank you letter and certificate of appreciation from the Synod for our 2009 Benevolence contributions.

•Do you want to shrink your food budget and still have healthy foods? Check the Golden Share information found in the Gathering Space/Narthex.

FYI: Council minutes are posted for your information. Also, paper copies of our church newsletter are available in the Narthex/Gathering Space as well as on our website.

Blessings!

Nancy Dreesen, Council President

Church Attendance

5/10 5/09

Week 1	283	189
Week 2	230	343
Week 3	218	398
Week 4	228	262
Week 5	<u>231</u>	<u>238</u>
Total	1190	1430

Five families to pray for:
July 2010

- Dottie Jenkins
- Doug Jenkins
- Jesse & Dorothy Jenkins
- Marge Jennings
- Bud, Marie, Nikole and BJ Jezbera



A child was asked to write a book report on the entire Bible. I wonder how often we take for granted that children understand what we are teaching???

The Children's Bible in a Nutshell

In the beginning, which occurred near the start, there was nothing but God, darkness, and some gas. The Bible says, 'The Lord thy God is one, but I think He must be a lot older than that. Anyway, God said, 'Give me a light!' and someone did. Then God made the world.

He split the Adam and made Eve. Adam and Eve were naked, but they weren't embarrassed because mirrors hadn't been invented yet. Adam and Eve disobeyed God by eating one bad apple, so they were driven from the Garden of Eden.....Not sure what they were driven in though, because they didn't have cars.

Adam and Eve had a son, Cain, who hated his brother as long as he was Abel. Pretty soon all of the early people died off, except for Methuselah, who lived to be like a million or something.

One of the next important people was Noah, who was a good guy, but one of his kids was kind of a Ham. Noah built a large boat and put his family and some animals on it. He asked some other people to join him, but they said they would have to take a rain check.

After Noah came Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. Jacob was more famous than his brother, Esau, because Esau sold Jacob his birthmark in exchange for some pot roast. Jacob had a son named Joseph who wore a really loud sports coat.

Another important Bible guy is Moses, whose real name was Charlton Heston. Moses led the Israel Lights out of Egypt and away from the evil Pharaoh after God sent ten plagues on Pharaoh's people. These plagues included frogs, mice, lice, bowels, and no cable. God fed the Israel Lights every day with manicotti.

Then he gave them His Top Ten Commandments. These include: don't lie, cheat, smoke, dance, or covet your neighbor's stuff. Oh, yeah, I just thought of one more: Humor thy father and thy mother. One of Moses' best helpers was Joshua who was the first Bible guy to use spies. Joshua fought the battle of Geritol and the fence fell over on the town.

After Joshua came David. He got to be king by killing a giant with a slingshot. He had a son named Solomon who had about 300 wives and 500 porcupines. My teacher says he was wise, but that doesn't sound very wise to me.

After Solomon there were a bunch of major league prophets. One of these was Jonah, who was swallowed by a big whale and then barfed up on the shore. There were also some minor league prophets, but I guess we don't have to worry about them.

After the Old Testament came the New Testament. Jesus is the star of The New. He was born in Bethlehem in a barn. (I wish I had been born in a barn too, because my mom is always saying to me, 'Close the door! Were you born in a barn?' It would be nice to say, 'As a matter of fact, I was.')

During His life, Jesus had many arguments with sinners like the Pharisees and the Republicans/Democrats. Jesus also had twelve opossums. The worst one was Judas Asparagus.

Cassandra writes to Denise Jones:

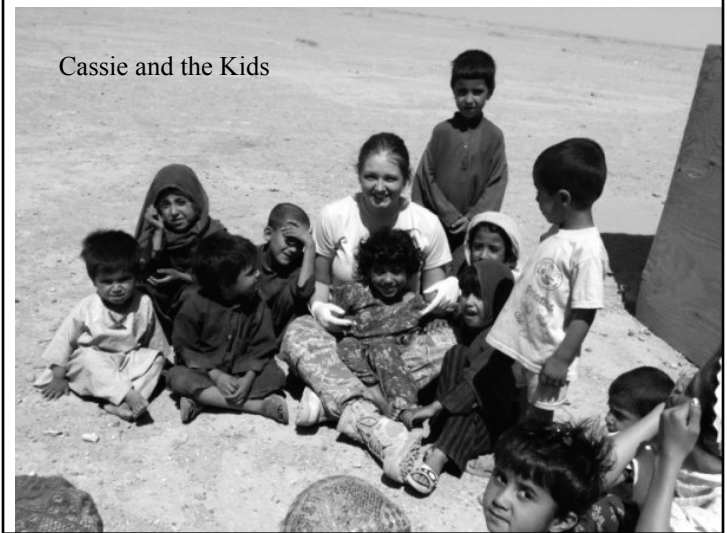
Hi Denise, So, I know that you are and the church is always looking for something to send, but this request isn't exactly for anyone on the team. I give out candies and small, cheap toys to the kids at the clinic and if you would like to send anything it would be greatly appreciated. It is in no way necessary and if it's too much to ask you can completely disregard!
Thank you! Cassie

Denise Writes:

Cassandra is the lone military female and base medic. She treats the women and children from the nearby village, as well as keeping the troops healthy.

Add to the list: small toys-- such as beanie babies, yo-yos, Coloring books, crayons, pens, notebooks, pencils, small balls...anything really small sturdy toys like that, as well as small packages of candy suitable to hand out to the Afghan children who come in to the base clinic. I did notice that I don't really have anything for babies, such as teething rings or those plastic keys, etc.
Thank you so much Denise!

A BIG part of the mission in this area is winning the "hearts and minds" of the locals-- so they turn against the Taliban. This fits right in. And what a sweetheart Cassie is too-- and she must be overwhelmed being surrounded by men..... just imagine! I told her we would definitely send things for the kids.



Cassie and the Kids



Real Early reminder.. Plan to attend.

Pastor will have the introduction to the Fall Women's Bible Study. Put it on your calendar - September 11th at 10:00 a.m.

Judas was so evil that they named a terrible vegetable after him.

Jesus was a great man. He healed many leopards and even preached to some Germans on the Mount. But the Republicans/Democrats and all those guys put Jesus on trial before Pontius the Pilot. Pilot didn't stick up for Jesus. He just washed his hands instead.

Anyways, Jesus died for our sins, then came back to life again. He went up to Heaven but will be back at the end of the Aluminum. His return is foretold in the book of Revolution.