

Dear Members and Friends of St. Mark's,

Many have questioned the origin and background of Glory Lutheran Church and its ministries, and its relationship to St. Mark's. Since it started before my time here (about 4 years go) I can't help you much in that area. But I can help you understand the relationship Glory has with St. Mark's and the greater Church, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

Glory Lutheran began as part of the outreach ministry of TEEM (Theological Education for Emerging Ministries). TEEM is a program of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America; the task is to prepare individuals for ordained ministry in ethnic-specific, multicultural, rural, inner-city or deaf community situations and areas.

Folks who are eligible for the TEEM program are identified and supported within their synods and approved by the ELCA leadership. Normally age 40 or older, TEEM candidates are persons who by reason of age and prior experience . . . are qualified to participate in an alternative program of preparation for ordination.

When TEEM students have completed the required coursework, they are eligible for ordination and are considered on par with the rest of their clergy brothers and sisters. The process and their education all take place while they are in the midst of doing FULL-TIME MINISTRY; "baptism by fire" as they say.

Put in another way, often times, due to circumstances, there are folks who find themselves in leadership positions within a budding congregation, and they perform all the duties and functions of an ordained clergy person. They are Called up from the membership because of their gifts and abilities. In some circumstances, for various reasons, the TEEM student (and congregation) may not be part of the ELCA. What TEEM does then, is make sure the leader is "Lutheran-ized" through education and practical experience, and the entire congregation is taken into membership within the ELCA. Glory Lutheran Church, which meets on our campus weekly, recognized gifts and abilities in Betty Chen, and Betty is getting ready to graduate in May, from the TEEM program and enter into full ordained ministry.

St. Mark's should be very proud to be part of this emerging, new and exciting ministry of the ELCA. In October I was privileged to attend a session of TEEM in Berkeley as Betty's mentor. This ministry is growing around the nation and is bringing the Good News of the forgiveness, freedom and acceptance of God, in Jesus, to many areas, which would not otherwise be able to fully experience ministry.

If you have any questions regarding TEEM or Glory Lutheran, please stop Betty and ask her. She's rightfully proud of her accomplishments and always willing to share what is happening at Glory.

To God be the glory!
Pastor Ron



Committee of the Month

Angel Tree Ministry

Once again St. Marks will be participating in the Angel Tree Ministry this holiday season. For those who are not familiar with this, the Angel Tree ministry provides Christmas gifts to children who have a parent in prison. This year we will have the Angel Tree set up in the Narthex on two consecutive Sundays beginning November 23rd. The gift return for those participating will be on Sunday, December 7th. There is also a need for volunteers to wrap, shop and deliver the gifts. Please look for upcoming announcements in the bulletin.

In addition this year the Angel Ministry has another opportunity for us to get involved. The visiting room at RJ Donovan prison is badly in need of donations for the Angel Tree kids who visit their Dads there.

The requirements on what they can accept are very specific. Card games such as Uno, Skip Bo, Phase 10, and board games such as scrabble, dominoes, 100 piece jigsaw puzzles and kid's board games (the less pieces the better) are all acceptable.

They are also looking for plastic kids tables and chairs, kids plastic easels, large sheets or rolls of newsprint for coloring and coloring books. NO-NO'S include nothing with dice, moving parts or marbles, no regular playing cards, nothing motorized or battery operated. Also, dry erase boards/pens are not permitted.

If you can help with either or both of these opportunities, please contact Karin August in the church office. Also, be on the lookout for further announcements in the weekly bulletin in November.

Volunteers and their Substitutes

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Director of Family Ministries

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It is amazing and beautiful to watch as so many offer so much. The St. Mark's family continually provides the time and effort needed to keep everything moving forward. Just the sheer number of little things that need to be accomplished on a weekly basis is hard to believe and that these things DO get done is borderline miraculous. I am humbly awed to work with so many volunteers who simply shrug and smile when asked how they manage to find time to fill their niche.

It is particularly impressive when one considers all the change we have endured over the past couple of years; change that is still ongoing. With the congregation taking a leadership role in St. Mark's destiny via the committee system, the need for member's hours has only increased along with a need for decisiveness and communication. Yet, with each twist and turn there always seems to be someone who is willing to give up a little of their spare time. It is amazing and beautiful to watch as so many offer so much.

The part that sometimes gets overlooked, however, is the need for substitutes. Those that fill a niche with skill

and passion might be happy volunteering their special skills, but there comes a time when they need a rest. Maybe they're going on vacation, maybe they're sick and maybe they just want a break from ownership. Whatever the reason, there is a real need for a second string. In most cases, to be a back-up does not require a special talent or a special passion, for the duration of the need is usually short and the standards for fill-ins are generally low. That's the beauty of substituting: important work with low expectations (I'm just kidding. Sort of. Well, not really). AND, in most cases, backing up another volunteer might only be required a handful of times each year.

The hardest part, really, is just figuring out where one is needed as a substitute. If you're unsure as to how to proceed, perhaps the easiest way is to contact one of our Volunteer Coordinators, Alma Sprengle and Karin August. One of them is in the church office each weekday from 9am to 1pm. A short discussion about availability or interests will undoubtedly yield something new and interesting.

Now, before I go, let me bring up one area that I know for sure could use some occasional help: the Wednesday night dinner crew. Karin Quick and Neila Stover do a fantastic job of preparing meals and Mark and Paul Johnson are invaluable for their clean-up help, but none of them can be there every week nor should they. To date, our back-up list in this area is thin and if we want to continue with this important service then we should probably start putting something together. The job itself is simple. The food is already purchased and stored in the church kitchen. The menu is small and easy to fulfill. Everything is written down and training is always available and open to those interested. Plus, I'm always around on Wednesdays so you'll always have someone to consult. More importantly, you'll always have someone to blame.

To summarize: substituting is all about:
small hours,
low expectations,
big rewards
and
blaming Brett.
Who can pass on that?

From the Council President

Care for Returning Veterans Workshop

November is our month to make pledges in support of our on-going ministries and budget. Just as you personally experience increased expenses, so too do church expenses rise. Please know how very important your pledge is to the work of the church here in Chula Vista. As a congregation we have many exciting opportunities in front of us. Our personal and communal choices now affect the generations that will follow.

Congregations of the ELCA are preparing to create caring and welcoming places for returning veterans and their families. "Care for Returning Veterans" is a series of workshops being held in January 2009. The church is a powerful force in helping veterans wrestle with and reconcile the love of God with the horrors of war they encounter and protect us from. January 23, 2009 at Tierrasanta Lutheran in San Diego will be the nearest workshop to us. As a church community with a strong military connection, would you be willing to attend this workshop and bring this ministry to Chula Vista?

Announcements:

"Prepare to C.A.R.E.Training" . . . are you prepared?

Are the members of St. Mark's prepared? Is our church prepared to continue in the event of an emergency or disaster? Learn what you need to do to prepare your family and congregation. Make a plan now as to how you will minister to our community during a crisis. How? We can, through the Pacifica synod, schedule a training event for our area. Are you interested in organizing this kind of event and ministry?

Support the Lutheran-Episcopal Campus Ministry
at SDSU, Agape House.

Plan to attend the **Harvest Celebration**,
Saturday, November 15 from 6 – 9 p.m.
at College Lutheran Church.

It will be an evening of music with Deborah Liv Johnson,
wining and dining and both a silent and live auction.
Free childcare.

Tickets: \$35 per person, \$5 (ages 65+), \$5 students.
Call Jean O'Leary at (619) 583-3972.

HOMEBOUND MEMBERS

Pastor Sieber is our Visitation Pastor, currently calling on the following homebound members.

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 and remember that most of them would appreciate visits from you as well.

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|--------------------|---------------|
| Betty Burgess | Kaho Chester |
| Reuben & Ruth Haas | Peter Honrud |
| Florence Harris | Esther Kort |
| Gene & Olive Kramp | Joe Wingo |
| Verna Werstlein | Nora West |
| Helen Dearmin | Bill Godfrey |
| Ken Hulthenius | Bob Whittier |
| Elinor Scavo | Jack Walquist |

Family of the month

Each month we will select five families from the directory to pray for in turn, as well as those families who have a special need at this time.

Please pray for these families:

- Dave, Sheri & Lisa Barker
 Donald & Kay Barthel
 Kurt Bauer
 Mathew, Nadine & Shawn Baumann
 Marilyn Bazley

Fellowship Club

Tuesday November 11
 Noon in Jacobson hall
 Special Speaker
 Rear Admiral John McLaughlin
 Chief Operating Officer of Midway Museum
 Topic – the Midway
 Be sure to invite your neighbors, friends and especially a Veteran

DEADLINE

The **deadline to submit** articles for the next issue of *The Marksman* is the **15th of the previous month**.

Did you know articles...can be hand written if necessary and submitted to Melody for pick up.

Prayer Request

rhulthenius@cox.net
 joanharsh@cox.net

Church Attendance

Sept. 08 - Sept. 07

Week 1	194	164
Week 2	284	197
Week 3	293	191
Week 4	242	191
Week 5	n/a	225
Total	1013	968
YTD	9711	8824

Prayer Quilt Ministry

You are each a member of the Prayer Quilt Ministry as you pray in church and tie prayers into quilts on Wednesday evening and Sunday mornings. The Prayer Quilt Ministry needs you to pray, tie knots, and would like to have you join us in making, pinning together, and putting ties in quilts. No experience is necessary, just a willing heart and hands. Join us in Jacobson Hall on Saturday, November 15th, from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. for quilting, fellowship, and lunch.

If you can't physically be present, there are other ways to help. Donations of cotton fabrics, thread, gift cards to JoAnn or Wal-Mart, or a monetary donation put in an offering envelope on Sunday are appreciated.

Checks should be made to St. Mark's and the memo line must read Prayer Quilts Ministry - also write Prayer Quilt Ministry on the envelope.

When a friend or loved one is suffering, tells you of a diagnosis, death, or serious problem in their life, ask if you can pray for them - then take the next step...ask if we can wrap them in the warmth and love of our prayers for them.

Call Roz Nelson at **(619) 422-5463** or e-mail her at **roznelson@att.net** if you'd like more information or would like to request a prayer quilt.

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It's Easy to Renew

If you participated last year, don't forget to renew to continue earning VONS contributions.

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- Visit www.escrip.com
- Click on "YES RENEW!"

For uninterrupted contributions, renew annually by November 1.

If you don't have a computer but want to participate in eScrip see **Chuck Cole** on how to sign up.

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