



MARKSMAN



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. "

September 2009

Social Concerns Corner

How Members Of St. Mark's Reach Out To Others.

I have wanted to go on a Habitat for Humanity trip for many years, and for one reason or another it didn't work out. I finally got this prayer answered positively, and I am so glad I was able to go. This trip to El Salvador was a joint effort by Habitat and Thrivent, and is beneficial to both of the organizations; Habitat gives people the opportunity to become homeowner when they were unable to become one otherwise, and Thrivent, gives people an opportunity to gain financial security with being a homeowner. The alliance of Habitat & Thrivent reflects the mission and values of both organizations by building simple decent, affordable homes for those in need.

We landed in San Salvador, El Salvador at noon on Friday, July 10th, and were met by the Habitat staff. Our team consisted of Tim, the leader, Jack, Randy, Rebecca, Jenna from Michigan, Julie and her daughter Emily from Pittsburg, Steve from Indiana, my two roommates, Angie from Butte, Montana, Lynne from Wausau, Wisconsin, Bill and Sheri Bengtson and myself. We checked into our hotel, the Hotel Sahara, and had a thorough orientation and got settled in our rooms. A team meeting and devotions were held on the rooftop of the hotel each night.

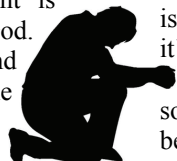
Saturday was our first workday; we were ready!

Each of the 5 houses we were working on was a duplex and each house had 2 masons, workers, and the homeowner donating his/her labor earning "sweat equity". After devotions each morning at the site, we were put to work, digging holes for wells, hauling dirt, shifting sand for cement, putting mortar in the cement blocks, working with the steel rods that protect against earthquakes, carrying/moving cement blocks, etcetera. We were served a nice hot lunch everyday and the Salvadorians were eager to have us try something new from their culture. Papusa and fried plantains were two El Salvadorian foods that I tried, and liked!

Amidst the work, we had some time for being tourists – we went to Lake Coatepeque, which is a lake in the crater of a volcano, we saw the Mayan ruins and had dinner at several restaurants that local people frequent.



Our relationship with God should be of utmost importance. We all agree on that. How we maintain that is personal and unique. One element of that relationship is most definitely the understanding that God is our creator and provider. As such, he has given us more than we could ever give him back. Still, we try, even when every fiber of our selfish selves pulls us the other direction. This fight is our act of love toward God. It's what he what wants and the harder we fight the more love he feels.



That leads me to a little confession: sometimes I don't fight much at all. Doing the minimum is easy enough and so I cruise. Pray a little, go to church, don't murder anyone. The funny thing is that upon closer examination I don't even do the minimum very good. No, I haven't murdered anyone (what a fine person I am) but the rest is a little shabby. My prayers are sort of, shall we say, lazy? I have the time to do better, it's just that supplicating and being thankful is kind of humbling and boring. You know it's true. I just want to get to the good part where I ask for stuff, but I don't want to sound too greedy, you know? Maybe I'm being facetious, maybe not.

It was hard to leave the very friendly, kind and very caring Salvadorian people, but the week went so fast and we had to say goodbye.

What struck me the most was the happiness the homeowners had for getting a home and thanking us for coming and helping build! I am very open to going again, and will wait and see what next year brings.

Thanks to all of you for the prayers for Bill, Sheri, the team and myself. They were most welcomed! If you want to hear more on our trip, myself, Bill and Sheri will be doing a presentation for the Fellowship group and Sheri and I will be doing a presentation or the Women's Synodical meeting in October.

If you are unable to take such a trip for whatever reason, you can look up www.thriventbuilds.com and see some ways you can help



Penny Hovick

There are so many ways I can do more than the minimum and I need to do something about it. I'd be in huge trouble if God did the minimum for me each day. So, I'm going to start with my prayers. I'm going to talk to God like it's a pleasure and not a chore. I'm going to tell him things he already knows. I'm going to tell him how great he is and what a wonderful world he has created. I'm going to give him a tiny bit of the love he has given me my entire life.

And I have a feeling that if he and I talk enough, he'll show me ways in which I can move beyond the minimum in the rest of my life. Boy, could I use the help.

Brett Perkins - Family Ministries Director
Bperk05@yahoo.com - 619-479-9669

Dealing with Elderly Parents (by Pastor John)
Book Review - **Mom, Dad, Can We Talk?**

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Denise Jones writes:

"I read (almost memorized) the book you are recommending that deals with practical ideals on how to care for our elderly. Please let people know that it is NOT just for those with elderly parents. Now I find that responsibility for an elderly aunt has passed to me, and she is far more of a handful than my own mother was. I read the book before my latest visit to her and found myself praising God for having done so. I was open to listening to her, and we spent much of the weekend visit with me listening as she wanted to talk about her funeral wishes, her desires for how to dispose of her belongings when she passes, her fears for the future, what plans she had already made. What a wonderful thing that I was prepared to let her lead and was able to follow along with her in a prayerful way. Then I passed the book along to my brother-in-law who is in a similar situation. It opened a LOT of eyes and hearts there. This book is a must read for anyone who has any relationship with an elderly person. It has so many wonderful common sense ideas and thoughts to use."

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All three of my copies are currently on loan. Please call the Church office and reserve a copy if you want to read it. There are many end of life issues we all need to think, talk and pray about.

Prayer Quilting Corner

Roz Nelson

We are blessed to be a blessing to so many!
We need helping hands and hearts to put quilts together, iron, put in ties, sew and so much more.

We meet one Saturday a month for quilting and fellowship - from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. in Jacobson Hall. Lunch is provided.

Come for part or all of the time and bring a friend.

PRAYER QUILTING SATURDAY DATES

- put them on your calendar

Sept. 19th-Oct. 24th-Nov. 14th

HOMEBOUND MEMBERS

PASTOR SEIBER (619) 575-7212



Pastor John Sieber is our Visitation Pastor, tending to the member and friends of St. Mark's who are homebound.

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

SONSHINE/WEST CLUSTER FALL EVENT

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 17, 2009

St. Mark's Lutheran Church
*580 Hilltop Drive, Chula Vista 91910



"BUILDING IN PARTNERSHIP"

Theme Verse: Psalm 127:1

"Unless the Lord builds the house, those who build it labor in vain."

Registration: 9:30 - \$6.00, Program 10:00

Guest Speakers: Penny Hovick & Sheri Bengtson

Will tell us about their recent trip to El Salvador to build homes to "give a hand up, not a hand out".

Luncheon will follow with a demonstration on making Papusa.
El Salvadoran coffee will be served.

Love Gifts: Lutheran Social Services "Project Hand"

Suggestions: Non-Perishable Items such as cereals, canned fruits, vegetables, soups & meats, rice/pastas/beans, spaghetti sauce, boxed items, peanut butter, jelly, crackers, baby food & formula along with diapers, wipes, personal items & laundry detergent.

RSVP: _____ **Telephone:** _____

Cluster Call Person: Joyce Boutte 619-463-6734 by October 12

Like to eat out in fellowship? Ask Betty Cunningham - Betty Wilson - Mary Callan
Once a Month ~ Birthday/Anniversary Lunch ~ Friday Breakfast

Prayer: Don't give God instructions -- just report for duty!

Three items from the President... Nancy Dreesen Council President

1. Are you a grandparent who misses having babies and toddlers around? Do your grandchildren live out-of-town? Are you a parent who values having nursery care available during worship? Would you be willing to volunteer in the church nursery one Sunday a month or whatever would fit your schedule? Please let us know your willingness to serve by contacting the church office or placing a note in the offering plate.

2. Our Video System Purchase Goal is to raise \$30,000. As of July 31, 2009, we have \$10,206 in the video system designated fund. If this purchase is important to you, please consider making a donation to enable us to obtain the system. Please indicate on your check or envelope that it is for the "Video System".

3. At this time, I only have 2 responses to my "how do we serve others" inquiry. So I will delay publishing any results. How do you serve others beyond our church campus? I would love to let others know what a caring, serving congregation we are. Please let me know. You can place a note in the offering plate, give it to me directly, or leave it in the church office

Treasurer's Report as of July 31, 2009

Budgeted Income and Expense (Excludes Loan Repayment Activity)

	07/31/08 <u>Year to Date</u>	07/31/09 <u>Year to Date</u>	Annual <u>Budget</u>
Total Income	\$218,177	\$232,094	\$437,799
Total Expenses	230,548	241,894	437,799
Net Income	(\$ 12,371)	(\$ 9,800)	0

Note: Offerings have increased over the prior year for which the Church Council is very grateful to the members of St. Mark's.

However, we are not yet on track to meet our annual income budget. Please prayerfully consider how you might help us to meet that budget.

Loan Repayment Fund

	07/31/09 <u>Year to Date</u>
Donations	\$133,111
Principal Payments	\$131,348
Interest Payments	\$ 21,480
Loan Balance December 31, 2008	\$791,857
Loan Balance July 31, 2009	\$660,509
Loan Repayment Reserve Account Balance December 31, 2008	\$59,810
Loan Repayment Reserve Account Balance July 31, 2009	\$46,415

Note: Due to generous donations to the Loan Repayment Fund, St. Mark's was able to make a \$100,000 principal reduction in February of this year to our loan balance. However, for five months of the seven months year to date, we did not receive donations sufficient to make our monthly loan payment of \$8,277. As a result, we have used our Reserve Account to meet those payments. The Church Council set a goal of maintaining \$50,000 in the Reserve Account. As of July 31, 2009 the balance is \$46,415.

Diane Flint Wages, Treasurer

Women's Activities for the Fall:

9/12/09 at 10 a.m. in Jacobson Hall: Introduction to our new Bible study, "To God's Beloved: Paul's Letter to the Romans" with Pastor Ron. Continental breakfast.

10/3/09 at 2 p.m., Clairemont Lutheran Women of the ELCA are hosting a special country music program "Beauty from Brokenness" by Mary James. She has appeared in Nashville at the Inspirational Country Music Awards and her music includes a blend of country, rock and pop that crosses generational lines. Contact Jill McGrew.

CIRCLES will begin meeting again in September to study Paul's Letter to the Romans. These groups of women gather in homes and at church throughout each month to study God's word, to share joys and concerns, to pray together and to serve our church by raising funds to help others.

In our families, in our church, in our community, our women are active!

Note to members of circles: *life change, *can't attend your regular meeting - VISIT Another Circle.

**Five families to pray for
September 2009**

Harry & Lily Crosland
Betty Cunningham
Helen Dearmin
Jerry & Joan Dedrick
Ingrid Denton

Church Attendance

	7/09	7/08
Week 1	202	222
Week 2	245	223
Week 3	215	200
Week 4	242	249
Week 5	n/a	n/a
Total	904	894



Adult Bells and Chimes are coming soon!

First rehearsal for the new season will be Monday night Sept 14.

St. Mark's Ringers (led by Denise Jones) meet from 5:30- 6:30. This group is open to ANYONE over the age of 6th grade-- adult or youth, who is interested in learning how to play bells. No experience of any kind is needed. Really! All that's required is a sense of humor, as we laugh a lot... mostly at ourselves. If you want to join, or just see what it's like-- all you have to do is show up at church at 5:30 any Monday.

Sanctuary Bells (led by Barbara Atwood) (our advanced group) rehearses from 6:30-7:30 Monday night.

Chancel Chimes (led by Denise Jones) (advanced group) meets from 7:30-8:30.

All rehearsals are held in the church sanctuary.

CHILDREN'S chimes are coming this fall, also. Information about where and when will be posted as soon as details are set. Rehearsals will begin in late September and run thru Christmas. Children will be participating in and playing for church services as well as concerts.

Lots of exciting new things are premiering this fall in the music department! Watch for details!

***Chancel Choir** rehearsals begin on Thursday, September 10th at 6:30 PM. New singers welcome!

***Celebration Team's** first rehearsal is September 24th at 7:30 PM. This group leads a Sunday morning "praise style" worship service approximately six time per year and rehearses two Thursdays prior to the service.

*Keep watching for information on **new musical group for youth age singers** slated to begin in October.

***St. Mark's Ringers** rehearsals begin on Monday, September 14th at 5:30 PM. This is an entry-level handbell group. No previous experience necessary; only a willing spirit!

***Sanctuary Bells** begin rehearsals Monday, September 14th at 6:30 PM. Previous ringing or music reading experience is desired.

***Chancel Chimes** begin rehearsals Monday, September 14th at 7:30 PM. Previous ringing or music reading experience is desired.

*Watch for more information on **children's bells, chimes and choir** rehearsals, which are also slated to begin in October.



August 22, 2009

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ:

Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body.
A n d b e t h a n k f u l .
-- Colossians 3:14-15

I write to you from the 2009 ELCA Churchwide Assembly in Minneapolis with official information about the actions of this assembly related to human sexuality. I am grateful for the manner in which this church has engaged in this conversation. The way this assembly has discussed these questions is a continuation of the way this church has deliberated: with deep and heartfelt respect for each other, engaging with Scripture, listening to the faith stories and experiences of one another, and through worship and prayer seeking the discernment of the Spirit.

In my response to the voting members on Friday, August 21, I made this request: we need one another. We need time. We need the voices of those who lament and those who rejoice over these actions, for together we have been called to proclaim the Good News of Jesus Christ and engage in God's mission for the life of the world.

The assembly adopted 676-338 -- precisely two-thirds of those voting -- "Human Sexuality: Gift and Trust," the ELCA's 10th social statement, with minor editorial amendments. It also adopted a series of implementing resolutions with amendments. This theological and teaching document builds on the key Lutheran principles of justification by grace and Christian freedom to serve the neighbor. It emphasizes that central to our vocation, in relation to human sexuality, is the building and protection of trust in relationships. It therefore affirms that we are called to be trustworthy in our human sexuality and to build social institutions and practices where trust and trustworthy relationships can thrive.

The social statement addresses marriage, same-gender relationships, families, protecting children, friendships, commitment, social responsibility and moral discernment. Regarding same-gender committed relationships, the social statement says that this church is not in agreement and recognizes the different perspectives which are present among us.

Our assembly also adopted resolutions proposed by the Church Council based on those contained in a "Report and Recommendation on Ministry Policies." The actions direct that changes be made to churchwide policy documents to make it possible for those in committed same-gender relationships to serve as rostered leaders in the ELCA. There were amendments to two of the proposals. The assembly adopted the resolutions in the following order, beginning with a strong statement about how we will live together in the face of our disagreements:

Resolution 3: "RESOLVED, that in the implementation of any resolutions on ministry policies, the ELCA commit itself to bear one another's burdens, love the neighbor, and respect the bound consciences of all." (Adopted 771-230 as amended)

Resolution 1: "RESOLVED, that the ELCA commit itself to finding ways to allow congregations that choose to do so to recognize, support and hold publicly accountable life-long, monogamous, same-gender relationships." (Adopted 619-402)

Resolution 2: "RESOLVED, that the ELCA commit itself to finding a way for people in such publicly accountable, lifelong, monogamous, same-gender relationships to serve as rostered leaders of this church." (Adopted 559-451)

Resolution 4: This resolution called upon members to respect the bound consciences of those with whom they disagree; declared intent to allow structured flexibility in decision-making about candidacy and the call process; eliminated the prohibition of rostered service by

members in publicly accountable, life-long, monogamous same-gender relationships; recognized and committed to respect the conviction of members who believe that the ELCA should not call or roster people in committed same-gender relationships; called for development of accountability guidelines; directed that amendments to ministry policy documents be drafted and approved; and stated that this church continue to trust congregations, bishops, synods and others responsible for determining who should be called into public ministry. (Adopted 667-307 as amended)

I invite you into important, thoughtful, prayerful conversation about what all of this means for our life in mission together. What is absolutely important for me is that we have this conversation together.

We meet one another finally -- not in our agreements or our disagreements -- but at the foot of the cross, where God is faithful, where Christ is present with us, and where, by the power of the Holy Spirit, we are one in Christ.

In Christ,
The Rev. Mark S. Hanson
ELCA Presiding Bishop

Comments of Bishop Hanson to the assembly at the conclusion of the decisions on human sexuality are at <http://www.elca.org/assembly> on the Web.