



News & Notes December 2011

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December Birthdays

- 12/2 Charlotte Rivers
- 12/3 Diane Metz
- 12/5 Charlie Thoma
- 12/6 Grace Carter
- 12/6 Rose Glandt
- 12/7 Kit Reynolds
- 12/9 Dawn Johnson
- 12/11 Margaret Heins
- 12/15 Gabrielle Danzeisen
- 12/15 Jim Mueller
- 12/16 Michael Pienovi
- 12/16 Doris Totten
- 12/17 Jay Reynolds
- 12/20 David Johnson
- 12/21 Jacqueline Marrolli
- 12/22 Les Johnsen
- 12/22 Kristi Lamb
- 12/24 Eddie Turner
- 12/25 George Agnew
- 12/25 Dan DiSano
- 12/25 Louis Lilienthal III
- 12/25 Chris Moore
- 12/26 Nicole Arnold
- 12/26 Eva Jo Michaelis
- 12/27 Judy Lyons
- 12/28 Alice Freeman
- 12/29 Bill Smith
- 12/31 Sandra Kelly
- 12/31 Matthew Standard

Church Calendar

To view the church calendar, [click here](#)

Click to view
[Council Minutes](#)

Prayer Concerns

Linda Mahoney, Bev Duncan, Doris Sams

Reminder

The deadline for items for the January newsletter is December 20.

Upcoming Events

December 4

Budget Forums (at the end of each service)

December 18

Pancake Breakfast

December 24

6 pm Children's Christmas Play
8 pm Candlelight Service

December 25

Christmas Day Service at 10 am

Children's Christmas Play

You are invited to
A Street Corner

Advent and Christmas

Midweek Advent Services are on Wednesdays November 30 and December 7, 14 and 21 at 6:30 pm. You are invited to join Family Night at 5:30 pm for dinner and the service will follow. Family Night classes will also continue through advent.

Christmas Eve Services will be at 6 and 8 pm. The 6 pm service is the Children's Christmas Play and the 8 pm service is the traditional candlelight service.

There will be one service on Christmas Day at 10 am. Pastor Bob Andersen will preside.

Annual Report

It's that time of year when we start collecting ministry reports for the annual report. Ministry leaders and chairs: Please have your reports to the office by December 16. The annual report will be available at the Annual Meeting on January 29.

Altar Guild -

Please meet in the sacristy between services at 10 on December 11th for a quick meeting regarding 2012 scheduling. Thank you, Josephine.

Poinsettias

It's time to decorate the church with poinsettias. You can purchase poinsettias for \$10 in memory, in honor or in celebration of a person or event. Order them at church before December 18th.



Poker Tournament

Congratulations to Pastor Todd, winner of the 2011 Youth Poker Tournament. Thanks to everyone who participated. We raised \$1550 towards the 2012 Mexico Mission Trip.

Nativity

December 24, 2011
6:00 pm

Preschool News

Hello Church Families-

"Preschool and Youth" Sunday was on Sunday, November 13th at the 11:00 am service. We had several families from the preschool attend the church that day. Everyone liked being able to watch the children sing. The preschool parents enjoyed coming to the church and getting to met some of the church families. Hopefully we will get another new member or two from the preschool to join our church. Thank you to Diane Metz and the preschool board for making all the yummy treats that morning.



We hope everyone had a wonderful Thanksgiving. The preschool had its annual Thanksgiving Feast on Thursday, November 17th and Friday, November 18th with all the children and their families. They were such nice luncheons; the children sang 3 really cute turkey songs and all the parents brought a dish to share with each other. What a lovely blessing to share Thanksgiving with the children and the families.

We are now getting ready for our Advent Fair which we will have on Friday, Dec 9th from 6pm to 8pm in fireside room in the preschool center. We will have crafts for the children to do and hot cocoa, cider and pizza. If you are available that evening please join us. It's a lovely way to mingle with the preschool families and the teachers and do some fun crafts. Hope to see you then.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to All!

See you in January.

The Staff @ St. Mark's Preschool
Miss Lucille, Miss Sarah, Miss Myung, Miss Courtney, Miss Barbara,
Miss Linda and Miss Jenene

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St. Mark's Community Christmas Party

The annual Christmas Party with the Fillmore Street Neighborhood will be Monday, December 12 at 6 pm. We will have tags with the children's names available at church on Sunday. Please consider taking a tag to bless a child with a gift this year. If you take a tag, please return the gift to church or the office by noon on December 12 with the tag attached. Thank you.

Stewardship News

Can We Take Care of Our "House"? Pledge Report

God gives us our "House" and everything that comes with it! That's super news, and reminds us that we joyfully give back to God, through our money, time, and talents. And that's all year long, every day, not just during "Pledge Season" in the Fall.

We're reminded that the word "steward" comes from the Old English, meaning to **take care** of the "house", or "hall"-or, actually, same word, "pigsty" (believe it or not!) So, every ministry of the Church comes under that heading-that our "year round stewardship ministry" means taking care of OUR "House" here at St. Mark's, 24-7.

So, many thanks to those who have pledged already to our Fall Campaign: it will help the Budget Committee in its planning-to pay our staff, to keep the lights on, and to do the work of the Church. As of November 14, 59 families have pledged \$225,635. It's not too late to add your pledge if you haven't done so.

Now, this is far short of the current estimate of what our Budget should be for 2012-and far short of the number of pledges from recent years. "WHY?" is the big question of course: Is it the Economy? Is it because a number of us aren't sure how much income we'll have this year? (and we don't want to make a commitment we can't keep?) Is it because many of us weren't raised with the idea of pledging to the Church, or understand it as a responsibility (and a privilege!) AND a mark of our discipleship?

Bottom line is we just don't know. And maybe it doesn't matter why. But what does matter is that we ARE called to take care of our "House", to ask of God's Grace how we can do that, both individually and as the Body of Christ. May it be so!

Jim Hanser, for Stewardship Ministry

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2011 Christmas Baskets



Thank You for donating towards the Thrivent 50% matching funds for St. Mark's Christmas Baskets. Still needed are \$10.00 grocery gift certificates or funds to purchase them.

For those wishing to donate frozen turkeys, canned fruit, vegetables (corn, green beans, refried beans etc.) or protein (tuna, beef stew etc.) by single cans or cases may do so. Contact Kathy re: delivery of frozen turkeys.

Volunteers can still sign up (or just show up) to work Sat., Dec. 17th to sort: arrival time 9:00-9:30 a.m. On Sun., Dec. 18th we will assemble: (after 10:00 a.m. pancake breakfast). On Mon., Dec. 19th we will distribute: arrival 3:30- 4:00 p.m. REPORT TO THE MURAL ROOM EACH TIME. Come join the fun!!

Call or e-mail Kathy any time with questions or to volunteer. Thank you so much!
Home: 422-3880; Cell: 580-2676; e-mail: ckdoty@sbcglobal.net

CALENDARS AND CARDS

Do you have extra 2012 calendars that you don't need? Have you received greeting cards from charities etc. that you are not going to use? Bring them to church and place in the box. Volunteers making up the Christmas Baskets will add these items to the Baskets.

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Stepping Out in Faith

A Past Remembered, A Future Longed For
By Pastor Todd

Every December we arrive at the Advent season, being called to remember the Christ who entered at a point in history and who promises to return at an unknown time in the future. This season of Advent flows into Christmas as the days continue to shorten and grow colder. With each Sunday of Advent, we are called back into a longing, a yearning for God to come into our own realities.

As night's darkness lengthens, we are drawn back to the light of Christ that illuminates the path forward beyond pain, fear, anxiety and unease. It is the same light that appears before the shepherds and points the way to the One who has been born to Us, to the Son who has been given to us, to the One who will be called Wonderful Counselor and Mighty Lord. We hear the Good News of the Christ to Come, and the Christ who came every year. We bear witness again to darkened Sun and barefoot prophets in the wilderness preparing the way of the Lord. We experience again the awe and wonder of a young Mary hearing news from an Angel

interrupting a good night's sleep. An Angel, who has the audacity to say, "What is impossible for mortals, is possible for God." We sit with Mary, who believes this incredible news with a gift of faith that only God could give. We journey with the young couple from Nazareth to Bethlehem on an arduous path. With them we come finally to the only vacant room in town, a place suitable only for animals. It is here that we are called to behold that in this vulnerable infant resides the Son of God, Emmanuel, God with us, the King of Kings, and the Lord of Lords.

To me, the Advent and Christmas liturgies never grow old. I feel like every year I am hearing them again for the first time. Why because I forget. I forget about the One who is always re-entering, renewing, being en-fleshed anew. It is a time where I am re-awakened to God's possible when I have given up on the impossible. I invite you to join me every Wednesday for our Mid-Week Advent Services, and then on Sunday through Advent and into Christmas. Be awakened, renewed, and restored by the One and in the One who truly does make all things new!

May Your Advent be a blessed One that I hope we can share together!

Peace,
Your Pastor

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Music Thoughts

David took the lyre and played it with his hand, and Saul would be relieved and feel better, and the evil spirit would depart from him. -1 Samuel 16:23

Here it must suffice to discuss the benefit of this great art. He can mention only one point (which experience confirms), namely that next to the Word of God, music deserves the highest praise. She is a mistress and governess for those human emotions, which, as masters, govern mortals or more often overwhelm them. No greater commendation that this can be found—at least not by us. For whether you wish to comfort the sad, to terrify the happy, to encourage the despairing, to humble the proud, to calm the passionate, or to appease those full of hate—and who could number all the masters of the human heart, namely, the emotions, inclinations, and affections that impel people to evil or good?—what more effective means than music could you find?

The Holy Ghost himself honors music as an instrument for his proper work when in his Holy Scriptures he asserts that through her his gifts were instilled in the prophets, namely the inclination to all virtues, as can be seen in Elisha (2 Kings 3:15). On the other hand, she serves to cast out Satan, the instigator of all sins, as is shown in Saul, the king of Israel (1 Sam. 16:23).

--"Preface to Georg Rhau's Symphoniae Iucundae" (Martin Luther, 1538)

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Second Mile Giving

Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary

OUR MISSION

Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary develops leaders for the church by: deepening faith in Christ; expanding the heart; challenging the mind; and energizing for mission.

OUR HISTORY

We were founded in Berkeley, California in 1950. The Seminary's history extends to the Pacific Theological Seminary, established in Portland, Oregon in 1910, before moving to Seattle in 1914.

OUR LOCATION

Berkeley, California. We are the only Lutheran seminary in the western half of the United States. Covering 13 states, our territory of service includes nearly two-thirds of the country!

OUR PARTNERS

We are members of the Graduate Theological Union (GTU), which is a consortium of nine seminaries and nine research centers in partnership with the University of California, Berkley. We are also partners with Luther Seminary in the Western Mission Cluster.

DID YOU KNOW?

- Our seminary president, Phyllis Anderson, is the first female president of PLTS and of an ELCA seminary.
- Our four orienting perspectives guiding education include: Lutheran Identity, Multiculturalism, Public Sphere, and Religious Pluralism. 77% of our students are studying to be pastors.
- Our student population is nearly balanced with women and men.
- Equal numbers of students are recent college graduates and 2nd career students.
- Our T.E.E.M. (Theological Education for Emerging Ministries) program has grown from 19 to 64 students in the last six years.
- The average annual financial need of a PLTS Seminarian is \$27,676. Congregational gifts help make seminary affordable for future church leaders.

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Worship Assistants

December 4, 2011

Altar Guild: Patti Irwin and Jose Traughber **Greeters:** 8:30 Bob and Nancy Evans 11:00 Sue Jansen **Readers:** 8:30 Barbara Nelson 11:00 Chuck Huston **Assisting Minister:** Diane Metz **Ushers:** 8:30 Jim and Pat Kruse 11:00 Chuck and Nancy Huston **Communion Assistants:** 8:30 Dan and Fay DiSano, Bill and Elaine Smith, MaryAnne Jordan, Doreen Randall 11:00 Jim and Kristi Lamb, Les and June Johnsen

December 11 2011

Altar Guild: Patti Irwin and Jose Traughber **Greeters:** 8:30 Al Bergoust and Elsie Edgeman 11:00 Chris and Natasha Moore **Readers:** 8:30 Charlotte River 11:00 Nancy Huston **Assisting Minister:** Jim Hanser **Ushers:** 8:30 Ruth Harker and Doreen Randall 11:00 Jim Vladyka and Bette Noll **Communion Assistants:** 8:30 Ann and Sylvia Buringrud, Colleen and Charlotte Rivers, Etta Sivertsen, Karen Spengler 11:00 Josephine Traughber, Les and June Johnsen, Meri Rider

December 18, 2011

Altar Guild: Patti Irwin and Jose Traughber **Greeters:** 8:30 Lew and Pat Broschard 11:00 **Readers:** 8:30 Ann Buringrud 11:00 Dennis Digman **Assisting Minister:** Stu Reid **Ushers:** 8:30 Judy Lyons and George Wright 11:00 Pam Bertani and Bette Noll **Communion Assistants:** 8:30 Art Lipke, Toni McCallum, Klaus Mund, Kathy Doty, Al and Helen Bergoust 11:00 Les and June Johnsen, Chuck and Nancy Huston

December 24, 2011 - 8:00 pm Christmas Eve

Altar Guild: Jose Traughber **Reader:** Jeff Thoma **Assisting Minister:** TBD **Ushers:** Jim and Pat Kruse **Communion Assistants:** Al and Helen Bergoust, Elsie Edgeman, Dan and Fay DiSano, MaryAnne Jordan

December 25, 2011 - 10:00 am Christmas Day

Altar Guild: Patti Irwin and Jose Traughber **Reader:** Larry Nelson **Assisting Minister:** TBD **Ushers:** Ruth Harker and Klaus Mund **Communion Assistants:** Ann and Sylvia Buringrud, MaryAnne Jordan, Etta Sivertsen, Doreen Randall

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