



*Servant*  
*February 2012*  
**St. Mark's Lutheran Church**

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Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

*"You can never fully understand what the mystery of God is all about. Where were you when I laid the foundations of the earth? Do you know where light comes from? Have you ever commanded the morning to appear? Can you hold back the stars? Can you shout to the clouds and make it rain?"*

*-paraphrase of Job 38:3-9*

The book of Job allows all kinds of questions, anger, bad theology, pity, and painful questions only to have God not answer Job's question. I actually like the ending of this story. For all the ways I try to think I am in charge or all the times I think I have life or faith figured out I come up against the reality of life, the reality that none of us can know God and God's intentions fully. We are coming upon the season of Lent where we cannot avoid this fact. We step back, admit, and even claim that we are human and God is, well, God!

Walter Brueggemann writes, "This is not a simple story of human disobedience and divine displeasure. It is rather the story about the struggle God has in responding to the facts of human life. When the facts warrant death, God insists on life for his creatures" (Genesis, John Knox, 1982). What if we took this season to embrace that fact? What if we spent this season considering death but finding ways to claim life?

Consider this story and then I invite you to tell your own stories of God. When Alexander McClaren was 15 years old, he was sent to work in order to earn his way to college and find resources for his family. His father walked him to work the first day and they went into a ravine in which people said that there were evil spirits, and anyone who walked through the ravine would be infested with those evil spirits. When Alexander got to his job, he realized that at end of the week, he would have to go back through the ravine on his way home. It worried him Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, all day Saturday, and it filled his mind all Saturday evening. He got to the edge of the ravine and he could not do it! And then suddenly he heard a voice, and the voice said, "Alex, it's your Dad. I've come to walk through the ravine with you!"

We journey into Lent together hoping to honestly believe what God said to Job is true for us, "You can never fully understand what the mystery of God is all about. Where were you when I laid the foundations of the earth? Do you know where light comes from? Have you ever commanded the morning to appear? Can you hold back the stars? Can you shout to the clouds and make it rain?"

In God's love,

Pastor Lori L.Hope

**NURTURING FAITH AND LIFE FOR LOVING SERVICE**

**St. Mark's: Called and empowered to be**

**Christ-Centered:** Proclaiming the Word of God through worship, sacraments, prayer, and study.

**Loving Community:** Giving importance to human relationships, celebrating individual gifts, and maintaining a sense of belonging.

**Action Oriented:** Seeing the image of God in all people and striving to do God's work in the community and the world.

**Devoted:** Serving faithfully with passion and dedication.

**IF YOU ARE HOSPITALIZED**

If you are hospitalized for any reason, please be sure to tell the hospital on your admission that you are a member of St. Mark's Lutheran Church. It isn't enough to tell them that you are Lutheran! It would also help if you or one of your family members would call the church office (332-4092) to let us know that you are hospitalized so that we can visit you.

**HOME VISITS**

If you wish to have someone visit you in your home for conversation, prayer, or Holy Communion, please call the church office (332-4092) and arrange for a mutually agreeable time for a visit.



**February Adult Forums & Fellowship**

**Sunday, February 5<sup>th</sup>**

I Believe! Living our creeds!

**Sunday, February 12<sup>th</sup>**

Vibrant Faith meeting for all Sunday School students and parents.

**Sunday, February 19<sup>th</sup>**

What does it mean to be Christian in 2012? Based on Diana Butler Bass resources

**Sunday, February 26<sup>th</sup>**

What it means to be a Lutheran Revisited!

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**Circle Schedule....**

**Ruth Circle:** meets Thursday, February 2nd, at 1:00pm.

**Sarah Circle:** meets Thursday, February 9th, at 9:30am.

**Miriam Circle:** meets Tuesday, February 28th, at 7pm.

**Miriam Circle**

**2/28 @ 7:00pm—This is a change because of Shrove Tuesday falling on our regular night.**

# St. Mark's News

## Nicaragua Spring Seed Project

In October torrential rains preceded the harvest in Nicaragua and other Central American countries, leaving many farmers without a crop and consequently, seed for the coming spring. SD Synod has agreed to raise funds to help the seeding of the spring crop. Sorghum and bean seed will be purchased with the money raised in our Synod, so planting can proceed for the 2012 growing season for farmers in Nicaragua. St. Mark's is challenging you to match your own gardening funds for 2012 with a donation to the Nicaragua Spring Seed Project. Are you planning on spending \$50 on plants and seed? Match that with a \$50 donation, or any amount you wish, to the Seed Project. St. Mark's WELCA has started with a "seed" donation of \$50. Help the Project grow to meet the \$13,000 target of the Synod. Designated funds will be sent to the Synod office by March 1. Thank you for your part in God's Work.



## Thrivent Choice Dollars

If you have 2011 Thrivent Choice Dollars that you have not directed, please note that the deadline is March 31 for 2011 dollars. St. Mark's has received over \$1,900 in 2011 Choice Dollars. If you have any questions regarding the process, contact Dianne Schnabel, 339-4278. Thank you for remembering St. Mark's in directing your Thrivent Choice Dollars.

## Annual Reports

We have extra Annual Reports in the church office. We encourage you to read or reread through the reports to be reminded of all the important work we participate in at St. Mark's Lutheran Church.

## PRAYER CONCERNS

Sister Synod Lutherans in Nicaragua and Cameroon

Young people from our Synod in ELCA Global service: Krista Webb and Taylor Hammrich in South Africa, Christian Lehmann in Cameroon; and Krystal Anderson in the Peace Corps in Cameroon.

Christopher Schultz, Dustin McAdaragh, Eric Larson, Derek Smith, TJ Kisor, Mark McManigal & Lance Andersen: Serving in military.

## ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE

February 22<sup>nd</sup>

7:00 pm

# St. Mark's SERVES!

## That's why we call our newsletter The Servant.

### ♥ 2011: An Amazing Year of Mission Activities

Save page 13 from the Annual Meeting reports, and give thanks to God for the opportunities we have had to be God's hands on earth. You can show it to anyone who asks about St. Mark's and what a small size congregation can do.

If you missed it, ask for a copy at the office and be awed like the rest of us.

Clarification of a few items on the financial pages from Annual Meeting:

- There are budget lines for some projects, like The Banquet, but not for others, like Food to You. So we raise funds in a variety of ways for St. Mark's many ministries.
- Hunger funds go to ELCA World Hunger both from our church budget and from designated giving. Some year we hope these will combine for a total that averages \$10 per member of St. Mark's. We averaged \$8.14 in 2011.
- The Global Outreach account accumulates over several years as we raise funds for our next group of travelers to go to another country to meet our global family.



### **Food Pantry Goal**

Thanks to everyone who brings food for the food pantry.

**OUR GOAL:** 3<sup>rd</sup> grader Abiaza Kane, age 8, has weighed in at 58 pounds. He loves to eat seafood, including sushi and seaweed. He says we bring food for the food pantry "to give people food who need it." Bring any non-perishables.



### **Thanks to our Meals on Wheels team**

for January Bill Roberts, Judie Roberts, Doug Langenfeld, Merlyn Darby, Pat Hartigan, Cathy Brechtelsbauer, and Becky Luke.



### **We Worship with St. Dymas Feb. 16**

That is the ELCA congregation behind the walls of the South Dakota state penitentiary. Thanks to all who signed up to attend. Be sure to check the guidelines on the bulletin board and arrive no later than 6:00pm.

### **Thanks to everyone who filled in the paperwork for Prison Ministry in 2012**

There will be more opportunities during the year for these worship experiences and you will be eligible.



### **Coffee & Tea**

Thanks to Margaret Blume and Ranae Karli for volunteering to be our Fair-Trade Coffee team. They put in the orders, so get to them with your suggestions.

We will have a Fair-Trade Day in May to learn more about what this means and to have an offering we hope will cover cost of the coffee we serve on Sunday mornings.



### ♥ **Love Pyramid in February** St. Mark's

tradition in February is to make a big stack of items (hence, pyramid) that are needed by local agency. This year we will collect items for the **Good Shepherd Ministry Center**, a non-profit, ecumenical ministry at 300 N. Main Ave. in downtown Sioux Falls, providing daytime shelter and services for people who are homeless, poor or newly arrived in our community. Besides daytime shelter there are shower facilities, laundry facilities, a phone for job and housing searches, and refreshments including lunch on Wed-Thur-Fri, and connections to other agencies.

A group called Women of Hope meets weekly with an RN and nursing students from Augustana College to discuss health-related topics such as sexually transmitted diseases, the effects of drugs and alcohol and other health issues for women of all ages.

In the mornings it operates as a center for day labor, serving mostly men, but also women and young adults over age 18. Employers call in the early mornings looking for workers for a few hours or a few days. Wages range from \$8 to 12 per hour, paid at the end of the day's work.

### **WISH LIST**

**PAPER:** Toilet paper, Ziplock bags 1 & 2 qt, Garbage bags

15 & 39 gal, Kleenex, Paper towels, Lysol air freshener

**FOOD:** Peanut butter, Jelly, Chili beans, Great Northern, Cream of Chicken or Mushroom soup, Large canned foods, Coffee, Tea, Sugar/Creamer packets or bulk, Salad dressing/Miracle Whip

**PERSONAL:** Shoestrings (9 eyelet), Band-aids, Chapstick, Tums/Roloids, Eyeglass repair kit, Sewing kits, Kotex pads & tampons, Combs/brushes, Shampoo, Lotion, Disposable razors, Antiperspirant spray, Foot powder, Ibuprofen/Tylenol

**LAUNDRY:** Powdered detergent, Bleach, Dryer sheets

**FOR CHILDREN:** Baby blankets, Diapers, Wipes, Desitin, Formula, Teething toys, Baby shampoo

**OFFICE:** Envelopes, Tape, Stamps, Pencils, Copy paper

**MISC:** Sleeping bags, phone cards (Sams or WalMart), HyVee or Sunshine cards, Work gloves or Winter gloves, Stocking caps, Socks



### **Missionary Sponsors**

#### **Thanks for Signing-Up to Sponsor in 2012**

What a wonderful response. The whole year is almost filled with sponsors. When your week comes, remember to pray for our missionary and put \$25 in the offering plate designated "Missionary - Nicaragua". Thanks to the January sponsors of Michael Busbey in Nicaragua: Anne King, Verlyn & Nora Lindell, Dale & Dianne Schnabel, Al & Corinda Beitelspacher, and Roland & Becky Ellis.





# Fat Tuesday Party!

Tuesday, February 21 from 5:30-8:00pm

Sponsored by St. Mark's Youth Group

Pancakes, sausage, ice cream with a host of toppings

Please bring an ice cream topping to share!

LIVE MUSIC

MAGICIAN

MAKING OUR OWN MASKS TO WEAR

FELLOWSHIP AND FUN!

*A free will offering will be taken to help with  
a mission trip to Pine Ridge and the Building Fund*

St. Mark's Lutheran Church Minutes  
January 18, 2011

Present: Kent Alberty, Kyle Alberty, Duane Anderson, Pastor Lori Hope, Peggy Holbrook, Cathy Larson, Shirley Larson, Karin Lindell, Becky Luke, Liz Navratil, Shari Smith, Brenda White  
Absent: Matt Douglas, Don Laurila, Tim Sorenson

Pastor Lori opened with devotions.

MSC to accept the December 21 Council minutes.

Peggy presented the Treasurer's Report. We ended the year a little ahead in the current fund due to generous member gifts but are still behind in the building fund.

Duane reported that the Finance Committee was present at the last Executive Committee meeting to discuss revisiting the fund drive proposal defeated at last month's Council meeting. It was decided to bring a resolution to the floor at the Annual Meeting authorizing the Finance Committee to study the feasibility of a fund drive this year to be voted on at a future special congregational meeting.

The Mission Committee asked whether a report of designated funds could be available at the Annual Meeting.

**Old Business:** All-Committee Night will be held on February 1 from 6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. Pizza will be served.

**President's Report:** Brenda White thanked the Council for a great year. The Council responded with applause.

**Pastor's Report:** Tammy Nelson has been hired as part-time youth director.

**New Business:** Several Sioux Falls churches will be sponsoring a November 8-10 presentation by theologian Diana Butler Bass. St. Mark's has been asked if we would like to be a co-sponsor.

**Committee Reports:** **Mission:** As we always come up short in Fair Trade coffee funds, the committee is proposing a Fair Trade Day at which members could make contributions toward the costs of the Fair Trade coffee we use. This year's Love Pyramid will go to the Good Shepherd Center. There will be an ELCA "Glocal" Mission gathering June 22-23 at Our Savior's. Area churches are encouraged to send attendees. **Chris. Ed.:** Anna Madsen will be presenting at Adult Forum on January 22 on the topic of planning and visioning. **Worship & Music:** Communion every Sunday will continue through Easter at which time it will be decided whether to continue.

Duane asked that the record show the Council's appreciation of Brenda's prompt meetings and wonderful leadership. The Council applauded.

The meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Karin Lindell, Secretary

St. Mark's Lutheran Church Annual Meeting  
January 22, 2012

President Brenda White called the meeting to order. Pastor Lori thanked the Council for the organization, set-up and clean-up of the potluck.

Pastor Lori led in opening devotions.

MSC to adopt the agenda. Kent Alberty was appointed parliamentarian.

MSC to accept the 2011 Annual Meeting minutes.

Vice-President Matt Douglas presented the 2012 slate of nominees. Donna Hirsch's name was added to the Christian Education Committee from the floor. Council was reminded that it needs to appoint a new member to the Financial Compliance Review Committee. MSC to cease nominations and pass a unanimous ballot.

Following are the newly elected committee members:

Executive

Matt Douglas – President	2013
Amber Blume – Vice-President	2013
Karin Lindell – Secretary	2013
At-Large – Shari Smith	Term 2 2015
At-Large – Jamie Smith	Term 1 2015

Christian Education

Debbie Borah	Term 1 2014
Kerri Smith	Term 1 2014
Becky Luke	Term 2 2015
Dawn Hartigan	Term 1 2015
Donna Hirsch	Term 1 2015

Vibrant Faith/Evangelism

Rich Kemmis	Term 1 2014
Becky Luke	Term 1 2014
Sheri Goldammer	Term 1 2015
Jamie Smith	Term 1 2015

Finance

Kevin Olson	Term 2 2015
Wes Eidem	Term 1 2015

Long Range Planning

Mark Bratt	Term 1 2015
Connie Kinstad	Term 1 2015

Mission

Kerry Ford	Term 1 2014
Cathy Larson	Term 2 2015
Margaret Blume	Term 1 2015

Property

Bill Roberts	Term 1 2014
Kyle Alberty	Term 2 2015
Kevin Daws	Term 1 2015

Worship and Music

Jenny Bangsund	Term 2 2015
Michael Smith	Term 2 2015
Lane Karli	Term 1 2015

Endowment

Darwin Blume Term 1 2015  
Peggy Holbrook Term 1 2015

Nominating

Amber Blume (Vice-President)  
Becky Ellis  
Rhonda Kemmis

Synod Delegate

Jenny Bangsund 1<sup>st</sup> year

Bethany Association

Duane Anderson  
Roland & Becky Ellis  
Rich & Rhonda Kemmis  
Doug Larson  
John Lewis  
Verlyn & Nora Lindell  
Norm & Dorothy Varns  
Jim Vortherms

**Treasurer's Report:** Verlyn Lindell presented the Treasurer's Report. He thanked everyone who came through in December to help St. Mark's end the year with a small surplus. He thanked Bill Roberts and the Financial Compliance Review Committee for their work. One budget change was noted, transferring \$1,000 from Real Estate Assessment to the Vibrant Faith account. MSC to accept the Treasurer's Report.

**Budget:** MSC to adopt the 2012 proposed budget.

**Reports:** MSC to accept all written reports.

**Resolutions:** Brenda read the 2012 resolutions. MSC to adopt the resolutions.

**Old Business:** Cathy Larson thanked the Council and all who worked to get the retaining wall started, funded, and finished. The automatic doors were also praised. The group responded with applause.

**New Business:** Anne King inquired about the possibility of allowing absentee voting at congregational meetings.

A fact sheet on St. Mark's debt status was distributed. The following resolution was presented.

Be it resolved that St. Mark's Lutheran Church study the possibility of conducting a fund drive to help pay down part of our building debt and also discuss ways to increase our membership. This study and discussion would take place this winter and spring using adult forums, special meetings and temple talks. After these studies and discussions are completed, a congregational meeting would be called to determine the next steps to be taken.

MSC to pass the resolution.

Pastor Lori announced that Tammy Nelson has been hired as part-time youth director.

Reynold Nesiba thanked Dawn Hartigan for all her hard work with prison ministry and encouraged members to fill out the paperwork required for prison worship attendance.

MSC to adjourn.

Karin Lindell, Secretary