



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America  
God's work. Our hands.



# The Herald

S t . M a r k E v a n g e l i c a l L u t h e r a n C h u r c h



Our Prayer Partner  
for February is  
Sitka Lutheran  
in Sitka



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## From the Council President

Greetings to you my brothers and sisters in faith,

At the congregational meeting one of the goals that was added by the congregation was "increased communication." I took this to mean, in part, that the congregation wanted **better and more communication from the council.** A congregation is no different than any other organization in that communication is always a challenge, but the council and I will make a concerted effort to keep the congregation informed this year.

**Our primary means of communicating with the congregation about what we are doing is via our meeting minutes.** We will publish a draft version of the minutes from our last meeting in each Herald, and Janet Moritz, our able secretary, is **posting a copy of the draft minutes on the bulletin board in the Narthex.** We would ask that you take the time to read the minutes and if you have any questions or concerns, that you let the council know. You may ask questions or bring your concerns to us in a variety of ways:

**E-mail or call me or any other council member.** My email is [kkj59@hotmail.com](mailto:kkj59@hotmail.com) and my home phone number is 332-1029. The email addresses and phone numbers for the other council members are in this Herald. If you email or call me, I will share your concerns and/or questions with the rest of the council (unless you ask me not to) because we function as a group, not as individuals.

**There is a purple box in the Narthex which is labeled "council questions."** You may write your question or concern on a piece of paper and put it in the box. The council will address written questions left in the box in the bulletin and/or the Herald. We ask that you include your name along with your question/concern, so if we need to contact you we can, but we will not publish your name.

**Talk to us at Church** - of course, you may ask any of us questions whenever you see us around church.

**Bulletin and during announcements at the end of worship service.** We will try to be more effective in using these means of communication this year. Of course, the caveat here is that you have to attend worship service in order to see or hear these announcements! (not that I would try to make you feel any Lutheran guilt about occasionally missing service J)

**Attending commission and committee meetings and other church functions.** We will endeavor to have a council representative at each and every church meeting and function so that we can answer questions, be available for feedback, and also learn more about what is going on in the congregation and with the congregation.

When I was the council president at St. Mark before, I attended most meetings and functions. I will do the same this time

*(Continued on page 9)*

## Upcoming Events

**Deadlines:** Bulletin - Wednesday noon  
Herald - 20th of each month

### Wednesday, Feb 3

⇒ 50+ Lunch 1:00 PM

### Friday, Feb 5

⇒ Council Retreat

### Saturday, Feb 6

⇒ Council Retreat

⇒ Calendar Meeting 10:00 AM

### Sunday, Feb 7

⇒ Elim Pen Pal Letters Due

⇒ Clare House Food Due

### Saturday, Feb 13

⇒ Worship Assistant Training 10:00 AM

### Sunday, Feb 14

⇒ Brother Francis Sign-Up

### Wednesday, Feb 17

⇒ Ash Wednesday Service 7:00 PM

### Sunday, Feb 21

⇒ Brother Francis Sandwiches Due

⇒ 3rd Sunday Pot-Luck 12:15 PM

⇒ AK Native Luther Church Service 6:30 PM

### Wednesday, Feb 24

⇒ Soup Supper 6:00 PM

⇒ Lenten Service 7:00 PM

### Sunday, Feb 28

⇒ Ken Johnson Birthday Lunch 12:30 PM

**You're invited to celebrate...**



## KEN JOHNSON'S BIRTHDAY!!

PLEASE JOIN US FOR LUNCH  
& CAKE

WHEN: February 28, 2010  
TIME: 12:30 PM (after 2nd service)  
WHERE: St. Mark Lutheran Church

## Celebrations



### February Anniversaries

Paul & Nancy Peterson	2/14
Gordon & Aud Severson	2/14
Marshall & Margaret Severson	2/14
George & Denise Stillwell	2/18
Hanes & Stephanie Greeson	2/21

### February Birthdays

Nancy Cumberland	2/1
Roger Saft	2/1
James Edwin, Jr.	2/2
Chloe Stillwell	2/2
Gary Bruce	2/3
Stephanie Greeson	2/3
Richard Brooks	2/4
Hunter Durych	2/6
Stacy Durych	2/7
Anthony Barton	2/8
Jacob Knapp	2/9
Maria Chilson	2/15
Garrett Samuelson	2/15
Canzada Maruskie	2/16
Marsha Korri	2/19
Zachary Maruskie	2/19
Michael Orzechowski	2/19
Christina Copus	2/22
Kenneth Farnstrom	2/25
Kenneth Johnson	2/25
Marguerite Barnard	2/26
Doris McDonald	2/27
Elliot Severson	2/27

# Notes from the Sunday School Superintendent



The Sunday School students and teachers were excited to get back to Sunday School on January 17, after having several weeks off during the holiday season. As we continue to grow in Christ this quarter, we will be learning and studying stories from the New Testament. Our curriculum now follows the lectionary; so, our lessons are based on the Gospel lesson of the day.

This quarter, we will be saving our weekly treasure to be used in connection with the mission trip to Wales this summer. We will also be making Easter baskets for LSSA.

We plan to participate in Sunday services during Lent and Easter. We have started learning a song for Palm Sunday, and we will be looking for other ways to participate in worship services.

We invite everyone to join us for our opening time at 9:45 a.m. each Sunday. We are learning new songs that are fun to sing. We have been blessed to have Mr. David playing for us these last two Sundays while Connor has been on vacation. So, come Grow in Christ with us!



**Wednesday, February 17**  
Ash Wednesday Service 7:00 PM  
**Wednesdays, Feb 24—Mar 24,**  
Soup Supper 6:00 PM  
Lenten Service 7:00 PM



## ***LUTHERANS FOR HABITAT FOR HUMANITY IN ANCHORAGE!***

***Lutheran Women and Men Needed...*** Answer the "Habitat" call and join other Anchorage Lutheran Parishes and give of your time to help 'build' a home! Construction starts approximately June 15, 2010.

Requirement:

1. Your Time..
  - (a) give a day of your time to help at the job site..
  - (b) grab a friend and take that friend with you..
  - (c) team up with another church member..
  - (d) choir members team up
  - (e) bell choir team up
  - (f) plan a lunch menu for 10 people and Make It Happen (Lutherans *do* like to eat...)

All our teams together CAN make a difference...

The best part is:

1. No construction experience required
2. A lunch is furnished every day on the job site..Lutherans Love To Eat!
3. There is something to do for everyone

From swinging a hammer to holding a board for the 'swinger', hold a ladder steady, pick up debris, help with the foundation..and the list goes on...

***Pick a day and Put it on your calendar...***

# ***STAGES IN THE CALL PROCESS***

1. Ministry Site Profile Completed and submitted to the St. Mark Council for approval or a congregational vote
  - Names of potential candidates surface from congregation members
2. Submit potential candidate names and St. Mark Ministry Site Profile to Synod Office
3. Conversations with the Call Committee
  - Possible time to present candidates for review of Roster Leader Profile
  - \*ALL NAMES AND BACKGROUNDS ARE CONFIDENTIAL\*
  - Call Committee arranges for interviews with each candidate presented
4. Suggested “mock” interviews, to practice interviewing skills and set number of questions in the set time
  - Phone interviews with candidates
  - \*ALL NAMES AND BACKGROUNDS ARE CONFIDENTIAL\*
5. Call Committee decides who to invite for site visits (3-4 days; includes spouse)
  - \*Resources should be set aside for these activities; travel, B&B, and car\*
6. Candidate site visit
  - \* the candidate’s name and background will be released at this time, but not their entire Roster Leader Profile\*
  - After the visits, the candidate may request phone conversations with representatives from the community.
  - The Call Committee makes a recommendation to Council OR continues to seek other names
7. One candidate is submitted to Council with a complete explanation why this person is to lead St. Mark for the next 3-5 years
  - Council affirms the choice of the Call Committee; calls special Congregational meeting (proper notification is given to members)
8. Congregation Meeting votes on candidate and compensation/benefits package
9. Candidate receives signed letter from Call Committee and stated compensation
  - Candidate then has three weeks to give a response after careful thought and prayer.
10. Candidate says, “Yes;” arrangements are made for moving
  - \*Another trip is possible to secure housing etc.
11. Candidate makes transition from current position to St. Mark.
12. Pastor begins work at St. Mark.

# It's time for Elim Pen Pal letters!

It's time to send letters to our Elim pen pals again. Letters are due on **February 7, 2010**. If you don't have a pen pal yet, there are still children without a pen pal. Check the bulletin board in the Narthex to find a child in need of a pal. The children look forward to receiving letters from us; so, please remember to bring a card or letter for your pen pal on or before February 7.

## FULL COMMUNION

**Come join the Celebration of the Full Communion Relationship of the  
United Methodist Church and Evangelical Lutheran Church in America**

Ecumenical Service

Sunday, February 14th 3:00 pm

Central Lutheran Church

Bishop Grant Hagiya and Bishop Michael Keys

(Joint Choir and Instrumentalists will gather at 1:30 pm for rehearsals and warm-ups)

**This is Transfiguration Sunday, a service of celebration and unity.**

**This is a day of new beginnings.**

## Worship at Alaska Native Lutheran Church

The Global Mission Committee will be attending the Sunday evening worship service at the Alaska Native Lutheran Church on February 21, 2010. We will meet at the church at 6:30 p.m. and carpool to Central Lutheran Church for the worship service. Everyone is invited to come along, and anyone who is contemplating going on the Wales mission trip this summer is strongly encouraged to come with us. This will be a great way to add something to your spiritual disciplines as we begin our Lenten journey.

## Conversation about ELCA Churchwide Decisions:

Do you have questions or concerns about the ELCA National Assembly decision regarding the ordination of GLBT persons in committed relationships? The Alaska Synod wants to hear from you!

Bishop Keys will be holding two conversations with interested members of Synod congregations in the Anchorage and Mat Su areas in February. The first will be held at Lutheran Church of Hope in Anchorage on Thursday, February 11<sup>th</sup> at 7 PM. The second will be held at River of Life in Chugiak on Tuesday, February 16<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM.

The purpose of these meetings will be to LISTEN to the concerns of those impacted by the ELCA decision, especially those who feel disenfranchised, and to consider possible next steps. *YOUR INPUT AND IDEAS ARE ENCOURAGED*. Please join us in this conversation. If you have questions please call Rev. Carol George, coordinator for these events, at (907)227-7501.

# Status Report-Global Mission to Indonesia

## June-July 2010

Mission to Sumatra (Pematangsiantar, Elim Orphanage) What will they give us?

Yes, "they" give "us". Sometimes we may be inclined to look at mission work as an opportunity for us to give to others. But the "others" want to give too. And when we participate in a mission activity at home or in another country we receive much because they have much to give. We give our time, our skills, our money and other tangible gifts. And how much would you estimate those gifts to be worth? Our orphan friends give us welcoming acceptance, respect, and an eagerness to share. Our orphan friends give us love, friendship, inspiration, and hope. When a Batak Lutheran shakes your hand they place that hand over their own heart. They connect with you through their heart. You can't buy those gifts at any price. Their gifts to us are priceless. We can learn much from these youngsters if we take the time to listen. Did you know that most of them speak several languages, although English is not necessarily one of them? They have had very different life experiences living as Christians while surrounded by a majority that is not always sympathetic to Christian beliefs. Yet others, including Muslims, have helped Christians build a church within their community. Many of the orphan children have their photos on our Narthex wall, and we have letters from them. Can you hear what they want to tell us?

Well, God will soon bring a few St. Markian's face-to-face with some of those orphan children who we know mostly through their photos and letters.

What do you suppose they would like to say to you? What would you like to say to your pen pal? And what do you suppose God intends for us to learn from our family on the other side of the world? This mission to Sumatra is part of God's plan, and it includes all of us at St. Mark, not just those who get on the plane. What does God have in mind for us at this time? We have a mission contingent and God's plan is already being revealed as we are open to seeing it. What do you see?

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Isaiah 6:8 "Also I heard the voice of the Lord, saying, Whom shall I send, and who will go for us? Then said I, Here am I; send me." Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

## 50+ Luncheon

All you who are 50 and older...

*Please join in*

PRAYER, LUNCH & CONVERSATION

WITH THE COUNCIL PRESIDENT & PASTOR

Wednesday Feb. 3<sup>rd</sup> 12:15

Noon Eucharist with Marilyn Martinson, organist

50+ Luncheon 1:00 – hosted by Kristi Johnson & Pastor Gary

## Worship Assistants

## Worship Setting Training

Saturday February 13<sup>th</sup> 10-1:00

We will be providing training and practice for all worship assistants – old and new - and doing a run-through of the setting we will be using for Lent. Everyone is encouraged to attend.  
(Fireside/SS Room)

# St. Mark Council

## COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Meeting January 10, 2010 at 6:00PM

Present at the meeting: Carolyn Korman, Janet Moritz, Kristi Johnson, Dale Olson, Tena Peifer, Miriam Easton, Paul Pedersen, Cherry Bolton and Pastor Gary Steele.

Election of Officers: President Kristi Johnson, Vice President Paul Peterson, Secretary Janet Moritz.

Next meeting will be Tuesday January 19th at 6:30PM.

### Discussion of changing meeting time tabled.

We will not be serving dinner at council meetings.

We will do a bible study instead of devotions to start meetings. Pastor Gary responsible for Jan. 19th meeting.

Retreat for council will be February 5 & 6, where has not been determined.

Installation of council will be next Sunday (January 17) at both services.

Motion made by Miriam and seconded by Dale to accept Ruth's resignation. **Motion Passed.** Council to get gift card for Ruth for \$100. Kristi will purchase.

Discussion of committee to handle applications for new secretary. Motion made by Tena seconded by Carolyn for the committee to consist of Pastor Gary, Kristi, and Becky Swanson. Kristi will ask Becky to serve. If Becky cannot do it Carolyn will be alternate.

Discussion of Annual Meeting.

Closing of meeting with Lord's Prayer at 7:30PM.

Respectfully submitted

Janet Moritz

## COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES DRAFT

Meeting January 19, 2010

Present at the meeting: Carolyn Korman, Janet Moritz, Kristi Johnson, Dale Olson, Tena Peifer, Erich Havener and Pastor Gary Steele.

Bible Study with Pastor Gary.  
Minutes of January 10th and December 15, and January 8th approved.  
No Guest requests.

Reports from Commissions, Committees, Pastor, etc.  
Preschool : Report attached.  
Mission: New chair person Delesta Fox.  
Property: Looking at a new door for preschool area. The cost is around \$5000.00 and some memorial money may be available. Erich will see about it.  
Finance: No full report till next month. \$6600 general fund in bank.  
Stewardship: Need chairperson.  
50th Anniversary: Eric Knapp is ready to get started and Tena will be the council representative for the meeting after church on the 31st of January.  
Nursery: Needs second person in the nursery with Laurie. Sign up sheet was passed.

### Unfinished Business

1. New Janitor, Duraclean, is on the job. Erich is overseeing and contract will be finalized in next couple of months.
2. HR Personnel team: Needs to be reviewed as this is just a draft. Supervision roles need special attention. Next meeting council members need to review the first and second sections of the HR handbook. Kristi, Dale and Pastor Gary to work on pastors job description, e-mail them if you have comments before the February meeting. Kristi will add the job descriptions for Sunday School Superintendent and nursery.
3. Admin. Assistant: Lea Anne will do bulletin and Herald until we can hire someone. Becky Swanson will help with interviews.
4. Confirmation Design team: Committee has met and started with the requirements and will have another meeting soon. Kristi will contact members.
5. Active Ministry subcommittee: This committee will look at current items and make recommendations and will call another meeting. Erich is not able to be on this committee. They have looked at worship and



## MISSION COMMISION UPDATE

Benevolences for 2010 have been updated as follows:

LSSA	\$ 2,200
AK SYNOD	\$ 10,000
LUTHERAN CNCL.	\$ 1,100
SHISMAREF	\$ 2,500
WALES	\$ 2,500
ANCH RESCUE MSN\$	650
AWAIC	\$ 650
ELIM ORPHANAGE	\$ 500

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TOTAL\$ 20,000

made changes. Worship needs a chairperson and discussion of Saturday meeting with good turn out of ten people or more.

6. Music Ministry Team: Discussion of report by committee. Motion made by Tena to look for and hire Organist/Pianist and Vocal and Bell people. Seconded by Carolyn. Everyone was in favor and motion is passed. See attached.
7. Council Retreat: The retreat will be February 5 & 6th location to be determined later. Carolyn will help Kristi with the food arrangements. Kristi, Dale and Pastor Gary to work on content.
8. Meeting time and date: February the 16th next meeting. Discussion of work sessions, be thinking of times and dates.

### NEW BUSINESS

1. Servant of the month tabled until February meeting.
2. AFACT request: AFACT asked ST. Mark to co-host a candidate Forum with First CME church. Erich made a motion that we co-host with First CME; seconded by Tena. Motion passed all in favor. Kristi will find someone to work on committee with folks from First CME.
3. Ministry Evaluation with Bishop: February 2 (Tuesday) at 6:30PM council will talk with the Bishop about where we are in our transition process. Kristi will contact the Bishop.
4. Adoption of Ministry Site Profile: Bishop has only seen draft not the final. Motion made by Dale to accept this draft as the final and seconded by Tena. Motion passed no one opposed. See attached.
5. Organ recital: Letter from Marek Kudlicki wanting to schedule a concert. Kristi will e-mail him to advise that we are not ready to book yet. See attached
6. Theme for the year: St. Mark needs a theme for the year. Council will sponsor a contest and the winner will receive a restaurant gift card in the amount of \$50.00. Kristi will put in bulletin and Tena Margurite Barnard and Miriam will judge.
7. Stewardship Plan: This was tabled until next month.
8. Member correspondence: Discussion of letter and draft. Motion made by Carolyn to adopt the draft seconded by Tena. the letter was signed by all council members. See attached

### EXECUTIVE SESSION

Personnel issue was discussed.

ADJOURNMENT: Council closed with Lords Prayer at 9:45PM

Respectfully submitted

Janet Moritz





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Place  
Stamp  
Here



# February 2010

Preschool Director	Carolyn Cope
Sanctuary Handbell Choir Director	Lydia Tschopp
Youth Chimes & Bells	Brooke Maruskie
Senior Choir Director	On sabbatical
Organist	On sabbatical
Administrative Assistant	Rev. Gary Steele



WORSHIP	Sundays—9:30 Communion Wednesdays—12:15 p.m.
SUNDAY SCHOOL	9:45 a.m. (Sept.—May)
CHURCH OFFICE HOURS	8:30 a.m.—2:30 p.m. Mon.—Fri. (8:30-10:30 are quiet hours)
PRESCHOOL OFFICE	MWF 9:00 a.m.—3:00 p.m. (During School Year) TTH 9:00—11:30 a.m.