



2017 ANNUAL REPORT



2017 ANNUAL REPORT



REV. ELIZABETH EKDALE
LEAD PASTOR

"With openness of heart and spirit, we welcome all." Our mission statement concludes with these three powerful words. We welcome all. These words are the heart of our mission as God's people at St. Mark's. We do our very best to be faithful to the spirit of these words in all of our ministries, activities, worship services, projects, visions and dreams as a congregation. We welcome all.

We rely on the Holy Spirit and her wisdom to guide us in our ministry of hospitality,

welcome, and reaching out to the wider community. Are we flawless in our welcome of all? Of course not. We keep on trying, listening to one another, welcoming the stranger, learning from those "different" from us, making mistakes, and reaching out again. The key is to have openness of heart and spirit.

As long as there is openness of heart and spirit, we will continue to strive to welcome all, welcome the stranger, welcome those who are unwelcome elsewhere, welcome those who have never experienced God's welcome before.

Our life together as a community of faith in 2017 is best expressed by, "We welcome all." As you read the descriptions of ministries and activities in this Annual Report, I hope you think so too. Thank you to all of our leaders, volunteers and staff who take to heart our mission as a welcoming congregation. Thank you to all of you who support God's vision of welcome at St. Mark's through your time, talents, and financial support. It is easier and cheaper not to welcome all. It is easier and cheaper to keep the church doors locked, say "no" to the stranger, and turn inward.

However, we know, that that the call from God to be welcoming, open in heart and spirit, and unafraid of the stranger, is more important than ever. Your church staff support, strengthen, and partner with the congregation in living out our mission to welcome all. In a congregation our size, staff not only support our ministries but are ministry day in – day out – living out our mission to be welcoming and hospitable each and every day. We have a wonderful staff – talented and dedicated to the congregation, our mission, and our life together. Your staff brings their spirit-filled gifts and talents to St. Mark's each day they serve. I am especially grateful to each and every one of them.

In early 2017, we welcomed Rev. Ron Moe-Lobeda as our Associate Pastor. On March 26, he was installed to serve this community of faith in the ministry of Word and Sacrament. I have discovered a very passionate, gifted, and dedicated pastoral colleague. Though the title is Associate Pastor and each of us has roles and engagement with different ministries, in my mind, he is a full and equal partner. We have spent time together sharing, planning, strategizing, and visioning for the work of our pastoral team. It is a joy to have pastoral colleague with his years of experience. Between us, we have over 60 years of ordained ministry! As I like to say, "we are able to cover a lot of ground together".

With Pr. Ron's arrival, we said thank you and goodbye to Pr. Tita

Valeriano who served as our Interim Associate Pastor for a year and a half. We grew in our understanding of welcome through her pastoral leadership. I am grateful that she challenged us and expanded our awareness of multi-cultural ministries, evangelism, urban and social ministries.

This past year my time and energy was focused in a variety of areas including the Call Committee, Martin Luther ministries, Human Resources, Worship ministries, Development committee, Governance Task Force work, F.E.W. committee, Stewardship, Journeys in Faith, Education, Finance and Audit, pastoral care and visitation, preaching and presiding to name a few.

A special focus of mine has been thinking about the way we are organized as a congregation. I began reading a book titled, "Governance and Ministry" and invited other leaders to join me. We formed a Governance Task Force led ably by Scott Taylor. We began thinking about how the church council and MLT board are functioning and what they could accomplish if they were focused more on governance and vision. We contacted the author of the book, Dan Hotchkiss, and engaged his services in helping us strategize how to be effective in our mission as a congregation. Do our structures help or hinder ministry? What changes could be made to the way we are organized and the way we function which would enhance our ministries and strengthen our mission? This work is ongoing and necessary for St. Mark's to thrive in the years to come given all of the stresses and challenges we face as a congregation and as individuals. I continue to prayerfully discern along with the Governance Task Force what changes need to be made in order for us to be more effective in serving and fulfilling our mission as a congregation.

Another focus has been serving the residents of Martin Luther Tower. I provide pastoral care to our residents by visiting them in their apartments, or when they are in the hospital or nursing home. I preside at their Memorial Services and facilitate a group titled "Spirituality and Aging". Those relationships have enriched my pastoral ministry. As Lead Pastor, I serve on the Martin Luther Tower board and Finance and Nominating Committees of the board. I appreciate the dedication of the board and their commitment to provide safe, affordable housing to seniors.

A significant highlight this year was the recognition and commemoration of the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation. Congratulations to Dr. Tim Zerlang for a successful and fun hymn-fest and Bach Cantata. I was proud to be Lutheran (as I am most days) but even more so due to his and the choir's musical efforts over that weekend.

I completed my six years of service on the Church Council of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. I enjoyed the work of serving alongside Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton and learned about the vast and various ways the ELCA serves throughout the world. We are an active and engaged denomination. I don't miss the 5:00 a.m. flights to Chicago where the Lutheran Center is located!

Thank you for your partnership in ministry at St. Mark's Lutheran Church. As we move forward into 2018 and reflect on 2017, I do so with an openness of heart and spirit. I will continue to lift up our mission to welcome all and with God's gracious and lively presence among us, we will.

With thanksgiving,
Pastor Elizabeth Ekdale

2017 ANNUAL REPORT

Exactly one year ago today (January 3), I was notified by the Call Committee of St. Mark's that my name would be put forward to the congregation for consideration of being called as your Associate Pastor. I feel truly blessed by God that you have put your trust in me to be one of your pastors and that I am able to be in partnership with Pastor Elizabeth in this ministry. I feel honored and privileged to have a colleague who is so deeply committed to team ministry and who clearly is devoted to the people of this congregation. The excitement with which I started my ministry with you this past year continues to inspire me each and every day because there is so much potential in this sacred place that we call St. Mark's Square.

My year began with the annual Council Retreat at the end of February. It was a great way to be introduced to the leadership of St. Mark's, and to get to know a little bit about each individual on the Council. As I have journeyed with this leadership team, I have observed a real concern for the members of this congregation and for the ways that we can be more welcoming to those who may enter our doors on any given Sunday. Many times throughout this year, the members of the Council have been asked to take on some major responsibilities and step up to the plate (literally), and you have done so with such grace and generosity. Thank you!

We also have renewed the quarterly gathering of Ministry Team leaders in order to hear what everyone is doing in their respective ministries and to coordinate any projects in which more than one team might be involved. I have been impressed by all of the ways that so many people are engaged in this congregation—from formal committees to long-term ministries to special projects. As much as I am tempted to start naming names, the minute that I do, I will leave someone out. Suffice it to say, I am deeply grateful for all that you do to serve both the members of this congregation as well as to reach out and be in ministry with our neighbors in this city, in this region, and throughout the world.

One of my primary callings at St. Mark's has been to be in ministry with children, youth, and families. I am delighted by all of the families who are members of this congregation, and who come from throughout the metropolis to be a part of this vibrant community of faith. I especially enjoyed being a part of the Family Camp this summer. We continue to evaluate the operation of the Nursery, and to enlist adequate staff for the year to come. During the spring, I had the privilege of journeying with 5 young people who were completing their confirmation instruction and celebrated with them when they reaffirmed their baptismal covenant. We began this fall with 9 young people in confirmation which has been redesigned into a 2-year program. I thank Suzanne Smith who has stepped forward to co-teach confirmation with me, and Erin Scheller who is serving as our Youth Sponsor and who accompanied us on our Middle-School Retreat this fall.

Outreach has been one of my callings as well. In this regard, we have established an Outreach Team that is focused on strategizing how to make St. Mark's more visible in the community and how to draw in more people to be a part of our

faith community. A Welcome Team has been put in motion to greet and welcome people who enter our doors on Sunday mornings. I have the joy of following up with those guests who might turn in a Welcome card, and inviting them to consider St. Mark's as their home. A special focus has been on the young adults of this congregation who want to be a part of a fellowship in which they might have a sense of belonging



REV. RON MOE-LOBEDA
ASSOCIATE PASTOR

As I get more involved with the Social Ministry Team, I am learning so much about how the members of St. Mark's have a heart for ministries of justice and peace through the Interfaith Food Pantry, the Interfaith Night Shelter, SF Night Ministry, the relationship with Cordero de Dios Lutheran Church in San Salvador, the support of the Lutheran Church in Rwanda, AMMPARO, our advocacy for so many other causes, and our financial support for other organizations and ministries that are consistent with our mission of striving for justice and peace in all the earth. I especially will remember my trip to El Salvador this year and all of the people of our sister congregation who are challenged every day to live in the hope of a new tomorrow.

As I have had time, I have been excited to be a part of the conversations about a new governance structure for St. Mark's Square and about the development of this property. I look forward to the next stage in our development when we will engage in a process of strategic planning that will guide our mission into the future. As we do so, finally I want to acknowledge and express my gratitude to the marvelous staff that has been assembled at St. Mark's. Every week that we gather for our staff meeting, I know that we are here for each other and have the well-being of St. Mark's in mind and in our hearts. As we move into this new year, we will continue to focus on building up our community of faith in love and discerning how we can best reach out in service to the community and the world. Thank you for allowing me to be a partner in this mission.

Peace,
Pastor Ron



DR. TIMOTHY ZERLANG
DIRECTOR OF MUSIC

The sudden, unexpected death of a church musician colleague recently started me thinking about my career as a musician serving the Church. This year I will mark my ninth year here at St. Mark's, after having served a thirty-year "apprenticeship." For these nearly nine years it has been and continues to be an honor and a pleasure to serve this community. I consider myself extremely fortunate to serve with both Pastor Elizabeth and Pastor Ron, and I am heartily grateful for the support of our administrative staff.

One of the dominant themes for me this past year was the 500th anniversary of the Reformation and its observance here at St. Mark's. I started thinking seriously about how we might commemorate the anniversary a couple years ago while traveling in Germany visiting Luther sites as part of my sabbatical. I found my thoughts drawn more and more to the contributions to hymnody and sacred music made by Luther and his followers; not only five hundred years ago, but all the years since then up to the present day. Our HymnFest 500 on October 28, was one of the results. My goal was to lift up congregational singing since I consider it an important Lutheran value; celebrate it, and share it with the larger church community. To that end, we invited church musicians from around the Bay Area, both singers and instrumentalists, to join us in song. It was a terrific day. The music was fun and inspiring, and the sense of community invigorating. It was wonderful to conclude the HymnFest by inviting everyone to stay for the Oktoberfest, and I am very grateful for all the hard work many volunteers contributed to the effort involved in both events.

In addition to enabling me to attend the national conference of the ALCM (Association of Lutheran Church Musicians) in Minneapolis this year, St. Mark's also made it possible for me to attend the "Reformations and the Organ" held at Notre Dame University. Thank you for both opportunities. The Notre Dame conference was co-sponsored by the Westfield Center for Historic Keyboard Performance, and was, in part, a celebration of the magnificent new organ in Notre Dame's Basilica. As wonderful as it was to hear papers and performances given by friends (many presenters were fellow graduate students at Stanford back in the day) it was more exciting to realize that the instrument waiting for me back home was just as magnificent as those being celebrated at the conference by all my colleagues. Our Taylor and Boody organ continues to inspire me to explore the early North German Lutheran organ literature that it was designed to play so wonderfully, while at the same time enabling me to find new ways to support our liturgies and our community's song.

I must express my appreciation for all the musicians with whom I work here at St. Mark's, both singers and instrumentalists. The amount of time and effort they contribute to the ministry of music here at St. Mark's continues to impress me. I am convinced, however, that we are all musicians of one sort or another, and that we are all members of the choir that is St. Mark's Lutheran Church.



MARK SEMONIAN
COUNCIL PRESIDENT

It has been my pleasure to serve this past year as Council President. I am privileged to work with a strong and dedicated group of Council members. I would specially like to single out, and thank, Pastor Elizabeth and Pastor Ron, for their devotedness and strong and wise leadership.

I would also like to recognize the office staff. For the first time in many years the office is fully staffed.

Winnie Heslin, Stefani Lawrence, and Deidre Rettenmaier are all a joy to work with. I commend them for their hard work and professionalism. I am also grateful for the faithfulness and generosity, both spiritually and financially, of the congregation. We are a blessed congregation.

I am pleased that our work on the "FEW" projects (Floors, Elevator and Windows) is nearly complete. This has been a multi-year project, and would not have been possible without the very hard work of many people. I would especially like to thank Tim Bohan, Gary Schilling, Winnie Heslin, Pastor Ron and the entire F.E.W. committee for the many hours devoted to seeing these projects to their culmination. Their efforts will be enjoyed for many years to come.

Lastly, I would like to give my thanks for allowing me to serve, and I look forward to continuing that service in the year to come.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mark Semonian



OMER VOSS
MLT BOARD PRESIDENT

Martin Luther Tower, Inc. (MLT) was incorporated on August 7, 1961, during redevelopment of the area. Hand-in-hand with St. Mark's, the Corporation oversees The Square including the 121-unit Tower, the Urban Life Center (ULC), the parking lots, and the Plaza – everything except the Church itself. In 2005, MLT accepted a \$10 million syndicated debt to provide funding for St. Mark's retrofit. MLT continues to provide financial and

other support to St. Mark's and The Square.

In the ULC, MLT offers affordable offices for non-profit organizations and meeting facilities for many community organizations, arranged ably by St. Mark's office staff. In addition to St. Mark's offices, MLT also has an office in ULC now.

In the Tower, for 50 years MLT has provided an independent-living, affordable-housing community for seniors aged 62 and over – in a well-managed building, with friendly and effective staff, and at a convenient location. Services and facilities for residents include: onsite property management and maintenance; an onsite social worker; chaplaincy services; Senior Center outings and field trips; exercise classes; the Brockie Lounge; a computer room; laundry facilities; a reasonably-priced Guest Suite (available to St. Mark's members); the Bock Fund for residents' special needs (donations welcome); ... and more!

Some residents at the Tower are members of St. Mark's, and two residents (Barbara Bock and Jo Chadwick) are on MLT's Board of Trustees. The Board consists entirely of St. Mark's members. The Trustees work closely with MLT's property management company, The John Stewart Company (JSCo), with our social services provider, the Institute on Aging (IOA), and with St. Mark's Council and staff to coordinate activities and services.

Highlights of MLT Corporation's busy year included:

- Followed through on pledges to St. Mark's Capital Campaign and its ministries' budgets;
- Worked long and hard with the City and our partners to develop The Square and affordable housing initiatives, and began complex financial analyses for re-syndicating the Tower;

- Completed capital projects to overhaul the Tower's central air, heating, and boilers;
- Arranged contracts and insurance to renovate the Tower's elevators, now underway;
- Collected bids and replaced the ULC's roof, and cleaned out and updated the building;
- Conducted joint Board-Council retreats to understand operations and coordinate activities;
- Established an ongoing joint Governance Task Force examining the operations, plans, and direction of St. Mark's and MLT Inc. and The Square;
- Passed all property inspections and the many housing-compliance audits – with flying colors and zero defects;
- Managed turnover at the Tower and ULC while retaining 98% occupancy;
- Met budget objectives and the many financial responsibilities of the Tower and Corporation;
- Improved security at the Tower, the Church, and the Square; and,
- Co-sponsored Oktoberfest with St. Mark's, JSCo, and Thrivent, and hosted Seniors parties.

The Board appreciates JSCo's excellent management team at MLT, including: Steve McElroy, VP; Lavinia Marlin, Senior Regional Director; Ian O'Leary, Property Manager; Lydia Lau, Assistant Property Manager; Sonia Jimenez, Administrative Assistant; Phil Hunter, Maintenance Supervisor; and, Delvone Anderson, Maintenance Technician.

The Board acknowledges the fine social services work of the IOA led by Josh Martin and Ardath Grant in their important roles providing invaluable social service support to the Tower's residents.

The Board thanks Pastor Elizabeth and Pastor Ron for their work to enrich the lives of the Tower's residents through their devoted chaplaincy, personal support, and leadership of activities for the Tower community. We also thank Mark Semonian and Steve Ernst for their work with the Board as well as Winnie Heslin, Stefani Lawrence, Deidre Rettenmaier, and Rachel Friedland for their valuable support.

The Trustees are especially grateful for the tireless work with the Mayor's Office of Housing by the joint Development Task

2017 ANNUAL REPORT

Force including Jon Moeller, Barbara Engmann, Pr. Elizabeth, Pr. Ron, and Matthias Will along with our development partners JSCo and CCDC. The Trustees also extend their appreciation to Jeff Kohler and Paul Peninger for their guidance in development matters.

And, of course, we appreciate the good work of the Tower's officers and residents leading activities and coordinating events at the Tower.

The highlights noted above and so many other accomplishments by MLT this year took significant amounts of personal time, commitment, and thoughtfulness by the Trustees. They worked on many initiatives while serving on multiple Board committees throughout the year. As President, I am particularly grateful to the Corporation's officers: Barbara Engmann, Vice President; Jerry Lundblad, Treasurer; Barbara Bock, Secretary; and, to its Trustees Pr. Elizabeth, Aron Bohlig, Jo Chadwick, Shannon Cheng, Jon Moeller, and Scott Taylor along with Adrienne Brown and Kimberly Hamilton-Lam who served to mid-year. We also extend special thanks to Jeff Kohler for his invaluable guidance and hands-on work as consultant to MLT Inc., the Board, and St. Mark's.

Please consider bringing your talents to the Board of MLT Corporation and furthering St. Mark's and MLT's ministries to seniors, the community's non-profits, affordable housing initiatives, and development of The Square. Speak with either me or Pastor Ekdale.

Interested in being a resident at the Tower? You, family, and friends, 62 and over? See the flyer in the Annual Meeting's materials, and complete an application for the Tower's waiting list. Contact the Tower's Property Office at 1001 Franklin Street, 1-415-885-1084 (TDD 1-415-345-4470) or use MLT's website <http://www.mltinc.org/>.

Omer G. Voss, Jr.
President



WINNIE HESLIN
DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS

Attendant, Chanelda Daniels joined our staff. They both have been wonderful additions to our community as they bring their unique assets to the positions.

2017 has brought an opportunity to revisit our operations and how we can streamline our work and even physical spaces. This work appeared in everything from re-organizing and cleaning up our church offices and long-neglected storage closets in the ULC, to utilizing new programs and technology to streamline our accounting systems. It's an ongoing process, but we're making great strides thanks to the hardworking staff and office volunteers we've been blessed with.

Speaking of accounting systems - we were a part of a financial process review in the summer, in which we opened our books to an outside audit firm, who examined our books and processes. We did very well and the credit goes to our Accountant/Bookkeeper and Treasurer who kept our books and processes in excellent order prior to my arrival. I am proud to be a part of a team of staff members who are open to constantly learning and open to incorporating new systems and ideas. There is always room to learn and grow and I endeavor to encourage growth as a leader in our office.

Both St. Mark's and the ULC continue to be a vibrant part of the San Francisco community. This year, St. Mark's was even nominated as "Best Small Performance Venue" by the San Francisco Classical Voice! In 2017, we witnessed the marriage of 11 wedding couples, hosted 37 recurring groups and 17 new groups. We also had 6 office tenants, amongst the many musical groups and nonprofits who perform and gather at our facilities. We continue to fulfill our commitment to providing space for groups who may otherwise be unable to afford space in the city, including weekly 12-Step/Recovery groups, community and social service meetings and Hostelry Stay groups (e.g. youth groups doing service projects). In addition to the outside groups that we host, our campus provided space for MLT activities such as the

Greetings St. Mark's! This past September, I approached my one-year anniversary with St. Mark's. The time has certainly flown by! It has been a joy to be part of this active community as I partner with not only our staff and clergy, but also with the many dedicated members and volunteers who serve this community.

We have had yet another busy and full 2017 here at the Square. We experienced transitions in our staffing, as our new Events Administrator, Deidre Rettenmaier and Nursery

2017 ANNUAL REPORT

Produce Market, exercise classes and Senior Center luncheons. This year, we were also able to provide a permanent meeting space for Journeys in Faith in the ULC! And of course, as you read this, the Interfaith Winter Shelter is taking place in the ULC Auditorium, as we continue our tradition of partnering with local faith communities to offer this vital service.

I look forward to 2018 and the opportunities that await us in the upcoming year. As part of my work with the Governance Task Force, I will be expanding my focus to the whole of the Square, as we consider how we utilize the space we've been blessed with in order to fulfill the mission of St. Mark's. We have an exciting year ahead of us! Thank you for your support and partnership as we live out our mission together.

Respectfully Submitted,
Winnie C. Heslin

TREASURER'S REPORT - RECAPPING 2017 AND THE PLAN FOR 2018



STEVE ERNST

First let us remember--

"St. Mark's Lutheran Church is a growing Christian community rooted in tradition and open to new expressions. Responding to God's compassionate love, we reach out in service to the community and the world. With openness of heart and spirit, we welcome all." - St. Mark's Mission Statement

"Our faith is built around a strong belief in God as made known to us in Jesus Christ. Through worship, service, and education, we practice our faith, grow our relationship with God and experience God's grace in our lives. We also work hard to put our faith into action and strive to make a difference in practical, realistic ways." - "About Us" from St. Mark's website.

Our mission statement drives what we do as a congregation. The Operating Budget presented to the Congregation at the Annual Meeting is a plan for allocation of our financial resources toward those activities and ministries. It also sets forth estimates of financial support required to fund these activities.

As we review together the approved 2017 budget and the plans developed for 2018, remember that the members of the congregation make the final decisions based on our mission as a congregation.

First, here are the highlights of 2017:

1. FEW -- Flooring, Elevator, and Windows. Two years ago at this meeting we decided to go ahead with these major upgrades to our distinctive and historic church building. The FEW project is headed up by Tim Bohan who will report progress and plans.
2. General Envelope Income of \$440,901 is 1% more than we budgeted. Thank you.
3. Expenses for St. Mark's and the Urban Life Center came in at \$821,030 about 1% over budget mainly due to salaries as we became fully staffed and unforeseen maintenance costs.
4. The 2017 budget was approved with an income deficit of \$23,222, and we finished the year with a deficit of \$31,634. The shortfall was covered by drawing from our Unrestricted Contingency Reserves.

Looking ahead, here is the proposal for how we'll use our resources in 2018:

Support for our Synod: \$46,000. St. Mark's is part of the ELCA, a community of faith that shares a passion for making positive changes in the world. We pledge 10% of general envelope giving to support the Sierra Pacific Synod. Recall that the word synod comes from a Greek word meaning "to travel a common road--to walk together."

Program Expenses: \$50,800. We support the development of future clergy at our PLTS seminary in Berkeley, conduct programs of music, sponsor community outreach including both senior citizen events and children programs, and of course conduct programs of worship where we gather as a community of faith to celebrate God's presence. Liturgy, music, flowers and costs of other supplies are included here.

Church Property and General Administrative Expenses: \$224,628. We gather as a community of faith to celebrate God's presence in our beautiful, historic building. The Property Committee is responsible for the maintenance and stewardship of the physical property of St. Mark's Lutheran Church. We now employ an Operations Manager who oversees all office and maintenance of our physical plant.

St. Mark's is active in many ministries providing support to the community, both locally and globally. The Social Ministry Committee coordinates much of St. Mark's participation in activities focused on providing assistance to those of need in our city. As a member of the San Francisco Interfaith Council (SFIC), we participate with other churches and organizations in the annual Winter Shelter for Homeless Men. We also support the Night Ministry working mainly in the Tenderloin, and

2017 ANNUAL REPORT

provide cash management for the homeless. Other activities include providing worship services at a nearby nursing home, participation in a fundraising walk for various organizations, and providing funds and volunteers for the Interfaith Food Pantry. The Committee also provides financial support to our missionary in Rwanda and for Cordero de Dios in El Salvador.

The Endowment Committee oversees the Endowment Fund, designed to encourage charitable giving to support the mission and goals of St. Mark's. Gifts to the Endowment Fund, which is separate from the St. Mark's operating budget. Gifts to the Endowment Fund are maintained in perpetuity in a fund of funds, administered in accordance with the bylaws for the Endowment Fund, which is separate from the St. Mark's operating budget.

Discipling, Outreach and Stewardship: We are called to spread the good news. Seeking to continue growing St. Mark's membership, we have allocated funds for publicity and miscellaneous evangelism expenses, including programs such as Journeys in Faith for those new to the faith and seeking membership. Our Hospitality Committee enhances our time together outside worship and helps visitors and new members feel the welcoming presence of the church. Hospitality has a budget to pay for food and drink and other supplies for various fellowship and social events.

Our Stewardship Committee raises funds to sustain our community of faith and on a deeper, more spiritual level our committee's intent is to promote and encourage Christian generosity, faith and charity. As such, Stewardship oversees the annual stewardship pledge drive, which focuses on raising funds to support the mission and ministry of St. Mark's throughout the calendar year. The Committee is key to raising the money for FEW. The Committee is allocated funds for our Endowment Committee outreach for educational and other awareness campaigns as well as recognition events.

Education and Youth Ministries: The Education Committee is responsible for designing and running a comprehensive education program for the St. Mark's community. It aims to create an environment that presents every child, youth, and adult with opportunities to grow in a vibrant relationship with God and God's creation and to serve as witness as Christ's disciples. The Committee envisions St. Mark's as a teaching and learning community fostering experiences and relationships that enhance each person's faith and action through prayer and study. St. Mark's provides safe and convenient child care in our Nursery during worship and certain other events.

Staff Salaries and Benefits: \$590,270. This is our largest expense category. Thanks to the support of the congregation, we called our new Associate Pastor, Ron Moe-Lobeda. This year we plan to hire a full-time Assistant Operations Manager to assist with day-to-day activities in the ULC. The salary and

associated expenses are included in the 2018 budget.

Total Expenses: \$911,698. All the items above are included in this figure. This is an 11% increase over 2017 and represents a major step toward more integrated planning and operations of St. Mark's Lutheran Church and the Square.

In closing, 2017 was a good year despite the challenges. You have been very generous and supportive. We can look to 2018 with confidence in our staff, renewed windows and sanctuary floor, our new and much needed elevator and our various ministries.

We need your continued financial support. The revenue projections for 2018 are a reach into new areas. I ask all of you to do all you can to support St. Mark's. Please remember us in your estate planning. Please explore matching funds through your place of employment and Thrivent Choice dollars.

My thanks to the many members who have helped make 2017 a financial success and for the guidance and support of Pastor Elizabeth, Pastor Ron, Mark Semonian, Winnie Heslin; Omer Voss, Scott Taylor and Jerry Lundblad of the MLT ministry.

JOURNEYS IN FAITH



LIV BECK

Journeys in Faith is a team-based ministry of accompaniment for those seeking baptism or affirmation of baptism. While the process is especially for those discerning if they wish to become members of St. Mark's and further engage in parish life, gatherings are open to anyone who desires to explore the gifts of baptismal identity. We gather weekly over the course of a few months, reading scripture and reflecting together

on questions about our faith and the church. In several blessings during worship the entire congregation is invited to pray for those who are participating in this journey. In turn, the congregation is invited to reflect on their own identities as children of God and awaken anew their baptismal identities and promises.

In 2017, Journeys in Faith offered a complete cycle, welcoming one individual in baptism and 11 in affirmation of baptism. In December of 2017 we started our newest group with the Rite of Welcome on the first Sunday of Advent. This group will be invited to discern if they wish to be baptized or affirm their baptism at the Easter Vigil on March 31, 2018.

2017 ANNUAL REPORT

Our thanks to the congregation for the many ways you welcome people into St Mark's. Thank you for introducing yourself and offering encouragement to those participating in Journeys in Faith. Thank you for praying for those who are in this process. The prayers of the congregation are a vital part of this ministry. Thank you for being open to the gifts and ideas of new members of St. Mark's. And a special thank you to all who have served as sponsors for Journeymen during this past year.

Current Team members are: Matthias Will, Suzanne Smith, Kyle Schiefelbein-Guerrero, Steve Ernst, and Liv Beck. We would love to add new members to our team. Please consider joining us in this ministry.

ST. MARK'S FLOOR ELEVATOR WINDOW (FEW) COMMITTEE

NEW WOOD FLOORING

The new wood flooring was completed just over one year ago and included in the 2016 Annual Report. However, the pleasure this most visibly rewarding project brings is still fresh for all who enter our beautiful church.

ELEVATOR ADDITION

This year has seen the completion of the highest priority on our "to-do" list, the installation of an elevator to provide access for all people to the three floors in the building. Through countless hurdles satisfying the requirements of all the regulatory agencies that oversee elevator construction Plant Construction adhered to the planned schedule. While the elevator itself is complete, the Department of Building Inspections lately informed the Church of one more, smaller hurdle; that an update of all egress signage in the building is required. Plant has already started working on this signage update, and expects it to be completed in the very near future. Equal access for all people to all three floors of the Church will soon be enjoyed.

ART GLASS WINDOW RESTORATION

This project continues to move steadily ahead with stunning results! The artisans at Hyland Studio have continued one window at a time, transporting each window to their shop in Santa Clara where they clean and repair the glass; replace the lead came strips and then reinstall the restored window at its original location.

Tim Bohan, Elevator Committee Chairperson



GARY SCHILLING
PROPERTY CHAIR

PROPERTY MINISTRY

As Christians observed the 500th anniversary of the beginning of the Reformation in Germany in 2017, we were reminded that Luther's teaching was rooted in justification by faith, and that this faith inevitably leads to acts of kindness and charity in thankfulness to God and with love for others. The Property Ministry Team's role at St. Mark's is grounded in this concept: we work to improve the

congregation's assets in support of programs and ministries to our community, the city and beyond.

To accomplish this, our team of 6 to 12 volunteers gathers on Saturday mornings every 6 to 8 weeks to take on special projects inside and outside the church building. In 2017, we have also actively supported the Floor Elevator and Windows (FEW) Committee in completing major capital improvements to the church building. In the past year, our projects have included:

- Repainting the baptismal font
- Creating a rough-hewn cross from the 2016 Christmas tree for use in our Lenten and Holy Week services
- Collaborating with talented members to create seasonal and festival decorations for the seasons and festivals in the church year, including the 500th Commemoration of the Reformation
- Erecting and decorating Christmas trees and assembling the Advent Wreath
- Repairing the Sacristy cabinets
- Hanging the beautiful needlepoint altar frontal, newly created by Dr. Tim Zerlang, in the Vestry
- Monitoring the boiler and heating system
- Maintaining the landscape and grounds
- Coordinating landscape maintenance and improvements with St. Mark's and MLT Staff

There are many St. Mark's members who have helped the Property Team this past year, but I especially want to recognize Gail and Cal Culp for their painting skills and the many

hours they contribute to decorating the sanctuary throughout the liturgical year. In addition to the Culps, our project participants have included (with apologies to anyone I've missed): Tim Bohan, Richard Boyle, Ed Chitty, Pastor Elizabeth Ekdale, Sharon Furiosi, Pastor Hans Hoch, Charles and Dianne Jacobs, Philip Krikau, Mary Carlton Lull, Peter Lull, Jerry Lundblad, Jeremy McClain, Pastor Ron Moe-Lobeda, Tom Munn, Marge Okuley, Jesse & Michael Peirce, Nadine Robinson, Mark Semonian, Viknesh Silvalingam and Tim Zerlang. I also want to thank the church staff for their attentive maintenance of the building, especially Winnie Heslin who has assisted with many projects at St. Mark's. Finally, I extend my appreciation to the many leaders of the congregation – Pastors, Church Council and President Mark Semonian – for supporting this important ministry.

Please watch for announcements in the bulletin and join us for coffee, pastries, conversation and camaraderie as we tackle projects in 2018! It's both fun and rewarding!

Respectfully submitted by:

Gary Schilling
Property Ministry Chairperson



ST. MARK'S CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

Three years ago, during St. Mark's 2015 annual meeting, the congregation voted to proceed with a capital campaign designed to raise funds to install an elevator in the church building. The scope of the original project was later expanded to also include the installation of new hardwood floors in the sanctuary and the restoration and repair of the stained glass windows in the sanctuary. Two years ago, during St. Mark's 2016 annual meeting, the congregation voted to proceed with the expanded capital project.

The capital campaign is a 3-year fundraising effort

which receives pledges of support from members and friends of St. Mark's. As we enter the new year of 2018, the capital campaign is now two years into its scheduled 3-year duration. Pledges to the campaign have typically taken the form of 3-year pledges that are received annually, monthly, or in any other form convenient to the contributor. The capital campaign will end on 1 December 31; new pledges to the campaign made in 2018 will be received over the upcoming calendar year. Following is a recap of pledges made and funds received:

Sources of Campaign Funding

Pledges from members/friends: 56%
One-time large gifts/pledges: 32%
Bequests: 7%
Campaign kick-off gifts: 4%
Donations not associated with a pledge: 1%

Total Pledges/Gifts/Bequests

\$1,083,909

Funds Received to Date (12/31/2017)

\$868,787

One year remains on the capital campaign's 3-year term. Members and friends who have not made a pledge of support to this worthwhile project are encouraged to prayerfully consider doing so. New pledges can be made on-line at St. Mark's website, or by requesting and submitting a pledge card, or by contacting the church office.

The Capital Campaign Committee thanks the members and friends who have helped to make this capital project a reality. Forward in faith!

Roger Ostrem
Capital Campaign Committee, Co-chair



ST. MARK'S ENDOWMENT FUND

The impact of the St. Mark's Endowment Fund continued to grow in 2017. With the new projects approved for funding, the St. Mark's Endowment Fund has now provided more than \$15,000 in funding to 15 programs over the first 5 years of its existence. And during this time, the size of the Endowment Fund has grown from the original seed funding of \$25,000 to its current size of almost \$230,000. This strong foundation will allow the Endowment Fund to provide even greater support in the future for projects that further the mission of St. Mark's in the local community and around the world.

We are thankful to the members and friends of St. Mark's who have submitted proposals for grant funding. With our \$6,000 in available 2017 grant funding, we were pleased to fund the following projects:

- **Parent Education Workshops for St. Mark's Parents:** Funding to support two parent education workshops at St. Mark's to be organized by the Parents with Kidlettes group.
- **Diversity Seminar for St. Mark's Congregation and Broader Community:** Funding to support a seminar for the St. Mark's congregation and the broader community on diversity and the need to create an environment of dialogue.
- **Social Worker for Cordero de Dios Lutheran, El Salvador:** Support for a social worker to work with the Cordero de Dios congregation and help administer the ministry area Education for Life.
- **HIV/AIDS Program in the Tenderloin:** Through Lutheran Social Services of Northern California, funding to support two HIV/AIDS programs serving the homeless in the Tenderloin area of San Francisco
- **Infant Medical Supplies in Tanzania:** Through the Women of the ELCA (WELCA) program of Trinity Lutheran Church, Fresno, funding for needed medical supplies for infants that will be used at a hospital in Tanzania.
- **Homeless Kits in the South Bay:** Through the social ministry program of Immanuel Lutheran Church in Saratoga, funding for small kits with basic necessities to be handed out by parishioners to the local homeless population.

Looking ahead, we plan to continue to build awareness of

the purpose of the St. Mark's Endowment Fund and encourage giving to the fund. We also hope to inspire new ideas to further the mission of St. Mark's that we can fund during future grant cycles. We are incredibly grateful to those who contributed to the establishment of the Endowment, as well as the generous gifts of current members and those who made a gift through their estate plans.

As we wrap up 2017, I want to thank the members of the Endowment Committee for their leadership and efforts during the year. These members include Becky Burad, Allana Hel-land, Catherine Hurley, Marisa Lee, and Jane Borg (Council Liaison). And I want to especially recognize Robert Rathmell, who left the Committee at the end of 2017, for his significant contributions and expert guidance to the Committee over the last 6 years.

Respectfully submitted,
Randy Schieber
Chair, St. Mark's Endowment Committee

SOCIAL MINISTRY

First, thanks to St. Mark's members for the support of our many projects as we walk with the hungry, poor and needy in 2017.

- We continue to provide lovely fresh food to over 300 households at the **Interfaith Food Pantry** every six weeks on Saturday mornings at Old First Presbyterian Church in San Francisco. A team of 15 to 18 people volunteers from 7:30 to 10:30am. St. Mark's purchases over \$3000 for a year of healthy food from the San Francisco Food Bank – fruits and vegetables, protein and packaged foods – to be distributed to many households in the neighborhood. It is an amazing project! All members of the congregation are encouraged to participate.
- St. Mark's again hosted the **Interfaith Homeless Shelter** January 15 through February 5, 2017 and December 9-15, 2017, and will host 60 to 70 men again from January 14 through February 3, 2018. We provide shelter in cooperation with other churches in the city. The men will share our space in the Urban Life Center for dinner, a warm safe place to sleep, and breakfast before they head out for their day, some of them to work. Thanks to the many of you who provide breakfasts and suppers as well as monetary support. St. Mark's knitters continue to knit scarves for



MARY RITTER

the men, and our Sunday School has prepared socks and toiletries for our guests.

- In January 2017, St. Mark's voted to become an **AMMPARO (Accompanying Migrant Minors with Protection, Advocacy, Representation and Opportunities)** "Welcoming Congregation". Welcoming Congregations in the ELCA are accompanying and advocating for migrant children and families in detention centers, in communities where they are settling, and through the immigration court process. St. Mark's members have begun to learn about the work of Welcoming Congregations, including court accompaniment, ELCA advocacy, participation in ELCA AMMPARO Network updates and the Sierra Pacific Synod AMMPARO workshops, attendance at the West Contra Costa Detention Center, and hope to begin working with migrant children and families in 2018. Watch for information about "AMMPARO at St. Mark's" in 2018.
- Social Ministry in partnership with Adult Forum sponsored educational events about the ELCA Social Statement on **Race, Ethnicity and Culture**, reflecting on what our ELCA church has said about racism, and discovering what the ELCA is doing to combat racism.
- Our 2017 **Lenten Box offering** was given to Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Services (LIRS), a partner of AMMPARO. See LIRS.org for information about their services to immigrants and refugee children and families in the United States. Thanks to all who donated.
- September 10, 2017 was "God's Work, Our Hands" Sunday.
 - Several St. Mark's members walked to the Lutheran Social Services office at Golden Gate and Leavenworth in San Francisco. They painted the reception area and cleaned up sidewalks around the building.
 - Others joined Kathy Lautz to bake communion bread in the St. Mark's kitchen.
 - Several participated in a St. Mark's booth at "Sunday Streets" at Fillmore and Geary Streets. Music and rope making were very popular!
- We continue our accompanying relationship with our sister parish, **Cordero de Dios in Soyapango, El Salvador**. We have continued to hold the Cordero de Dios congregation and Pastor Rafael Menjivar and his family in our prayers. A group of travelers visited Cordero de Dios November 21-26, 2017. We had a great time visiting, renewing relationships and meeting new congregants. We were impressed with many difficult stories of health problems and struggles with the ever-present poverty and gang violence. We hope to support Pastor Rafael as he helps members of the congregation with health problems. We encourage the St. Mark's congregation to keep our
- Sister Parish Cordero de Dios in our prayers. A group from St. Mark's will travel to Soyapango again in November 2018 – consider joining the trip. Watch for information about the El Salvador Ministry.
- We continue to include prayers for **Middle East Peace** and remember Christian friends in the Holy Land and Palestine. In December 2016, St. Mark's hosted a photography exhibit, "Palestine: Unlimited", prize winning photos by Bethlehem media students from Dal Al-Kalima University College of Arts and Culture in Bethlehem. In 2017, we continued to follow the work of Lutheran World Federation in Jerusalem. In December 2017 and early January 2018, we have had Claire Anastas from Bethlehem in our midst, sharing the beautiful crafts from her store in Bethlehem and telling stories of "Life in Bethlehem Behind the Separation Wall" at Adult Forum on January 7, 2018.
- On Sunday October 15, 2017, St. Mark's Adult Forum attendees heard from Karen Gruneisen, Associate Director of Episcopal Community Services and San Francisco Food Security Task Force member, about food insecurity in San Francisco, and then advocated with Bread for the World for the poor and hungry. St. Mark's is a "**Bread for the World Covenant Congregation**" as we write letters to legislators encouraging support of hunger and poverty legislation.
- We continued our sponsorship of ELCA Pastor and Missionary **Pastor Kate Warn**. Pastor Kate has returned to the United States, and **Pastor Janelle Neubauer** has become the Rwanda coordinator of the ELCA Young Adults in Global Mission (YAGMs). The YAGMs are young adults graduated from college, working as volunteers in global sites around the world. Missionary Pastor Janelle sends occasional reports of her work and the work of the YAGMs, which we have featured in the VOICE newsletter.
- Our **community garden** continues to grow quietly on the sunnier south side of the sanctuary. If you are interested in volunteering in the garden, talk to Mary Ritter or John Elford.
- We continue to support the work of Rwandan Lutherans with **People Improving Communities through Organizing in Rwanda (PICO-Rwanda)**. Pastor John Rutsindintwarane, the Assistant Bishop of the Lutheran Church of Rwanda, works with the poorest of the poor in Rwanda, walking with them, providing them dignity and helping them establish livelihoods. St. Mark's and several other ELCA Lutheran congregations support PICO Rwanda and Lutherans in Rwanda as they work to empower the people of their communities.

- St. Mark's members chose names on a "Giving Tree" in Advent 2017 and purchased gifts for the annual December 13th Christmas party for the families at Bernal Gateway, a housing project of **Lutheran Social Services in San Francisco**. Thanks to all who shared with the families and children at Bernal Gateway.
- **St. Mark's knitters** continue to make scarves and hats and prayer shawls and prayer squares for San Francisco Night Ministry, our Winter Homeless Shelter guests, and a variety of recipients in San Francisco and El Salvador. In November 2017, we took 50 lovely knitted prayer squares and two prayer shawls to members of our companion church, Cordero de Dios in Soyapango, El Salvador.

Our "Knitting Retreats" are a joy to experienced as well as novice knitters. All knitters are welcome to participate! If you are interested, contact Marge Okuley or Mary Ritter.

St. Mark's Social Ministry will continue to walk with and minister to those in need here in San Francisco as well as throughout the country and around the world in 2018. All St. Mark's members are encouraged to participate.

St. Mark's Social Ministry

WELCA (WOMEN OF THE ELCA)



NADINE ROBINSON

beverages.

This year W-ELCA provided three Saturday morning gatherings to discuss the draft social statement for women and justice of the ELCA/ These gatherings were supported by a grant from the St. Mark's endowment fund, obtained by Debby Halladay, and a Thrivent action grant obtained by

Nadine Robinson. We felt it was important that we share this information, and that our input was important to the formation of this statement.

As is our custom, we distribute our funds collected at monthly offerings to Charitable activities related to women and girls. Donations were made to Safe House for Women, Salvador Pastor's Pension fund, Augusta Victoria Hospital, Kerry's Kids, and the Rwanda School project.

In July, Geri Bailey and Nadine Robinson traveled to Minneapolis to meet with 3322 other members of the Women of the ELCA for the Triennial gathering. It was a truly inspiring experience, including a performance of the National Lutheran Choir. One always feels refreshed and inspired after attending these gatherings.

The SPS Synod W-ELCA group was to have a convention at ECCO conference center in September, but it had to be cancelled due to fires. Then the convention was rescheduled for October in Santa Rosa, and that had to be cancelled due to fires in the area.

In December we had our annual Christmas party, with Pastor Ron providing the program on helping homeless women and families. We were joined by fellow Lutheran ladies from St. Mary and St. Martha's Church and other friends of the group. We hope to continue inviting other congregations to share in our monthly meetings.

The knitting ministry continues to be supported by our group. Diane Valeno and Marge Okuley made dozens of prayer squares, and other members continued with the prayer shawl ministry.

Please consider joining us at one of our meetings, if it is possible in your schedule. I believe the support of our fellow sisters in Christ can be a very positive step on any woman's faith journey.

Respectfully submitted,

Nadine Robinson
Co President



SUZANNE SMITH

WOMEN OF THE ELCA'S FIRST TUESDAY BOOK GROUP

The W-ELCA book group continues to meet on the first Tuesday from 6:30pm to 8:30pm. All women are invited to come for study, dessert and fellowship. This year we read and discussed a variety of books including: *The Brother of Jesus and the Lost Teachings of Christianity* by Jeffrey Butz and *It Runs*

in the Family: On Being Raised by Radicals and Growing into Rebellious Motherhood by Fredia Berrigan. We also read about *Fierce Women of the Bible* by Alice Connor, *The Round House* by Louise Erdich, *Hillbilly Elegy* by J. D. Vance, and *Coming Home to Tibet* by Tsering Wangmo Dhompa.

The church in the world was our topic for Romero and Grande: *Companions on the Journey* by Ana Maria Pineda, RSM and *The Book of Joy: Lasting Happiness in a Changing World* by the Dalai Lama and Desmond Tutu. And for the 500th anniversary of the Reformation we discussed Tim Lull's *Resilient Reformer: The Life and Thought of Martin Luther*. We were most fortunate to have Mary Carlton Lull, Tim's wife, join us and add her insights.

The mystery for January was Louise Penny's *Glass Houses* and for February and March, 2018, we will be reading *Jesus - A Pilgrimage* by James Martin

All women are invited to join the Bible study or book group. If you have any questions, please contact Suzanne Smith at 415.285.7438 or suzathome@comcast.net.

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Dear St. Mark's Families,

This year has been a very productive year in Sunday School:

- We started off the year stuffing and making "Stockings for the Homeless". Which we distributed to 65 men whom we hosted in our Homeless Shelter.
- In February we made Valentines and bags for the residents in MLT. We also made Lenten collection boxes for the Congregation Lenten Offerings.
- We celebrated Mardi Gras and the beginning of Lent, as well as Passover, in April.
- The first Sunday we met this school year, was "Gods Work Our Hands Sunday". We met as a large group and made cards for Project Open Hand in San Francisco, to be distributed with food to the needy.
- In October we celebrated Reformation Sunday with our "Amazing Reformation Puppet Show". Performed by the Sunday School teachers and enjoyed by all!

This is just part of Sunday School at St. Marks. Every Sunday we have dedicated volunteers who teach our children, age appropriate Bible lessons.

We are very fortunate to have enough volunteers to provide 3 separate grade levels:

Preschool: Elise Semonian and Michelle Chernook co-teach on Sundays.

Kinder-2nd Grade: Adrienne Brown and co-teacher TBD
3-5 Grade: Gail Culp

This year we had some new volunteers. Michelle Chernock joined our teaching team as a co-teacher of the Preschool age group. Brandee Marckmann and Bill Mooney volunteered to lead the Children's Chapel time. We truly appreciate our volunteers and are blessed to have them!

All children 3 years and older are welcome at Sunday School. If you feel your child is not ready for Sunday School, come to Children's Chapel and sing with us. Parents and Guardians are always welcome to join us anytime.



JENNY HART

Please consider attending Sunday School on a regular basis. Those students who attend regularly form bonds with other children at St. Mark's, and build community. We have a wonderful Sunday School community at St. Mark's, take advantage of it on a regular basis.

If you are interested in participating, or have any questions please contact Jenny Hart: hartx4@hotmail.com.

Submitted by,

Jenny Hart
Sunday School Coordinator

NURSERY COMMITTEE

St. Mark's Nursery Committee works hand-in-hand with the nursery coordinator, nursery attendants and pastors to ensure that our nursery is a safe and welcoming ministry for children ages 6 and under. The Committee is comprised of Amy Brendel, Beth Dioli, Aaron Greig, Joe Haller, Cristin Owens, and Brandee Marckmann (chair). We are thankful for the leadership of our nursery coordinator, Edda Mai Johnson, and the partnership we have with our Safe Congregation training leaders Mary Ritter and Dr. Margaret McLean. We appreciate the leadership and wisdom of Pastor Ron Moe-Lobeda, who is the pastor charged with overseeing the nursery ministry. We encourage parents of children who are served by the nursery as well as all members of the congregation to seek us out with any questions you may have about the nursery.



**BRANDEE
MARCKMANN**

Our highlight of 2017 was the hiring of Chanelda Daniels as our nursery attendant. Chanelda has several decades of working with infants and young children. We are very blessed to have Chanelda and are excited about the ways in which she is taking our nursery ministry to a new level.

We are currently in the midst of a search to hire one to two back-up nursery attendants to fill out our roster of nursery attendants. In 2018, we seek to continue to incorporate more principles of anti-racism and inclusion into our nursery ministry. We are currently working with Edda Mai and Chanelda on updating the nursery décor so that it celebrates and reflects the diversity of children in our nursery. We are very eager to

have other members of St. Mark's be a part of this effort, so please let a member of nursery committee know if you are interested in joining us.

The nursery committee would like to express our gratitude to all who devote their time and energy to our nursery ministry at St. Mark's.



BECKY BURAD

HUMAN RESOURCES COMMITTEE

The Human Resources (HR) Committee provides advice and assistance to the Pastors regarding human resources issues, including policies, guidelines, compensation, benefits, job descriptions, staffing levels, compliance, etc. The committee meets quarterly, or as needed and submits recommendations to

the Church Council on specific issues. The committee members are Becky Burad (chair), Pastor Ekdale, Bethany Dioli, and Casey Neuburger.

St. Mark's has outstanding staff who work to provide a high quality of support to our mission. Additions to our staff this year included a call to Associate Pastor Ron Moe-Lobeda, and the hiring of Deidre Rettenmaier (Events Administrator), and Chanelda Daniels (Nursery Attendant). We currently have 9 regular staff members and 8 part-time staff for special events and tasks. Searches are currently underway for a new Book-keeper and an additional Nursery Attendant.

Several key staff marked another year anniversary, and we are grateful for their service. Winnie Heslin marked her one year anniversary as Director of Operations. Edda Mae Johnson continues as our Nursery Coordinator, Stefani Lawrence provides Communications coordination, Tim Zerlang serves as our Music Director, and Carl Storey provides security for us on Sundays. January 11, 2018 marks the 20-year anniversary for Pastor Ekdale's service to St. Mark's. We are blessed to have such dedicated individuals on our staff.

During this past year, the HR Committee also met to discuss and develop updated policies and procedures. Some examples of our work in 2017 include updating the policies for paid time off, reviewing salary guidelines, updating the organization chart, reviewing staff evaluation procedures, and updating our Employee Handbook. We are also working with the staff to develop documentation of procedures for each position to enable smooth transitions for staff changes.

Please join the HR Committee in our appreciation of the professionalism, talent, and hard work that the staff bring to our St. Mark's community on a daily basis.

Becky Burad

WORSHIP TEAM

The Worship Team was reinstated this past year in order to be in conversation about how we might enhance our worship life at St. Mark's and expand the participation of members of the congregation in the various leadership roles. So much goes on behind the scenes in preparation for worship in order for our worship services to flow smoothly and provide the congregants with an environment that invites worshipful attention and joyful participation. This current team consists of Kathy Lautz (chair), Kyle Schiefelbein-Guerrero, Ed Chitty, Sharon Reinbott, Amy Brendel, Tim Zerlang, Pastor Ron, and Pastor Elizabeth. If you would like to participate in this ministry, you may contact Kathy or Pastor Elizabeth.



RICHARD BOYLE
SACRISTAN

The Roman Catholic Baltimore Catechism No.2 has this in answer to the query "What is prayer?" "Prayer is the lifting up of our minds and hearts to God." There is a bit more, but the important thing is the lifting up part. Inasmuch as worship is very much a form of prayer, this handy definition easily applies. Prayer and worship involve our total selves. It's all or nothing. There are many ways to bring this about, not only in our corporate actions as a community of God, but also in

our lives of service which naturally flow from worship.

At St. Mark's our robust worship life is built upon our Lutheran catholic tradition. On Sundays we worship together at 9:00am with Holy Communion and a special children's time where our children are included as an essential part of our common worship. At 11:00am we have a more formal service with our Choral Eucharist, but it's not formal to the point of stuffiness. We are a community at worship. We enjoy worship as an essential part of our lives together in Christ. In addition to these Sunday times, there are other worship opportunities according to various festivals of the Church and during Advent and Lent. And then there is our personal devotion

to be considered. From these communal and personal times flow all we do in and for Jesus Christ. Worship is a totality. We are always interested in having people become part of our worship team. We all know that none of it happens by magic. Acolytes, lectors, assisting ministers, worship planners, choristers are always needed and urged to speak up if you feel a call to any one or more of these ministries. Our pastors and sacristans are more than willing to answer any questions you may have. Interested musicians should speak with our superbly gifted Director of Music, Tim Zerlang.

A special word of thanks to sacristans Ed Chitty and Kyle Schiefelbein-Guerrero and to the many others who stepped into the breach during my recent illness. God bless you for your ministry to me.

Richard Boyle
Sacristan

OUTREACH TEAM

This past year, an Outreach Team was assembled in order to address the challenge of welcoming people to St. Mark's and reaching out to various populations in our neighborhood that might be looking for a place to worship and a community of faith to belong. The initial team includes Bertie Brouhard, Geri Bailey, Cora Rose, Andrew Sallach, Steve Ernst, Matthias Will, and Pastor Ron. Conversations have been lively and have revolved around establishing a Welcome Team that would focus on the way that we greet and welcome guests and visitors to St. Mark's, especially on Sunday mornings, exploring the possibility of establishing neighborhood "shepherd" groups for fellowship and mutual support, holding forums on "how to tell my story of faith," figuring out how to use our Urban Life Center for more outreach, and reaching out to the senior housing buildings in our immediate neighborhood. If you would like to join this team and be a part of the implementation of some of these ideas in 2018, you may contact Pastor Ron.

YOUTH MINISTRY

This past year was a transition year for the youth of St. Mark's as Pastor Tita ended her time with them as the Interim Pastor and Pastor Ron began his ministry with the youth. A small group of high-school youth met with Pastor Ron a couple times for lunch in the spring and had the opportunity to share their experiences of school and extracurricular activities. This fall, Erin Scheller, our youth sponsor, began to meet with the high-school youth on Sunday mornings on a monthly basis.

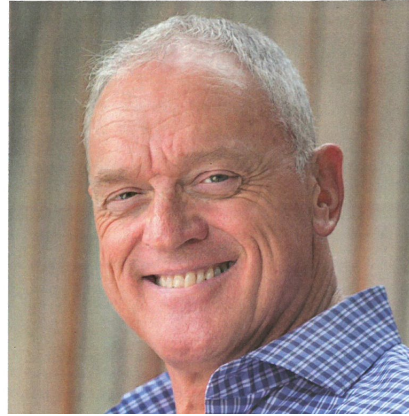
Five middle-school youth participated in a Synod-sponsored retreat in the fall at Mt. Cross Lutheran Camp and had a wonderful time interacting with the 70 other youth in attendance from all over our Synod. Several youth also participated in distributing food at the Food Pantry this fall. All of the youth gathered for a fun afternoon at the Foster home this summer and enjoyed swimming and playing basketball.

Confirmation is the focal point of our youth ministry. On Pentecost Sunday, five youth reaffirmed their baptismal vows—Emma Gray, Tayte Sall, Signe Bohlig, Evan Schieber, and Grace Ekdale-Hoch. The confirmation class this fall has 9 youth who have finished an overview of the Hebrew Scriptures, and have begun a new unit on the Ten Commandments. Three of these youth are looking forward to being confirmed this spring.

STATISTICAL SUMMARY

	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Baptisms	9	9	5	4	5	6
Confirmations	0	2	0	1	1	5
Weddings	13	8	11	16	14	9
Deaths	2	3	3	2	3	0
New Members Received	21	16	19	3	8	15
Baptized Members	425	438	451	452	453	387
Confirmed Members	332	341	349	348	347	296
Average Worship Attendance	190	196	187	167	149	144

NOMINATING COMMITTEE



GREG JAHNKE

In December of 2017 the nominating committee of St. Mark's church council convened to consider candidates for the four open positions for the 2018 election. The committee consists of Pastor Ron Moe-Lobeda, Gregory Jahnke (chair), Barbara McCormick and Matthias Will. Due to busy schedules the committee met via phone and e-mails.

Prior to our meeting the chair approached each of the four existing council members whose terms are ending to inquire if they were interested in serving again. All four said yes: Gregory Jahnke, Kate Knickerbocker, Cristin Owens and Mark Semonian. They are each willing to serve a new three year term.

The committee also wanted to encourage others who want to run or nominate a member to be able to do so. Pastor Ron wrote a statement that is being printed in our Sunday bulletin during the Sundays in January that invites people to do this if interested. So far, no one has contacted the chair to indicate interest. This process will remain open until the annual meeting when the slate of candidates is approved and accepted. Members, of course, can always still write in a name.

Thank you for the service of the nominating committee members.

Gregory R. Jahnke - Chair

2017 ANNUAL REPORT



ST. MARK'S WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Sundays

9:00 am.....Holy Communion with Children's Time
10:00 am.....Refreshments, Fellowship Hour and Education
11:00 am.....Choral Eucharist
12:15 pm.....Refreshments and Fellowship Hour

Check our weekly Parish Announcements and our Facebook page

www.stmarks-sf.org/blog

www.facebook.com/stmarkssf

For more events and activities at St. Mark's!

Church Office Hours

Monday through Friday - 9:00AM to 5:00PM
415-928-7770

Staff

Extension

Email

The Rev. Elizabeth E. Ekdale, Lead Pastor	2300	ekdale@stmarks-sf.org
The Rev. Ron Moe-Lobeda, Associate Pastor	2460	moe-lobeda@stmarks-sf.org
Dr. Timothy Zerlang, Director of Music	2330	zerlang@stmarks-sf.org
Winnie Heslin, Director of Operations	2250	heslin@stmarks-sf.org
Stefani Lawrence, Communications & Media Coordinator	2260	lawrence@stmarks-sf.org
Deidre Rettenmaier, Events Administrator	2290	events@stmarks-sf.org
Rachel Friedland, Bookkeeper/Accountant	2320	accounting@stmarks-sf.org
Mark Semonian, Council President		semonian@stmarks-sf.org
Edda Mai Johnson, Nursery Coordinator		nursery@stmarks-sf.org

Carl Storey, Security

Chanelda Daniels, Nursery Attendant

Jenny Hart, Sunday School Coordinator

The Rev. Chuck Lewis, Visitation Pastor

Reconciling in Christ

St. Mark's is a "Reconciling in Christ" Congregation. St. Mark's is one of over 500 congregations, synods and organizations across the ELCA and the ELCIC (Canada) which have declared that people of all sexual orientations and gender identities are equally welcome to join fully in the worship and life of this Christ-centered community.

For more information, please speak to one of the pastors.

Other Important Numbers

Martin Luther Tower	(415) 885-1084	mltinc.org
Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary	(510) 524-5264	http://www.plts.edu/
ELCA (national office in Chicago)	(800) 275-3522	https://www.elca.org/
SF Interfaith Council	(800) 638-3522	http://www.sfinterfaithcouncil.org/