



*St Mark's*  
LUTHERAN CHURCH  
**VOICE**  
QUARTERLY JOURNAL OF REFLECTION & NEWS



**Fall 2018**  
**SEPTEMBER-NOVEMBER**

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**WHAT'S INSIDE**

Devotion: Lutherans in Alaska? Yes!

Ministry Fair: Sept. 9

Share an Advent or Christmas Devotion

Fall Adult Forums Begin Sept. 2

Senior Activities

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## LUTHERANS IN ALASKA? YES!

Grace and I were visiting the annual "Blueberry Festival" in Ketchikan Alaska and spotted the display of cookies baked by First Lutheran Church volunteers. We made a bee-line toward the booth and were offered free root beer floats and baked goods. We also met some of the friendliest members of the congregation and were extended a warm welcome to attend worship the following day. Unfortunately, the ship was sailing later that evening and we couldn't take them up on their warm invitation. But, we wanted to and we would have if it had been possible.

This genuinely warmhearted encounter made me wonder when I had last extended an invitation to a neighbor or stranger or acquaintance to worship at St. Mark's. I have to confess - it had been a while. As we prepare and plan for St. Mark's fall programs, now is the perfect time to practice hospitality and extend an invitation to someone to worship with you at St. Mark's. In-

inviting someone to worship need not be a nerve-wracking experience. Just think of those friendly Alaskan Lutherans in Ketchikan and do it. Or, you could invite someone to attend a concert with you held at St. Mark's or invite someone to serve at the Food Pantry with you or invite someone to the upcoming Senior Lunch at St. Mark's . . . you get the idea!

So, I plan to invite our new neighbors who moved last month across the street from us. There is a toddler in their family who might enjoy Sunday School. I also want to invite a friend to our Hymnfest and Potluck on Oct. 20. He loves to sing and will enjoy the music. And, I plan to encourage Grace to invite some of her High School friends to serve at the Homeless Shelter in January. The opportunities are endless.

Who will you invite to St. Mark's? Please share with me your "invitation" stories and I'll do the same. I look forward to practicing hospitality with you in the months ahead.

In Christ's love,  
Pastor Elizabeth





# MINISTRY FAIR

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 9, 2018 - 9:00 - 1:30 IN HERITAGE HALL

Visit the ministry displays

Meet leaders involved with St. Mark's ministries

Sign-up to participate in ministries at St. Mark's

Celebrate our community and our many ministries

Enjoy tasty treats throughout the entire morning

Fill out an updated Time and Talent form

all gifts are welcome and needed!

**ALL ARE WELCOME!**



## GLOBAL CLIMATE ACTION SUMMIT SEPT, 12-14

There will be a huge conference here in San Francisco, Sept. 12 – 14, in order to bring together people from all over our country to coordinate our efforts in addressing the growing concern about climate change and global warming. There will be many workshops and events affiliated with this conference throughout the region in which the general public may participate. You can learn more about this conference and all of the participatory events by going to [globalactionclimatesummit.org](http://globalactionclimatesummit.org).

## CREATION-CENTERED LITURGY ON SEPTEMBER 16

In conjunction with the Global Action Climate Summit, we will be focusing on the care of creation in our worship on Sunday, September 16. The hymns, the prayers, the sermon, and the elements of Holy Communion will draw us into a space where the emphasis on the care of creation is lifted up and we will be reminded of our first and one of our foremost callings as creatures of God's design—to care for and maintain the integrity of the entire Earth.

# FALL ADULT FORUM SCHEDULE

## 10:05 – 10:55 a.m.

Sundays in the Fireside room (located off of the auditorium in the Urban Life Center)

**SEPT. 2 - Thank you for your generosity toward Grace, Katherine, and Cora attending the ELCA Youth Gathering in June!** Come see photos, and hear stories from their experiences and how God's call, grace, hope, love, and gift of Jesus "changes everything!"

**SEPT. 9 - Ministry Fair in Heritage Hall - All Morning**

**SEPT. 16 - This is our Neighborhood**

Join Pr. Elizabeth and other members of the Adult Forum planning team for reflection about our neighborhood. Who are our neighbors and why is it important to be in relationship with them? We will view a bible study by Bishop Bartholomew of the New Jersey Synod about caring for our neighbors in the name of Jesus. From 12:30 - 1:30, everyone is invited to go and explore the St. Mark's neighborhood with Pr. Elizabeth. We will visit our faith neighbors by walking to Trinity/St. Peter's Episcopal, First Unitarian, Hamilton Baptist, and St. Mary's Cathedral.

**SEPT. 23 - This is our Neighborhood**

We will learn about the relationship between ELCA and AME (African Methodist Episcopal) churches as described in the congregational resource "Understanding One Another", written and edited by leaders from both churches. This will provide a context for getting to know our neighbor, Bethel AME Church, and we will follow up with a short walk to visit Bethel, leaving after the 11 o'clock service. For more information go to: <https://bit.ly/2PU2BuE>

**SEPT. 30 - This is our Neighborhood**

This is our Neighborhood We will reflect on Bishop Bartholomew's sermon on "Being Neighbor" and explore together the challenges and joys of deepening our relationships with the neighbors around St. Mark's. At 12:30, we will walk to the Tenderloin Neighborhood with former San Francisco Night Minister, Rev. Chuck Lewis and visit the Tenderloin Museum at 398 Eddy in order to learn more about the history and life of this neighborhood. There is a small entrance fee to the museum and an option to take a "walking tour" of the Tenderloin at 2:00 that day with one of the museum's docents.

**OCT. 7,14, 21, 28 - What does the Gospel of Luke mean?**

What does the Gospel of Luke mean for our lives? Luke presents the story of Jesus as good news, challenge and hope. Join Pr. Elizabeth for an in-depth bible study on Luke's gospel during these four Sundays.

**NOV. 4 - The Ministry of Lutheran Social Services**

This Sunday we welcome Nancy Nielsen, Deputy Director of LSS at the San Francisco office, and Stephanie Casenza, LSS Director of Development to learn more about the ministry and programs of Lutheran Social Services. Later, we will assemble hygiene kits of Lutheran Social Services to give to their clients. Come and learn about the important work LSS does in Northern California.

**NOV. 11 - Becoming a Sanctuary Congregation**

St Mark's Sanctuary Task Force will present what it means to be a Sanctuary Congregation, how other congregations came to this decision, and what some of the legal ramifications are to being a Sanctuary Congregation.

**NOV. 18 - Becoming a Sanctuary Congregation**

What is the meaning of accompaniment? What would be involved in housing an immigrant? What other pragmatic issues arise in considering this ministry? What might a resolution for the congregation entail?

**NOV. 25 - No forum - Thanksgiving weekend**

**DEC. 2 - Our visit to Cordero de Dios in El Salvador**

Members of St. Mark's will have recently visited our Sister Parish, Cordero de Dios Lutheran Church in Soyapango. Come to this forum and hear about their trip and get to know members of this vibrant congregation in El Salvador and the challenges they face every day.

**DEC. 9 - Palestine Trip Reflections**

Our Adult Forum speakers on December 9 are Gisela and Doug Daetz, who traveled to the Holy Land in the Fall of 2017. They will present slides and a discussion of their first-hand experiences in Palestine/Israel.



# WOMEN'S MONTHLY STUDY GATHERINGS

All women are welcome to these Gatherings. There are two different groups meeting at different dates and times and using different study materials.

**Women's Book Group on the first Tuesday from 6:30pm to 8:30pm in the Conference Room or alternately on the first Saturday from 10:00am to noon in the Conference Room.** Refreshments will be served. We will meet to discuss on:

Sat. Sept. 8 at 10:00am – *The New Jim Crow* by Michelle Alexander

Tues. Oct. 2 at 6:30am – *A Man Called Ove* by Frederick Backman

Sat. Nov. 10 at 10:00am – *All the Women in My Family Sing* by Deborah Santana

Tues. Dec. 4 at 6:30pm – *The Circuit: Stories from the Life of a Migrant Child* by Francisco Jimenez

**Second Tuesdays from 11:00am to 1:00pm in the Fireside Room** All women are invited to come for study at 11:00 and at noon to bring their sandwich or salad and share fellowship. Drinks and dessert will be provided. Our study will center on "Repentance":

Sept. 11 – Time after Time: Turning to God

Oct. 9 – If I Could Turn Back Time: Turning to Others

Nov. 13 – Turning Points: Turning as the Church to the World

Dec. 11 – Christmas Luncheon

If you have any questions, please contact Suzanne Smith at 415.285.7438 or [suzathome@comcast.net](mailto:suzathome@comcast.net).



## **"ALL SAINTS TOGETHER" NOVEMBER 4, 12:15-2:00 P.M. - SAVE THE DATE!**

St. Mark's-St. Paulus WELCA (Women of the ELCA) invites members of St. Mark's and St. Paulus congregations to participate in a special Coffee Hour event after 11:00 service on Sunday, November 4 (All Saints Day). To encourage all to attend, childcare will be extended until 2:00 p.m.

"All Saints Together" will be a great opportunity to learn more about LSS, and what we can do together to support its wonderful programs. We will assemble hygiene kits for Lutheran Social Services to give to clients in its programs for the homeless. There will also be other activities, good food, and fellowship. Proceeds from a free will offering will be sent to LSS.

## **INFORMATION SESSIONS FOR NEXT JOURNEYS IN FAITH GROUP: SEPTEMBER 9 (AT MINISTRY FAIR), OCTOBER 14 AND NOVEMBER 18**

New to St Mark's? Thinking about your faith journey and a community to support it? What does it mean to be a member of a church? How do you become a member of St Mark's?

All are invited to come to an information session for our Journeys in Faith group. We will meet in the Urban Life Center in the Journeys in Faith room at 10:00 once a month on the dates listed above. For more information, contact Liv Beck ([beckliv@gmail.com](mailto:beckliv@gmail.com)).

The next cycle will begin December 2, and the Rite of Welcome will be on January 13.

# Hymnfest

ST. MARK'S HYMNFEST

Saturday, October 20, 2018 4:00 PM  
Followed by a

CONGREGATIONAL POTLUCK  
6:00 PM in Heritage Hall





# STEWARDSHIP FORWARD IN FAITH - BUILDING COMMUNITY CAMPAIGN UPDATE



## Your gifts at work!

We **thank you** for your ongoing participation in our Stewardship efforts. With your support:

the new *sanctuary floor* is solid underneath all of the feet who use the sanctuary;  
 the newly installed *elevator* is being used every day in our church building;  
 the *stained-glass windows* have been beautifully restored!



**We are just *months* away from completing our 3-year Capital Campaign, ending December 2018!**

With our Capital Campaign ending this year, we hope to have all pledges received by December 31, 2018. In the meantime, we are paying off the balance of the elevator to Plant Construction in quarterly installments and every dollar is needed to do so. If you are able to pay your pledge earlier than the end of the year, your doing so will be *deeply appreciated*.

If you are in the fortunate position of being able to give *above* your pledged amount, this will help reduce our gap. If you have not made a gift to the Capital Campaign or the 2018 General Fund, we invite you to do so.

THANK YOU for finishing strong and fulfilling your commitment. As always, thank you for your faithful support and generosity. Your giving of your time and resources is at the heart of our mission and fuels the ministry of St. Mark's, and enables us to continue building our community!

### CAPITAL CAMPAIGN AND F.E.W FINANCIAL SUMMARY Closing Balances as of July 31, 2018

#### INCOME

	Pledges & Donations	Received	Outstanding
<b>Total Pledges</b>	<b>\$644,414</b>	<b>\$510,916</b>	<b>\$133,498</b>
<b>Total One-Time Donations and Special Gifts</b>	<b>\$451,465</b>	<b>\$451,465</b>	<b>\$0</b>
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>\$1,095,879</b>	<b>\$962,381</b>	<b>\$133,498</b>

\* No Further Fundraising Expense Needed

Every gift is important no matter its size. *Your gifts* to the 2018 General Fund make a real difference in the lives of so many. Your gift helps...

- provide for weekly *worship* on Sunday mornings and other seasonal worship services
- provide the wonderful *music program* we have at St. Mark's - including our Director of Music, Dr. Timothy Zerlang
- provide for children and youth who learn about God's love through our *Sunday School and Confirmation* ministry
- welcome new members and new Christians to St. Mark's through our *Journeys in Faith* ministry
- provide a place for hungry families in our neighborhood to receive nutritious food through the *Food Pantry*
- *house and feed homeless* men in the auditorium of the Urban Life Center for several weeks each year
- provide *pastoral care* for persons needing support during a hospitalization and other stressful times in their lives
- continue our community with our companion church *Cordero de Dios* in El Salvador
- support our ELCA missionary in *Rwanda*
- keep the church doors open and the lights on . . . and so much more!



FORWARD  
 IN  
**FAITH**  
 Building Community

In Christ's love,  
 St. Mark's Stewardship Team



## **CONFIRMATION**

This year we have 4 young people who will be continuing and completing their confirmation preparation. They will meet regularly on Sundays at 10:00 a.m. and include in their lessons an overview of the New Testament, an examination of the Lord's Prayer, and a review of the sacraments of Holy Baptism and Holy Communion, along with other topical presentations and discussions. Cora Rose will be co-teaching confirmation this year with Pastor Ron.

## **MIDDLE SCHOOL RETREAT AT MT. CROSS**

The Sierra-Pacific Synod will be sponsoring a weekend retreat for all middle-school youth at Mt. Cross Camp near Santa Cruz the weekend of November 9-11. This retreat is planned and facilitated by the Youth Committee of the Synod, and includes an inspirational speaker, small group discussions, and plenty of time for games and activities. Watch for future details and information about registration.

## **HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH**

The high-school youth of St. Mark's will gather in the Conference Room on Sunday, September 16 at 10:00 a.m. to reconvene after a long summer hiatus and discuss what their desires are for the coming year. Erin Scheller, one of our Youth Sponsors, will facilitate this discussion and provide some direction for gathering on a regular basis. With the addition of our new high-schoolers and the return of two of our high-school youth after a year abroad, we now have a good number of youth to generate a strong sense of community. Plan to join this lively discussion on Sunday, September 16 at 10:00 a.m. and take this opportunity to give your input to this next year's program.

## **SACRED ACTS**

Affirmation of Baptism on June 3, 2018: Halle Bohlig, Meghan Foster, and Katja Jackson



# SENIOR

# ACTIVITIES

## SENIOR ACTIVITIES

### SENIOR LUNCHES AT NOON ON SEPT. 20, OCT. 18 AND NOV. 15

Join other St. Mark's and Martin Luther Tower seniors for a delicious meal, entertainment and fun in Heritage Hall. Sign up by calling the Martin Luther Tower office at 415 885-1084. Bring your \$5.00 the day of the lunch. Everyone is welcome. Reservations are needed.

Christmas and Holiday party dinner for all seniors will be Dec. 7 at 5:00 in Heritage Hall. Mark your calendars for this festive and joyful evening

### SENIOR OUTING TO THE ROSIE THE RIVETER WORLD WAR 2 HOME FRONT NATIONAL HISTORIC MUSEUM AND PARK THURSDAY, SEPT. 27

We will leave at 9:30 a.m. and return around 3:00. Included will be a picnic lunch and meeting with Park Ranger Betty Soskin who will share her experience as a young African American woman during WWII. Sign up by calling the Martin Luther Tower office: 415 885-1084. Questions? Contact Pr Elizabeth at [Ekdale@stmarks-sf.org](mailto:Ekdale@stmarks-sf.org)

### AGING AND SPIRITUALITY GROUP TO RESUME SEPT. 10 WITH PR. ELIZABETH

Join others in a small group for conversation about how aging influences our faith and how faith can support healthy aging. This group meets in Brockie Lounge at Martin Luther Tower on Mondays from 11:00 - 12:00.

### CHOIR RETREAT OPEN TO NEW CHOIR MEMBERS!

If you have been thinking of joining the St. Mark's choir, please attend the upcoming Choir Retreat with Director of Music, Dr. Timothy Zerlang. The retreat will be on Saturday, September 16, 10:00 - 3:00 in the sanctuary. Bring something to share for a potluck lunch. We welcome you to come if you've been considering joining the choir.



## ST. MARK'S NEIGHBORHOOD GROUPS ARE LAUNCHED

The Outreach Team of St. Mark's has identified 11 neighborhood groups geographically that are made up of members of the congregation. Each group will have a coordinator or co-coordinators who will encourage members of the group to gather on a regular basis throughout the year. The groups can meet semi-annually, quarterly, monthly, or more frequently, depending upon the desires of the members of each group. These neighborhood groups have been put together for 4 primary purposes:

- To provide a mechanism for members of St. Mark's in a designated geographic area to get together on a regular basis and get to know each other;
- To encourage members in a designated geographic area to pay close attention to other members who might be in need of some care or support;
- To reach out to less active members of St. Mark's and include them in any local events or activities; and
- To encourage members to invite their personal neighbors and friends to any event or activity that their neighborhood group might be doing.

These Neighborhood Groups will create an opportunity for members to get to learn each other by name and face, especially if people within a particular neighborhood group go to the different worship services at St. Mark's. If someone in your neighborhood group experiences a sudden loss, hopefully you might be right there to be of assistance. Inviting less active members or friends to a neighborhood gathering could be a much less threatening way to connect them to St. Mark's than inviting them to come to church on Sunday morning.

The coordinator(s) of each group is not expected to "do it all." They are the ones who have been asked to make sure that the groups gather, but are not expected to host or plan all of the events. Everyone in a neighborhood group is requested to take on this responsibility as you have interest and available time. Some events can be planned in advance, other activities may happen more spontaneously as people decide to go to a movie, take a hike, or have a picnic and want to include other members of their neighborhood group in these outings. Children are a part of every neighborhood group, and members of each group will have to determine how to include children in these gatherings or provide care for them.

As more information is made available about these neighborhood groups, the members of the Outreach Team are ready to support you in any way possible. Also, if any group decides to have a Bible study or topical discussion and would like to have a pastor participate in this study, they are available as resource people. The people on the Outreach Team are Cora Rose, Geri Bailey, Bertie Brouhard, Andrew Sallach, Steve Ernst, and Pr. Ron.

The Coordinators for our Neighborhood Groups (thus far) are:

East Bay South: Sharon Reinbott  
East Bay North: Mary Carlton Lull and Peter Lull  
West SF: Elaine Lanier-Bohan  
Southeast SF: Cora Rose & Laura Evenson  
Central SF: Greg Jahnke & Brian Richards  
Southwest SF: Shelly & Scott Taylor, Andrew Sallach  
East SF: Sheryl Squires, Pam Cheung,  
South Central SF: Ian & Kim Ward  
North SF: Need a Coordinator(s)  
Peninsula: Alvin Clark & Allison Kaup  
Marin: Need a Coordinator(s)







# **BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS**

## **A CELEBRATION OF ST. FRANCIS**

### **SUNDAY OCTOBER 7, 2018 AT 9:00AM**

Calling all friends, neighbors, coworkers, and animal enthusiasts alike! Everyone is welcome to bring their pet and celebrate Blessing of the Animals.

All pets and their humans are welcome! Please ensure that pets are safely in carriers or on a leash. Photos of animals unable to attend are also welcome.

**JOIN US FOR THIS ST. MARK'S TRADITION ON  
SUNDAY, OCTOBER 7, AT 9:00 AM WORSHIP SERVICE!**

## **YOU ARE INVITED TO SHARE A DEVOTION**

Advent is a time of preparation, faithful waiting, and hopeful anticipation for the arrival of the Christ-child. This year St. Mark's will publish its own devotional book for the seasons of Advent and Christmas to help the community prepare for and celebrate these rich seasons. Each devotion will be written by members and friends of St. Mark's. We will need 33 volunteers. Families are encouraged to write a devotion together.

### Guidelines:

- Devotions may be 250 words reflecting on the scripture or hymn text and Advent/Christmas images.
- Please conclude each devotion with a brief prayer.
- Families are encouraged to create a devotion for the booklet
- Email devotion in a word doc to Stefani Lawrence (lawrence@stmarks-sf.org) by Oct. 15.

Please sign up at the following link with your name and email address.

[www.stmarks-sf.org/advent-and-christmas-devotions](http://www.stmarks-sf.org/advent-and-christmas-devotions). Contact Stefani (lawrence@stmarks-sf.org) if you have any questions.

## **CALLING ALL ANGELS AND SHEPHERDS FOR ST. MARK'S SPECIAL CHRISTMAS EVE PAGEANT!**

This family-friendly narration of the events surrounding the birth of baby Jesus includes a wonderful cast of angels and shepherds of all ages and wise ones and their assistants.

The Christmas Pageant will be on Christmas Eve, December 24 at 5pm. There will be two rehearsals on Saturdays, December 15 and 22 beginning at 9am. Be sure to mark your calendars! There are many more roles available including stage crew and costuming. If you are interested in being a part of this tradition, please email Matt Helland at [helland@nka.com](mailto:helland@nka.com).

## SANCTUARY TASK FORCE

Several months ago, the Social Ministry Team submitted a resolution to the Church Council to establish a Sanctuary Task Force in order to guide the congregation through a process of determining whether or not we might declare ourselves as a Sanctuary Congregation. The Council has now authorized this Task Force to move forward with this process. The members of the Task Force are Mary Ritter (Chair), Cora Rose, Laura Evenson, Kimberly Hamilton, Jason Jennings, and Pastor Ron.

As background to this process, St. Mark's is in a Sanctuary state and a Sanctuary city, and our Sierra Pacific Synod is a Sanctuary Synod. We have a long history of accompanying sisters and brothers at our companion parish in Soyapango, El Salvador, from which many are forced to migrate because of deadly gang violence. We live in a city with many immigrants. One of two immigration courts in the State of California is in San Francisco.

What does Sanctuary look like today? Interfaith Movement for Human Integrity, an interfaith partner in Northern California, tells us that Sanctuary today is: *"A public, corporate commitment to walk alongside immigrants, mixed-status families, refugees and other targeted communities to uphold the dignity, due process and full acceptance and participation of all people in our society through protection, support and advocacy."*

Congregations can write their own statement of Sanctuary to reflect what specifically they will do. Here are 4 ways congregations are demonstrating their commitment to Sanctuary:

- Advocacy at local, state and national levels for policies to protect immigrants and to address root causes of immigration
- Accompaniment of immigrant families and youth
- Connect with networks of protection and rapid response
- Housing hospitality - short term for released detainees, for newly arrived immigrants, or protective housing for someone with a final order of deportation

The Task Force will be doing more research about what being a sanctuary congregation means, consulting with other congregations that already are sanctuary congregations, and establishing a timeline to include the congregation in this deliberation, discernment, and decision. There will be a couple of congregational town meetings during the Education hour on November 11 & 18, and another one in January with the hope that a resolution can be brought before the congregation at the Annual Meeting in January. If you have any comment or input to this process, you may speak with any member of the Task Force.

## ST. MARK'S DELEGATION TO CORDERO DE DIOS

Fifteen people from St. Mark's will be traveling to visit the members of our sister congregation, Cordero de Dios, in El Salvador November 19-25. They will continue to nurture the relationships that St. Mark's established with these friends several years ago, and accompany them in their challenges both as individuals and as a congregation. Members of this delegation are: Liv Beck, Aaron Grieg, Ryan Grieg, Matt Helland, Allana Helland, Clark Helland, Linnea Helland, Diana Gomez, Greg Gomez, Jennifer Sun, Wei Liang, John Elford, Mary Ritter, Hans Hoch, and Pastor Elizabeth Ekdale. We hold the people of this delegation in our prayers as well as the people of this beloved community of Cordero de Dios as they gather once again to share in this communal exchange.

## EN CUENTRO IN EL SALVADOR

Every three years, the Lutheran Church of El Salvador invites its global partners to gather in San Salvador and participate in the discerning process regarding the mission and priorities of the Salvadoran Lutheran Church for the next 3 years. Pastor Ron will be attending this gathering, along with Bishop Mark Holmerud and one other member of our Sierra-Pacific Synod, because St Mark's not only has a relationship with the congregation of Cordero de Dios in San Salvador, but our Synod also has a relationship with the Lutheran Church of El Salvador. El Cuentro will be held November 6-11.





## HOLY LAND MINISTRY ASKS: WHAT IN THE WORLD IS HAPPENING OVER THERE??!!

Spring and Summer 2018 have been full of momentous developments in the Holy Land, with appalling consequences for preserving the land of Palestine/Israel as one representing the three major world religions within its borders: Christianity, Judaism and Islam. Israel's military control of Gaza and indeed all of Palestine continues unabated after 70 years since Israel's creation, and Israeli settlements encroach steadily and relentlessly on Palestinian land.

Moving the U.S. Embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem has greatly exacerbated tensions, while Jerusalem's future as a Holy City for all three religions is increasingly and seriously threatened. The Church is called upon - among many other entities - to act now in pursuit of peace and ensure mutual respect for our religious heritages and basic human rights.

What is our role as Christians outside of this troubled Holy Land, the birthplace of our own Christianity? How can we stand with Palestinian Christians there and demonstrate support for our long-time Christian missions of education (several schools and Bethlehem's DAK University), Augusta Victoria Hospital in Jerusalem and refugee relief? Can we stand with Palestinians in their quest for basic human rights? What are Palestinians asking of us? How are their issues and desires similar to ours? At St. Mark's, Holy Land Ministry is offering several opportunities to explore these questions during the coming year.

**OCTOBER:** Bright Stars of Bethlehem announces "The Jerusalem Conference" in Houston, Texas, on October 11 as part of its annual Palestinian Arts Festival celebrating accomplishments of Dar al-Kalima University's curriculum and programs in Bethlehem, Palestine. The conference will feature prominent religious leaders, including DAK's President Dr. Mitri Raheb, presenting challenging ideas and information about possible actions for Christians in response to current events. Consider attending this stimulating, informative conference and festival!

St. Mark's has annually participated with BSB-Bay Area, soliciting significant scholarship support for DAK. Would you like to help with this effort? It's fun and rewarding! Explore all details at: [www.brightstarsbethlehem.org](http://www.brightstarsbethlehem.org).

**NOVEMBER:** Dr. Mitri Raheb will also speak in the Bay Area at Stanford University on November 14 and at the Graduate Theological Union in Berkeley on November 15. If you can't go to Houston, listen to him here!

A Bay Area conference "World Without Walls" will be sponsored by FOSNA (Friends of Sabeel in North America, the Voice of Palestinian Christians.) Though inspired by the many walls built by Israel in Palestine to control and alter the lives of Palestinians - the wall surrounding Bethlehem is a familiar one - this issue and the consequences of walls anywhere has relevance for us in the U.S. and especially California regarding the urgent migration of refugees from Central America. How can the many walls that divide people, real and imagined, be removed so that peoples can live in harmony with one another and recognize our mutual dependence and humanity? More details will be forthcoming.

**DECEMBER:** Our Adult Forum speakers on December 9 are Gisela and Doug Daetz, who travelled to the Holy Land in Fall of 2017. They will present slides and a discussion of their first-hand experiences in Palestine/Israel.

**ON-GOING:** Advocacy is vital with our governmental representatives to promote legislation that defends the people of Palestine, as well as our own freedoms and the rights of all people within our care. Remembering that the Holy Family were refugees, having to flee for their lives, we are called also to Welcome and protect the Strangers - the refugees - in our midst. Through the Inter-faith Refugee Welcome Committee and many AMMPARO services and activities St. Mark's coordinates and joins with other like-minded individuals in the Bay Area. Your participation is welcome - in many different ways! (Also see the AMMPARO article in this VOICE.)

If you aspire to visit Israel/Palestine yourself, many fascinating trips are being organized. We are happy to share information and encourage you to take that step! Contact Linda Krauskopf at [jklnk@comcast.net](mailto:jklnk@comcast.net).

Stop by the Holy Land Ministry table during the SEPTEMBER 9th MINISTRY FAIR. There are many ways to learn and engage in positive actions that affect the lives of our brothers and sisters in the Holy Land. Sign up and join in!

# Council

## COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS: SUMMER/FALL 2018

- Please visit the Council bulletin board (across from the nursery) to read the approved Council minutes. New postings will be added toward the end of each month. A second copy is also available in sheet protectors to be removed and read in a more comfortable spot or with a cup of coffee in hand. Please replace when completed.
- We welcomed Bishop Elizabeth Eaton and Pastor Ronald Gluskamp to our May meeting. They provided us with lively conversation and an update about the ELCA Campaign Always Being Made New and the many lives that are touched by this work. One such highlight is the successful Malaria Campaign and the average donor amount \$8 - compounded into millions (\$15 mil). Council provided Bishop Eaton and Pastor Gluskamp with a check from St. Mark's Congregation, the portion from our Capital Campaign, that was designated for the ELCA Campaign. Bishop Eaton and Pastor Gluskamp wish to thank St. Mark's Congregation for their generous and heartfelt gifts.
- As a result of work with our Governance consultant Dan Hotchkiss and after discussion during the MLT Board and St. Mark's Council joint retreat in the winter, the Council has implemented a consent agenda meeting structure. This meeting structure has contributed to more efficient and in depth Council meetings centered on visioning work for St. Mark's ministries and look to our future. Reports are submitted ahead of time for Council to review and placed in the consent agenda portion of our meetings and approved with one vote. The second portion of our meetings includes discussion items that require more conversation and discernment. Any Council member can move an item to our discussion agenda for more discussion time.
- Council begins our annual planning cycle earlier this year (September versus February in past years). We plan a retreat on 9/21 thru 9/22 to the Mercy Center in Burlingame. During this retreat we will develop 3 annual Ministry Goals and 3 Open Questions. After Council approval at our October meeting, the annual Ministry Goals will be discussed with Ministry team leaders and staff to implement, and will also influence Budget Planning. The Open Questions will guide further visioning work and foster discussion during Council meetings and with the congregation throughout the next year. Our consultant Dan Hotchkiss has met via telephone with the retreat planning committee to build a framework for this important work.

Respectfully Submitted, Cristin Owens, Church Council Secretary

## ST. MARK'S COUNCIL GOES ON RETREAT – SEPT. 21 – 22

This year the Church Council will meet in September at the Mercy Center to think strategically about St. Mark's ministries. At the end of the retreat, the Council will discern three ministry goals/priorities and three open questions. The open questions will be used to engage the congregation in the upcoming year on our life together. The ministry goals will provide direction for leaders and staff in the upcoming year. These efforts are part of the governance changes that St. Mark's Council and Martin Luther Tower Board have been working on in partnership with the Governance Task Force. Look for a report on the retreat in early October!

### VOICE DEADLINE

The deadline for the Winter edition of the Voice newsletter will be Nov. 5. Please send all submissions to Stefani Lawrence at [lawrence@stmarks-sf.org](mailto:lawrence@stmarks-sf.org). Thank you!



## FALL 2018 CONCERTS AT ST. MARK'S

### **New Esterhazy Quartet Quintets by Onslow and Schubert with Kenneth Slowik, cello**

Sat, Sep 29, 2018 4:00 PM  
newesterhazy.org

### **Tenet with Quicksilver**

New York-based early music vocal ensemble **TENET Vocal Artists** will collaborate with the Baroque instrumental ensemble, **Quicksilver**, led by violinist Robert Mealy, for a program of 17th century Italian Baroque music, featuring Claudio Monteverdi, one of that period's envelope-pushing contemporary composers.

Fri, Oct 12, 2018 7:30 PM  
sfperformances.org

### **SF Composers Chamber Orchestra Concert**

Sat, Oct 13, 2018 8:00 PM  
sfcco.org

### **SF Early Music Society**

#### **EL MUNDO *Kingdoms of Castile***

Directed by world-renowned guitarist and lutenist Richard Savino, El Mundo will take listeners on a musical journey from Castilian courts and cathedrals to Spanish-influenced Italian cities like Naples and on to the vice royalties of Peru, Mexico, and Guatemala, where classical tradition blended with indigenous dances to create a unique Hispanic style that still exists today. "Kingdoms of Castile" will feature works from El Mundo's GRAMMY-nominated disc of the same name as well as from their new recording of Music from Guatemala City.

Jennifer Kampani and Nell Snaidas, *sopranos*; Paul Shipper, *bass, guitar & percussion*; Adam Lamotte and Lisa Grodin, *violins*; William Skeen, *cello*; Corey Jamason, *harpsichord*; Richard Savino, *guitar, theorbo*

Sun, Oct 14, 2018 4:00 PM  
sfems.org

### **Cal Bach Society**

#### **J.S. Bach *Cantata 198 & Missa Brevis in A Major***

Fri, Oct 19, 2018 8:00 PM  
calbach.org

### **St. Mark's Hymnfest at 4:00 PM Followed by congregational potluck at 6:00 PM**

Sat, Oct 20, 2018 4:00 PM  
stmarks-sf.org

### **American Bach Soloists**

#### **Brandenburg Concerto No. 1 in F Major, BWV 1046 Brandenburg Concerto No. 3 in G Major, BWV 1048 Was mir behagt, ist nur die muntre Jaqd, BWV 208 "Hunting Cantata"**

Sun, Oct 21, 2018 4:00 PM  
americanbach.org

### **Fog City Singers Concert**

Thu, Nov 15, 2018 8:00 PM  
fogcitysingers.com

### **Voices of Music**

#### **Early Beethoven Sonatas**

Cynthia Miller Freivogel, violin, Tanya Tomkins, cello, and Eric Zivian, fortepiano. Music in this program was dedicated to Count Lichnowsky and Rodolphe Kreutzer. Presented in collaboration with Valley of the Moon Music Festival.

Sat, Nov 17, 2018 8:00 PM  
voicesofmusic.org

### **Bay Choral Guild**

#### **Handel and Haydn Festival with Jubilate Orchestra**

Triumphant sounds of trumpets, strings, and soloists in Haydn's *Lord Nelson Mass* and Handel's *Dettingen Te Deum*

Sun, Nov 18, 2018 4:00 PM  
baychoralguild.org

### **Cal Bach Society**

#### **Buon Natale *Five centuries of Italian Christmas music***

Fri, Nov 30, 2018 8:00 PM  
calbach.org

**Contact the Music Groups directly for  
ticket and performance information**

# 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](http://www.stmarks-sf.org/blog)

[www.facebook.com/stmarkssf](http://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	<a href="mailto:ekdale@stmarks-sf.org">ekdale@stmarks-sf.org</a>
The Rev. Ron Moe-Lobeda, Associate Pastor	2460	<a href="mailto:moe-lobeda@stmarks-sf.org">moe-lobeda@stmarks-sf.org</a>
Dr. Timothy Zerlang, Director of Music	2330	<a href="mailto:zerlang@stmarks-sf.org">zerlang@stmarks-sf.org</a>
Winnie Heslin, Director of Operations	2250	<a href="mailto:heslin@stmarks-sf.org">heslin@stmarks-sf.org</a>
Bob Martinez, Property Manager		<a href="mailto:martinez@stmarks-sf.org">martinez@stmarks-sf.org</a>
Stefani Lawrence, Communications & Media Coordinator	2260	<a href="mailto:lawrence@stmarks-sf.org">lawrence@stmarks-sf.org</a>
Deidre Rettenmaier, Events Administrator	2290	<a href="mailto:events@stmarks-sf.org">events@stmarks-sf.org</a>
Bookkeeper/Accountant	2320	<a href="mailto:accounting@stmarks-sf.org">accounting@stmarks-sf.org</a>
Mark Semonian, Council President		<a href="mailto:semonian@stmarks-sf.org">semonian@stmarks-sf.org</a>
Edda Mai Johnson, Nursery Coordinator		<a href="mailto:nursery@stmarks-sf.org">nursery@stmarks-sf.org</a>
Delia Whitfield, Nursery Attendant		
Carl Storey, Security		
Jenny Hart, Sunday School Coordinator		
The Rev. Chuck Lewis, Visitation Pastor		

## Reconciling in Christ

St. Mark's Lutheran Church is a Reconciling in Christ congregation. We are one of over 800 worshipping communities, 29 synods, and nine organizations across the ELCA and 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.

## Other Important Numbers

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