

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



Summer 2018
JUNE - AUGUST

WHAT'S INSIDE

Pr. Ron's Devotion: Women and Justice

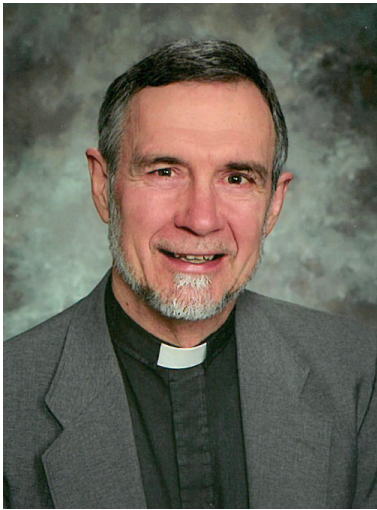
Youth Events

Advent and Christmas in the Summer?

Summer Adult Forums

St. Mark's Endowment Fund

Senior Activities



WOMEN AND JUSTICE by Pr. Ron Moe-Lobeda

As we continue our discussion about the content of the ELCA Draft Statement on Women and Justice, I have been asked to be on a panel at our Synod Assembly and to speak very briefly about my experiences and thoughts on this matter. Ever since I was a sophomore in high school and I heard people questioning why a female senior classmate would be taking all of the necessary math courses so that she would be prepared to study engineering in college, I had this sense that this young woman had every right to study what she wanted to study. Perhaps it was growing up in a household with 5 sisters that sensitized me to the role and responsibility of women in society, but something in my psyche was programmed for a life-long challenge of seeking equal rights for women—quietly, but with some intentionality.

A few years later, my CPE supervisor in 1972 assigned me to design and lead a 3-week course on women's liberation for the female nursing students at California Medical Center in Los Angeles. I still have the curriculum tucked away somewhere in my files if anyone would like to borrow it! Then I met my wife, Cynthia, who challenged me about the language that we use for God in our worship and theological discussions. My discomfort with this suggestion was palpable at the time, but gradually my references to God became more intentionally neutral so that today replacing the pronouns "he", "his", and "him" rolls off my tongue with ease.

Certainly my ministry with homeless women for over 30 years was but "icing on the cake" in terms of coming to grips with how male domination has hurt so many women in our society—both individually and structurally—especially by "men of the cloth" and husbands who use the Bible to support their position of superiority in the church as well as in the home. The Re-imagining Conference that took place in 1993 in Minneapolis was an attempt to bring this whole issue to light, but was criticized and condemned by so many people in the church who weren't ready for such a radical vision for what could be in terms of challenging our references to God and the patriarchal language and dominance in the church.

At long last, the ELCA is addressing this issue head-on and has posited many recommendations in this Draft Statement on Women and Justice for what changes we can (need to) make in terms of our language and relationships that will establish greater equality and equity with women in the church as well as our in our society as a whole. Who we are and how we relate with one another is so engrained in our psyche and our human structures. However, the witness of Jesus, and of how he acknowledged and related with women in the gospels is a good place to start in re-examining and re-asserting the way that we can embody the beloved community that Jesus espoused by the way that we view, relate with, and treat women, girls, and gender non-conforming persons' bodies from this moment on. As we journey together along this path, we pray for the wisdom and courage of the Spirit to guide us into the way of Jesus and the truth that Jesus revealed about the fullness of God's love and peace.

CONFIRMATION

On Sunday, June 3, three of our young people at St. Mark's will be affirming their baptismal covenant at the 11:00 a.m. worship service. Halle Bohlig, Meghan Foster, and Katja Jackson have completed three years of confirmation instruction and will affirm the baptismal vows that their parents made on their behalf several years ago. We rejoice with Halle, Meghan, and Katja, and welcome them into our community of faith as confirmed members of the church. As they continue on in their journey of faith, we also pray for their continuing enrichment in the life and ministries of this congregation and the entire Church.

ALL YOUTH LOCK-IN

The youth of St. Mark's will be gathering for a lock-in (overnight) at the church on Friday – Saturday, June 15-16. As a way of celebrating the end of school and acknowledging the transition of our middle-school youth into the high-school youth group, we will spend the evening building our relationships, playing games, worshiping together, and sharing some of our current life experiences. All of the youth of St. Mark's are invited to participate in this lock-in. Friends are welcome to attend with the submission of a parent/guardian permission slip. If you plan to attend, please contact Pastor Ron at moe-lobeda@stmarks-sf.org.

HELP THE ELCA BLAST OFF FOR BOOKS IN HOUSTON THIS SUMMER!

Every three years, Lutheran high school students gather in an American city for a week of learning, worship, and service. This summer, our high school students Grace and Katherine will be in attendance. The ELCA Youth Gathering 2018 is lifting up literacy in Houston. Houston Independent School District estimates that 74% of the students in the district come from families who struggle to provide books for their children. This means that those students begin each school year at a disadvantage.

**BLAST OFF
FOR BOOKS**

The 2018 ELCA Youth Gathering
Houston Literacy Campaign



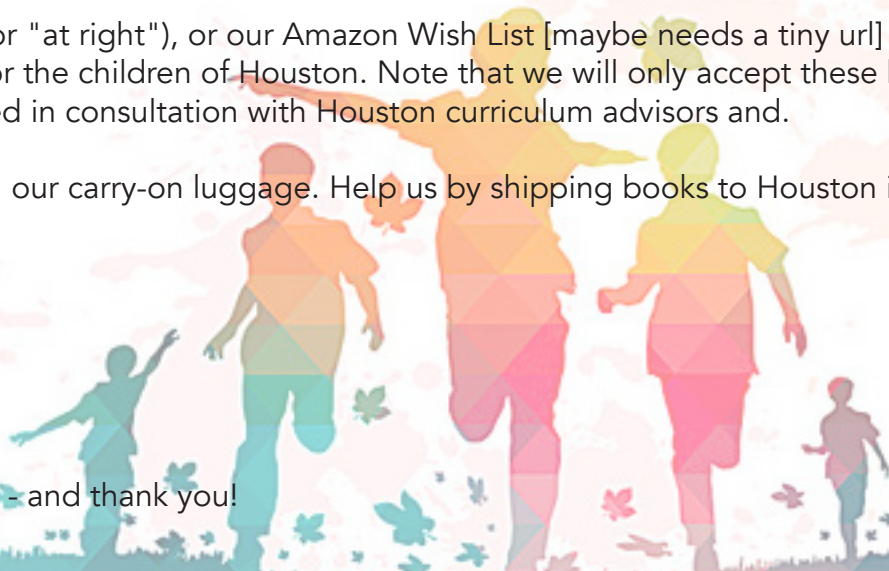
In joining the Gathering's Blast Off for Books campaign, you will help ensure bright futures for Houston's students. The books you donate will be distributed at community book fairs, camps and other events around the city as part of the Gathering's Service Learning experience. By putting books in the hands of Houston's economically disadvantaged students, you can help change lives.

Please see the flyer (sidebar or "at right"), or our Amazon Wish List [maybe needs a tiny url] for a list of books we will be collecting for the children of Houston. Note that we will only accept these books (new or lightly used is fine), selected in consultation with Houston curriculum advisors and.

We don't have much space in our carry-on luggage. Help us by shipping books to Houston in advance to:

Faith Lutheran Church
Blast Off for Books
4600 Bellaire Blvd
Bellaire, TX 77401

Questions? Talk to Cora Rose - and thank you!



HELP SEND KATHERINE AND GRACE TO YOUTH GATHERING!

This summer St. Mark's high schoolers Grace and Katherine are attending the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) Youth Gathering along with our friends from Marin Lutheran Church and high school youth from our Sierra Pacific Synod. We'll fly together to Houston the last week of June to join 30,000 other Lutheran teenagers from around the country for this once-every-three-years, memorable-for-a-lifetime national ELCA high school youth event. For the following five days we will hear from inspiring speakers, do interactive learning activities in the NRG Arena with ELCA ministries and programs, participate in community service projects, do Bible studies (including with Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton), and every night we will participate in worship, singing songs, listening to testimonies and messages from Lutheran speakers, and just "be" with one another.



Says Katherine, "This whole opportunity is something I am very excited to be a part of for many reasons. It's not everyday that I get to be with people my age to explore my faith. I'll be able to talk to people just like me, and people who are just the opposite, and find similarities and differences with each. I hope that during this trip I will not only strengthen my relationship with God, but with the whole Lutheran community and form bonds with people I may have never met without this opportunity. I think it will be a wonderful experience for many, many people."



Of course, the Youth Gathering has expense involved: about \$1500 per youth for the Gathering registration, transportation to and within Houston, food, and lodging. Our youth are reluctant to ask for contributions and acknowledge that many of you support them in so many other ways. However, if you are moved to sponsor Grace and Katherine in this experience, here's how.

Three Ways to Help Sponsor Katherine and Grace for the ELCA National Youth Gathering:

1. By Mail: Please make out your check to **St. Mark's Lutheran Church** with "**Youth Gathering**" on the memo line.

2. Offering Plate: Place cash or check in the offering envelope and indicate it is for "Youth Gathering" by noting on the check and/or the face of the envelope. Don't forget to write your name on any pew envelope containing cash so we can thank you and keep in touch during our Gathering week!

3. Online: You may go to www.stmarks-sf.org/give-a-gift and enter the preferred amount in the bar marked "**other**", then enter "**Youth Gathering**" in the **memo** box to the right and click 'continue' to proceed on through with payment.

Thank you for your contribution and prayers! We look forward to sharing our experience with you when we return home.

MT. CROSS MINISTRIES SUMMER CAMP

Explorers, Pathfinders, Trailblazers, and Surf and Turf are the names of some of the weeks at Mt. Cross Camp for children and youth of various ages. A Day Camp

for Grades K – 6 and a Family Camp also are among the opportunities for the summer. You can get more information and details by going to their website (www.mtcross.org), previewing all of the camps that they have to offer for children and youth, and registering. Brochures are available on the table in Heritage Hall. Mt. Cross Ministries is a joint ministry of the ELCA and LCMS in our region.



MT. CROSS MINISTRIES
ignite, equip, engage



ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS IN THE SUMMER?

Why not? It is never too early to begin planning ahead! 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.

If you are interested in contributing to the publication, please contact Stefani Lawrence (Lawrence@stmarks-sf.org) for details and information. Thank you and Merry Christmas!

Warmly, Pr. Elizabeth

MINISTRY TEAMS MEET IN AUGUST

Everyone who is a chair of a committee, team, or task force or the coordinator of any organized ministry at St. Mark's is requested to attend the next Ministry Teams gathering on Thursday, August 30, 7:00 p.m. in the Conference Room. This gathering is a great opportunity to share with each other what each ministry or program currently is doing to engage members of the congregation. This particular gathering also will be a good time to solidify plans for the Ministry Fair that will be held on Sunday, September 9 in Heritage Hall.

ST. MARK'S MINISTRY FAIR, SUNDAY SEPT. 9 IN HERITAGE HALL

Everyone who represents a ministry of St. Mark's is encouraged to prepare a display/presentation of your respective ministry in Heritage Hall on this day. This event will be an opportunity not only to inform members of the congregation and visitors what you are doing in your ministry, but also to enlist new people to join you in your ministry. Most importantly, this Sunday also is an excellent opportunity for **every member of St. Mark's to invite a friend, colleague, or neighbor to church** to get a glimpse of all that we are doing within our congregation as well as in our community and the world.



SUMMER ADULT FORUMS ON JEREMIAH

The prophet Jeremiah is a very interesting and provocative character as is the book that bears his name. His prophetic ministry spans some 44 years and the reigns of 6 rulers of Judah. He saw the best of kings in Josiah and the worst of kings in all who followed Josiah. He witnessed the horror of the conquest of Jerusalem by the Babylonians and remained in Judah until such time that he fled to Egypt. However, his disciples carried on in his prophetic tradition and made sure that what Jeremiah had spoken was documented for all of the people who eventually would resettle in and develop the land of Judah after their return from Babylon. The Book of Jeremiah is the result of this long journey and endeavor to hold the rulers, the priests, and all of the people from the least to the greatest accountable to the Word of God.

Pastor Ron will spend 3 weeks on Sundays, July 22, July 29, and August 5 talking about the life and ministry of Jeremiah, laying out the context in which he lived and prophesied, expounding upon the Book of Jeremiah, and making some applications to our current situation in this country. You are invited to take advantage of this educational opportunity and join Pastor Ron at 10:00 a.m. in the Fireside Room for these 3 Sundays.

ADULT FORUM WITH MUSIC DIRECTOR, TIM ZERLANG SUNDAY, AUGUST 12 AT 10:00 AM

Flues, reeds, stops and trackers? Join our own Director of Music, Timothy Zerlang in the Balcony for a demonstration of how the Taylor and Booddy organ works and what is involved in playing it. You might even get a chance to play the organ and pump the bellows. All are welcome - free elevator rides for all!

WOMEN'S MONTHLY STUDY GATHERINGS

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

First Tuesdays from 6:30pm to 8:30pm in the Conference Room

All women are invited to gather normally on the first Tuesday of the month from 6:30pm to 8:30pm in the Conference Room. You are invited to come for dessert and fellowship for the first half hour and then discussion until 8:30. We will meet to discuss on:

- July 3 – Discussion on what books we will read for the coming program year beginning in September
- August – NO MEETING

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 be:

- June 12 – Part V of the ELCA's Draft Statement on Women and Violence led by Suzanne Smith and Pr. Elizabeth
- July 10 – Annual Luncheon
- August – NO MEETING

If you have any questions, please contact Suzanne Smith at 415.285.7438 or suzathome@comcast.net.

ST. MARK'S SAFE CONGREGATION TRAINING WELCOMES A NEW RESOURCE

"In recognition of the spiritual and public trust given to this faith community, St. Mark's Lutheran Church is committed to being a true sanctuary, both nurturing and protecting its members and visitors. Accordingly, the congregation will maintain official policies and procedures with the goal of preventing any instances of abuse, intervening appropriately into alleged incidents of abusive behavior, and caring for all involved." (St. Mark's Safe Congregation Policy)

In order to provide training in a timely manner, St. Mark's is now partnering with Darkness to Light – a non-profit committed to empowering adults to prevent child sexual abuse. The training can be taken on-line. Pr. Elizabeth has taken it and commented that the training was sobering, practical, and enlightening. (www.D2L.org)

All St. Mark's volunteers who work with children are required to take the training. However, Pr. Elizabeth is encouraging everyone to take it – council members, board members, ushers, lay leaders, and any member of St. Mark's. The cost of the training is \$10.00 per person and has been budgeted in our general operating budget.

Please contact Winnie Heslin (heslin@stmarks-sf.org) for information about how to sign-up for the Stewards of Children training.

We are grateful for Mary Ritter and Margaret McLean who recommended this resource. Mary and Margaret will continue to offer specific training for St. Mark's volunteers once a year.

FROM THE OFFICE

By: Winnie Heslin

We are excited to announce that we have a new addition to the St. Mark's staff! In mid-May, we welcomed our new Property Manager, Robert (Bob) Martinez. Bob comes to us with extensive property management and hospitality experience and will be managing both the Ellis and O'Farrell Street Parking lots, the St. Mark's Plaza and the Urban Life Center. Bob will also be helping us manage the facilities at the church. If you see him around the Square, please do introduce yourself! Should you need to contact him regarding the church or Square, you can reach him at: martinez@stmarks-sf.org.



Prior to St. Mark's, Bob has worn many hats in varied occupations, including four years as a Commercial Property Manager for a collective of nine San Francisco multi-tenant office buildings mostly located in the historic North Waterfront, with tenants ranging from law firms, multimedia and video game development and production, restaurants and dot-com startups, among others. Following that, he worked for three years as a Parking and Facilities Manager for Hornblower Cruises and Events before transferring over to that company's then-brand new business venture, Alcatraz Cruises. Bob began his career at Alcatraz Cruises as their Food & Beverage Manager, managing their café and vessel snack bars for three years with an annual visitor total of 1.8 million guests per year and then running the entire operations supply chain as Purchasing Manager for another nine years.

Bob is a graduate of the University of New Hampshire and relocated from the East Coast to San Francisco in 1997. During his free time, Bob enjoys going to concerts, movies and outdoor events as well as getting out of the city and back into nature to remind him of his New England upbringing.

APPLY FOR A 2018 ENDOWMENT FUND GRANT TO FURTHER ST. MARK'S MISSION

In 2011, an Endowment Fund was established to further St. Mark's mission of providing service to the community and the world. To date, the Fund has provided nearly \$16,000 in grants for 15 projects, including initiatives led by St. Mark's members in support of our ministries, support for local non-profit programs, and funding the benefits of our sister congregations in Rwanda and El Salvador.

We are excited to announce that in 2018, \$8,000 in grant funding will be available. Do you have an idea for a special community service project, or are you part of a group doing service work with a similar vision to the core beliefs of St. Mark's? Apply for a grant to make your service idea a reality.

Grant applications will be accepted from May 27 to August 12, 2018. Apply online or learn more about the Endowment Fund by going to: www.stmarks-sf.org/endowment

Also, keep this fund in mind for your charitable giving. Our Endowment Fund gives donors the ability to create a long-lasting legacy to support creative, innovative, and new ideas to further the mission and ministry of St. Mark's.

Dream it! Make it happen!

S | M E | F

ST. MARK'S ENDOWMENT FUND



The congregation of Cordero de Dios in Soyapango, El Salvador, meeting in their recently renovated church. This renovation was funded, in part, by a 2016 grant from the St. Mark's Endowment Fund.



Members of Immanuel Lutheran Church in Saratoga assembling homeless kits for distribution by the congregation. These kits were funded through a 2017 St. Mark's Endowment Fund grant.

FORWARD IN FAITH – BUILDING COMMUNITY CAMPAIGN UPDATE

The newly installed elevator is being used every day in our church building. The stained-glass windows have been beautifully restored. The new floor in the sanctuary is solid underneath all of the feet who use the sanctuary. Thank you to everyone who has made a pledge and financial gift to our Capital Campaign. You can see your gifts at work!

Our Capital Campaign concludes at the end of this year and we hope to have all pledges received by Dec. 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.

Currently, we have a gap of approximately \$411,000 between anticipated outstanding pledges and what we owe Plant Construction.

If you are in the fortunate position of being able to give **above** your pledged amount to help cover the gap, we prayerfully invite you to consider an additional gift. If you have not made a gift to the campaign, we invite you to do so. Our Finance Team anticipates taking out a loan to pay off the balance. Each additional dollar received enables us to take out a smaller loan amount.

Thank you for finishing strong and fulfilling your commitment. As always, thank you for your faithful support and generosity. Your giving is at the heart of our mission and fuels the ministry of St. Mark's.

In Christ's love,

St. Mark's Stewardship Team

CAPITAL CAMPAIGN AND F.E.W (FLOOR, ELEVATOR, WINDOWS) FINANCIAL SUMMARY

Closing Balances as of May 30, 2018

INCOME

	Pledges & Donations	Received	Outstanding
Total Pledges	\$644,414	\$482,653	\$161,761
Total One-Time Donations and Special Gifts	\$451,465	\$451,465	\$0
GRAND TOTAL	\$1,095,879	\$934,118	\$161,761

	Withdrawn	Available
Housing Equity Fund	\$480,000	\$80,864

EXPENSES

	Estimated Cost	Paid	Balance
Flooring Project	\$381,978	\$381,978	\$0
Elevator Project	\$1,325,835	\$689,322	\$636,514
Windows Project	\$191,950	\$191,950	\$0
Fundraising and Misc.*	\$51,500	\$47,083	\$0
ELCA Campaign Gift	\$96,500	\$72,375	\$24,125
TOTAL	\$2,047,764	\$1,382,708	\$660,639

Total Unpaid Balance	\$660,639
Less Housing Equity Fund	-\$80,864
Less Outstanding Pledges	-\$161,761
Less Unspent Received Pledges	-\$7,339

Amount Needed to Pay F.E.W. Balance \$410,675



*No Further Fundraising Expense Needed

SENIOR ACTIVITIES AT ST. MARK'S AND MARTIN LUTHER TOWER – ALL ARE WELCOME!

June 14 – Tour of Guide Dogs for the Blind campus and lunch in San Rafael. The tour is free – bring money for your lunch. We will have a one hour tour of this incredible working campus: residence hall, kennel complex, kennel kitchen, vet clinic and the grounds. The agency serves the blind. The dogs are trained to assist the blind.

Important note: the facility is accessible but each participant should know this is a continuous walking tour for an hour.

Sign up by calling the Martin Luther Tower office: 415 885-1084

Questions – contact Pr. Elizabeth: Ekdale@stmarks-sf.org

June 21 and August 16 - Senior Luncheons in Heritage Hall at noon. A home-cooked meal, entertainment, and fellowship in a relaxed environment. Come and bring a friend. Sign up by calling the Martin Luther Tower office: 415 885-1084. Cost is \$5 per person

July 6 BBQ in celebration of the 4th of July. Good food and fun. Wear your red, white and blue attire. Sign up by calling the Martin Luther Tower office: 415 885-1084 Location: Heritage Hall, Cost: Free for members of St. Mark's, Time: 12:00 pm.

Ageing and Spirituality group every Monday, 11:00 – 12:00 with Pr. Elizabeth. We meet in Brockie lounge at Martin Luther Tower. This group is a safe space to share our insights and struggles with aging and how our spiritual resources can assist us.

MEN'S RETREAT

Thirteen members of St. Mark's gathered for 24-hours at Mercy Center in Burlingame and had a wonderful time getting to know one another and sharing many experiences of their lives that had evoked various emotions. Joy, anger, fear, anxiety, sorrow, grief, gratitude, and hope were the focus of these conversations as the men spoke from the heart about some of the challenging and rewarding moments of their lives. The fellowship time on Friday evening also provided space for the participants to continue their conversations, sing folk songs, and play a rousing game of Euchre. In evaluation, this group suggested that we have another men's retreat within the next year. If you missed out on this one, be sure and watch for announcements about the next retreat.



WOULD YOU LIKE TO ATTEND THE SUPPORT NETWORK GATHERING FOR THE LUTHERAN CHURCH IN EL SALVADOR?

Every 3 years, the congregations, synods, and organizations that support the Lutheran Church in El Salvador gather in El Salvador to coordinate their efforts so that the Church in El Salvador can receive the optimum volunteer and financial support in order to address their needs as the Lutheran Church in this country. Under the title of "En Cuentro," this gathering meets for 5 days to learn about and tour some of the major ministries of the Lutheran Church in El Salvador, to learn more about each other's involvement with this Lutheran Church, and to establish a common agenda of support for the next 3 years. The dates of this gathering are **November 6 - 11, 2018**. If you are interested in representing St. Mark's at this gathering, please speak with Liv Beck, Mary Ritter, or one of the pastors.



ST. MARK'S EL SALVADOR TRIP NOV 20-25, 2018: RELATIONSHIP BUILDING WITH OUR BROTHERS AND SISTERS AT CORDERO DE DIOS!

All members of St. Mark's are encouraged to consider joining the next accompaniment trip to El Salvador on **November 20-25, 2018 (Thanksgiving week)**. Singles and couples and families with children are all invited to travel with the delegation.

St. Mark's is a sister parish with Cordero de Dios, in Soyapango, El Salvador. We have visited them several times. As we build wonderful relationships with our Salvadoran Lutheran brothers and sisters, we learn and grow and share much.

Former travelers can answer questions about travel and safety issues. Let Liv Beck (beckliv@gmail.com) know if you are interested in going or if you have any questions. We will likely soon start purchasing airplane tickets - the tickets prices are good right now but will likely go higher.

The next planning meeting for the El Salvador trip will be June 10, after the 11:00 service.

ST. MARK'S WALK WITH LUTHERANS FROM RWANDA IN APRIL AND MAY!

The Lutheran Church of Rwanda is a companion church to our Sierra Pacific Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America (ELCA). We have been blessed in April and May with visits from three of those who are currently serving in Rwanda in various capacities.

ELCA Pastor Janelle Neubauer is our St. Mark's missionary. She is the country coordinator for the Rwanda "Young Adults in Global Mission" (YAGM) program. See her photo with a co-worker in Rwanda - they have matching dresses!. Also, she is the one in the orange shirt and black skirt with the YAGMs. She joined us in worship April 22 where she preached and led the Adult Forum. Her stories of Rwandan history and the work of the Lutheran Church in Rwanda were very informative. You can see her work and the work of the Rwanda YAGMs at "YAGM Rwanda" on Facebook.

Robin Strickler, the founder of the Rwamagana Lutheran School, visited us April 13-14 for breakfast with several people at the Helland home, and a day exploring the ZeroNet Energy project in San Leandro and the sustainability work and lessons at the Exploratorium in San Francisco. You can see more about the Rwamagana Lutheran School at RwandaSchoolProject.org and at Rwanda Lutheran School - Rwanda School Project on Facebook. Pastor John Rutsindintwarane (most people say "Pastor John R.") is the Assistant to the Bishop of the Lutheran Church of Rwanda and the executive director of PICO Rwanda. John is shown here teaching "PICO Principles" to women who are learning business skills to better their lives and the lives of their families. Pastor John will join us at St. Mark's on Sunday, May 27 to give an update on his work with PICO Rwanda and the Lutheran Church of Rwanda. Read more about PICO Rwanda's work at PICOInternational.org.



SIMPLY GIVING

This simple tool allows you to continue to give your offerings to St. Mark's even when you are absent. The reasons to sign up for Simply Giving are numerous:

- No need to write checks or bring cash to church on Sundays
- Peace-of-mind and satisfaction knowing that St. Mark's is receiving your offering even when you are away
- More Secure than checks
- All contributions are recorded for you on your bank statement with date of settlement
- It costs you nothing!

To sign up for Simply Giving online, please www.stmarks-sf.org/giveagift or contact the St. Mark's office: 415 928-7770

ST. MARK'S NEIGHBORHOOD GROUPS

The Outreach Team has been discussing the concept of organizing neighborhood groups for members of St. Mark's for the purpose of building community within our geographically dispersed congregation. After vetting this concept with the Ministry Team leaders and the Church Council, the Outreach Team will move forward this summer in preparation to put this concept into motion next fall. Eleven (11) neighborhood groups have been identified throughout the Bay region. Each group will have anywhere from 19 to 25 members, and have a coordinator or co-coordinators to oversee what each group decides to do in terms of getting together as a group and supporting each other in other ways. Over the summer, we will be approaching individuals to serve as coordinators, and present some of the possibilities that could happen within each neighborhood group. If you might be interested in being a coordinator for your neighborhood group, or just want to learn more about what might be expected of a coordinator, you can contact anyone on the Outreach Team—Cora Rose, Bertie Brouhard, Geri Bailey, Andrew Sallach, Steve Ernst, or Pastor Ron.

INFORMATION SESSION FOR NEXT JOURNEYS IN FAITH GROUP, JUNE 10

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 am on June 10. For more information, contact Liv Beck (beckliv@gmail.com).



SACRED ACTS AT ST. MARK'S

Affirmation of Baptism:
Ian and Kim Carlson
Katie Grouse and Rick Seefeldt
Leah Palmer
Jennifer Sun

SUMMER 2018 CONCERTS AT ST. MARK'S

Center for New Music/SF Choral Artists
Sunday, June 10 at 4:00 pm

More Pianos Than Bathtubs: America's Music

One hundred years ago, there were more pianos than bathtubs in American homes. Join us around the piano for a cozy evening of music-making in the parlor. With nationally acclaimed American music specialists **Brian Thorsett**, tenor, and **Teresa McCollough**, piano, we'll revisit a time when every living room was filled with song. Music by Foster, Billings, Hogan, Still, Cage, Allen, Beckhard, Copland, Kaulkin, Zimpel, and Ives, spirituals and shapenote hymns, folk songs, work songs, and play songs. www.sfca.org

International Orange Chorale Concert, Reception
Saturday, June 16 at 7:30 pm

Pilgrimage and Passage: Songs of Yearning

IOCSF presents a selection of pieces that evoke the longing, trepidation, joy, and reverence of the pilgrim's journey. Centered on Joby Talbot's "Path of Miracles: Santiago," the concert will also include pieces by Eric Banks, Elliot Encarnación, Ēriks Ešenvalds, J. David Moore, Einojuhani Rautavaara, and Nicholas Weininger. Admission is free, donations gratefully accepted. www.iocsf.org

SF Choral Society Rehearsal and Silent Auction
Saturday, July 21
www.sfchoral.org

ABS Festival & Academy Concerts
The Glorious Court of Dresden
Friday, August 3 at 8:00 p.m.

Johann Joachim Quantz: Concerto for Flute in E Minor
Johann Friedrich Fasch: Overture in G Major
Johann Georg Pisendel: Concerto in D Major
Jan Dismas Zelenka: Sinfonia à 8 in A Minor
Johann David Heinichen: Overture in G Major

Sandra Miller *flute* • Robert Mealy *violin*

American Bach Soloists

Jeffrey Thomas *conductor*

Dresden's renowned Hofkapelle court orchestra was the finest in Germany during the Baroque era and brought prestige to the city, establishing its rank as one of the most important musical centers throughout Europe. A wealth of composers wrote their finest compositions for the ensemble. This program shows just how adept the musicians of the Hofkapelle were.

To Dresden With Love
Saturday, August 4 at 8:00 pm

Antonio Vivaldi: Dixit Dominus
Johann Sebastian Bach: Preise dein glücke
gesegnetes Sachsen
("Praise your good fortune, blessed Saxony")
Francesco Maria Veracini: Overture No.5 in B flat major
Antonio Vivaldi: Concerto in D Major "fatto per
Maestro Pisendel"

Elizabeth Blumenstock *violin*

Clara Rottsoik *soprano* • Judith

Malafronte *contralto*

Matthew Hill *tenor* • William Sharp *baritone*

American Bach Choir • American Bach Soloists

Jeffrey Thomas *conductor*

A stunning setting of "Dixit Dominus" by Vivaldi, recently discovered in Dresden, features some of the composer's most pictorial musical imagery and what has become known as Vivaldi's most brilliantly executed double fugue for chorus. Bach's congratulatory cantata, "Praise your good fortune, blessed Saxony," for the anniversary of the election of August III, Elector of Saxony, as King of Poland, was first performed in October 1734 in the presence of the Elector. A grand and flattering testimonial to the high esteem in which he was held by Bach, the American Bach Choir and a full Baroque orchestra with trumpets and drums join in singing the praises of Dresden's celebrated Elector.

Bach's Mass in B Minor
Sunday, August 5 at 7:00 pm

American Bach Choir & ABS Academy Festival
Orchestra

Jeffrey Thomas *conductor*

An annual pilgrimage for many concert-goers, ABS's performances of the work that represents the pinnacle of Baroque music are legendary, especially in the passionate and dedicated hands of ABS Academy faculty and participants.

americanbach.org

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

INTERFAITH WELCOME SPONSORS BENEFIT CONCERT

The Interfaith Welcome Committee of the San Francisco Interfaith Alliance is sponsoring a benefit concert at Zion Lutheran Church (495 9th Ave., SF) in support of the Jewish Family and Community Services—East Bay on Friday, June 8 at 7:00 pm. Members of the Elevate Ensemble will perform pieces by Lisa Bielawa and Edie Hill. Suggested donation is \$15/person and \$25/family. You may RSVP (not required) to Nancy Levine (levinesf@gmail.com) or show up on Saturday evening.



Psychological First Aid Training

**Get your parish trained
to succeed in the next disaster.**



Cost: Free!

Where: St. Mary's Cathedral Event Center
1111 Gough Street, San Francisco

When: Wednesday, June 20th, from 1:00-4:00

Who can attend: Parishoners, deacons, parish staff, and key members.

Registration: To RSVP, visit www.EmpowerSF.org/Faith or email Russell.Allen@sfgov.org or call 415-554-7011

Food: Light refreshments provided

Training Details: This free training will provide you, and your organization, with the practical skills needed to increase your personal resilience, improve coping, and manage stress. The training will increase your overall confidence and effectiveness in communicating with others as the community recovers.



Our trainer, Dr. Elizabeth McMahon, Ph.D., has 30+ years of experience as a practicing clinical psychologist. She specializes in effective therapy for mental and emotional resilience and is co-creator of SF's groundbreaking NERT Curriculum.

Supported by these Organizations:

San Francisco
Department of Public Health



VOICE DEADLINE

The deadline for the Fall edition of the Voice newsletter will be Aug 6.
Please send all submissions to Stefani Lawrence at lawrence@stmarks-sf.org.

QUARTERLY JOURNAL OF REFLECTION & NEWS

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
Bob Martinez, Property Manager		martinez@stmarks-sf.org
Stefani Lawrence, Communications & Media Coordinator	2260	lawrence@stmarks-sf.org
Deidre Rettenmaier, Events Administrator	2290	events@stmarks-sf.org
Bookkeeper/Accountant	2320	accounting@stmarks-sf.org
Mark Semonian, Council President		semonian@stmarks-sf.org
Edda Mai Johnson, Nursery Coordinator		nursery@stmarks-sf.org
Delia Whitfield, Nursery Attendant		
Carl Storey, Security		
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 800 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/