



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



**Fall 2019**  
**SEPTEMBER-NOVEMBER**

---

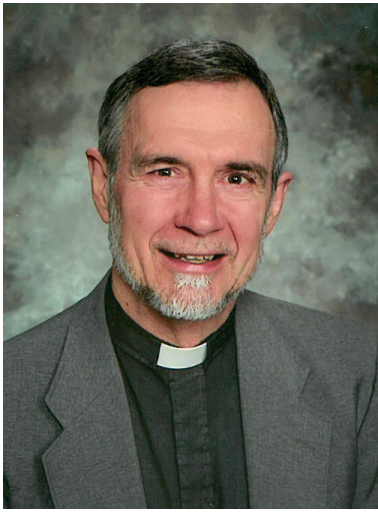
**WHAT'S INSIDE**

Pr. Ron's Devotion

Ministry Team Fair

Oktoberfest

Adult Forum



In the heart of the Apostle Paul's letter to the Romans, he describes the witness of someone who would be a faithful disciple of Jesus, and includes the instruction, "Extend hospitality to strangers." At St. Mark's, we are taking some major steps in implementing this particular call to discipleship. At the beginning of this year, we voted to be a Sanctuary Congregation. Now, more than ever, that decision has relevance as the threat of ICE raids increases and the venom against immigrants intensifies. We have no idea how this decision will play out, but for the time being we are concentrating on accompanying young immigrants at their court hearings through the Guardian Angel ministry—another way of being a friendly host for those who are strangers in our land.

Of course, our decision to serve as a host to Project Homeless Connect (PHC) in the Urban Life Center is another way that we are extending hospitality to strangers—those who are unhoused and left to fend for themselves on the streets of our city. As we prepare for the beginning of their operation in

September and early October, we will have plenty of opportunities not only to engage in conversation with those who will be knocking at the doors of the ULC, but also to volunteer in support of PHC's many programs. 12:00 noon.

Following the passage of our resolution to become a Sanctuary Congregation, a member asked me if there was some scriptural basis for this ministry of hospitality and sanctuary that is so much a part of our call as disciples of Jesus Christ and of the Biblical mandate to love our neighbors. When I first came to St. Mark's, I was asked to compile such a document for a synodical AMMPARO workshop. For the remainder of this reflection, I will share a few excerpts from this presentation (all references being from the NRSV).

#### **Leviticus 19:33-34**

When an alien resides with you in your land, you shall not oppress the alien. The alien shall be to you as a citizen among you and you shall love the alien as yourself.

#### **Deuteronomy 27:19**

Cursed be anyone who deprives the alien, the orphan, and the widow of justice.

#### **Jeremiah 22:3**

Do no wrong or violence to the alien, the orphan, and the widow, or shed innocent blood in this place.

#### **Zechariah 7:9-10**

Render true judgments, show kindness and mercy to one another; do not oppress the widow, the orphan, the alien, or the poor; and do not devise evil in your hearts against one another.

#### **Hebrews 13:2**

Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by doing so some have entertained angels without know it."

#### **Matthew 25:35**

Jesus said, "I was a stranger and you welcomed ME."

We have been blessed to have this opportunity to extend the hospitality of our congregation to the strangers in our midst just as we have the opportunity every Sunday to extend our hospitality to the people who enter our sanctuary and who are looking for a receptive welcome, a friendly smile, and an intentional recognition of their presence.

Peace,  
Pastor Ron



# MINISTRY FAIR

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 2019 - 9:00 - 1:30 IN HERITAGE HALL

Come and join in the celebration of all of the ministries in which the members of St. Mark's are engaged, both locally and globally, as well as within the congregation to nurture the members of St. Mark's. This Ministry Fair will fill Heritage Hall with displays on Sunday, September 8 and give you an opportunity to get a good view of all of the ways that the members of St. Mark's volunteer their time and energy to spread the good news of Jesus Christ. This day also would be a good opportunity for you to invite your friends to St. Mark's so that they can see all of the great things that God is doing through the members of this congregation. You also will have an opportunity to sign up for anything that you might want to do to participate in the life and ministries of the congregation.

**ALL ARE WELCOME!**



**SUNDAY OCTOBER 6, 2019 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 6, AT 9:00 AM WORSHIP SERVICE!**

# FALL ADULT FORUM SCHEDULE

## 10:05 – 10:55 a.m.

### Sundays in Heritage Hall

*In an article in the magazine, The Christian Century, theologian Ryan Bonfiglio points out that we assume that serious biblical and theological reflection mostly occurs in academic institutions and not churches. He urges us "to rethink our assumptions about where theological education happens," to bring theological education into the heart of the congregation. So, let's do it! Let's engage in faith-full reflection and conversation on Sunday mornings at 10 am in Heritage Hall. Come and be engaged!*

#### **SABBATICAL LEARNINGS—PR. ELIZABETH EKDALE**

**September 15 & 22**

Fresh from her sabbatical, Pr. Elizabeth will share stories and insights gathered during her time of reflection and renewal. Come and learn about Celtic Spirituality, Anti-Racism reading and ministry reflections. Come and reflect.

#### **ONE CHURCH, ONE BOOK: The Circuit—DR. MARGARET McLEAN**

**September 29**

"One Church, One Book" calls us to gather together for conversation about a story—this time for a story about "the circuit" traveled by farm workers as seen through the eyes of a migrant child. The book is "The Circuit: Stories from the Life of a Migrant Child" by Francisco Jiménez and is available from Amazon, from St. Mark's library (one copy available), from your local library, as an audiobook from Audible, and ordered from your independent bookstore. No time to read? Come and hear.

#### **OPEN QUESTIONS—MEMBERS OF THE CHURCH COUNCIL**

**October 6**

Council members will provide a report on the conversation in which the congregation has engaged regarding the Open Questions. The three questions discussion has been a process where the community can begin to imagine its future ministry and purpose. There will be time for an exchange of the ideas and information that the process has produced. Come and engage.

#### **THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO SECOND TIMOTHY—PR. RON MOE-LOBEDA**

**October 13 & 20**

During the month of October, all of our assigned second readings for Sunday services are from Paul's second letter to Timothy. Pastor Ron will take advantage of this opportunity and journey with people in examining the context and content of this letter as well as explore how its message informs our life together as a community of faith and our witness in the world. Come and hear.

#### **REFORMATION**

**October 27**

Wear red and find out why red is the color of choice as we consider our Reformation roots and how to live into our own re-formation. Come and re-form.

#### **A BIRTHDAY PARTY FOR THE LUTHERAN CHURCH OF RWANDA—MARY RITTER**

**November 3**

Home from the 25th Anniversary celebration in Kigali for our sister synod, The Lutheran Church of Rwanda, Mary Ritter will talk about LCR's founding after the genocide and its ministry now. Come and be transported.

#### **SANCTUARY—MEMBERS OF ST. MARK'S SANCTUARY TEAM**

**November 10**

St. Mark's is a Sanctuary Congregation, committed to accompaniment and advocacy for immigrants. We are doing it now! Come and discover.

#### **DEAR CHURCH—A DISCUSSION OF PR. LENNY DUNCAN'S LOVE LETTER TO THE ELCA**

**November 17 & 24**

Led by Sharon Reinbott, we will explore the book, "Dear Church: A Love Letter from a Black Preacher to the Whitest Denomination in the U.S." by ELCA Pastor Lenny Duncan. We will encounter and reflect on Pr. Duncan's suggestions for dismantling white supremacy, widening the circle of grace, and how the ELCA can lead the way. Come and learn.





Now that we have five more youth who have been confirmed, the potential for our Youth Group has doubled and we would like to gather on a more regular basis on Sunday mornings. Pastoral Intern Sonja and Pastor Ron, along with Erin Scheller, have chosen the second and fourth Sundays of the month this fall to convene the youth at 10:00 a.m. for conversation and discussions reflective of the interest of those in attendance. Those dates would be 9/22, 10/13, 10/27, 11/10, 11/24, and 12/8. Mark these dates on your calendar and watch for more details about location and discussion topics.

## **ST. MARK'S SUNDAY SCHOOL**

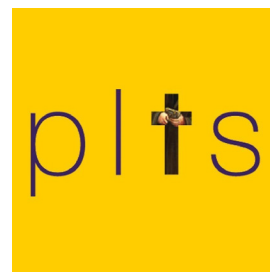
Sunday School will resume on September 15 with 3 classes: Pre-K – Kindergarten; Grades 1 – 2; Grades 3 – 6. An exciting year has been planned for the children of the congregation with meaningful lessons, active play, and many adults taking part in teaching and supervising them. The children will gather at the back of the sanctuary after receiving communion at the 9:00 a.m. service and head over to the Urban Life Center for some planned activities before gathering in their classroom for the lesson, craft/art project, snack, and prayer. Some Sundays are scheduled for all of the children to be together in some group activity or service project. Please contact Adrienne Brown, Sunday School Coordinator, for more information about this ministry and how you might be involved as a teacher, activity leader, or assistant.

## **NEIGHBORHOOD GROUPS**

Now that we are through the summer months and people are settling into their fall routines, this would be good time for our Neighborhood Groups to consider getting together once again. Pastor Ron will be reviewing this ministry, making a few adjustments in the boundaries and number of participants in each group, and attempting to line up coordinators for those groups that don't have one. If you have any suggestions or would be willing to coordinate your group, please contact Pastor Ron.

## THANK YOU FROM PACIFIC LUTHERAN THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY!

PLTS wishes to extend its sincere gratitude and heartfelt appreciation for the gifts you sent recently to support seminary students, including your very own Cora Rose. Your scholarship gift of \$2,500 is being matched dollar for dollar in our Congregation Partnership Program through California Lutheran University. And your gift to the Seminary Fund of \$2,758 supports all the resources the seminary needs to function and thrive. Thank you for your tremendous support! To learn about our upcoming events, including Founders' Day on September 18, visit [plts.edu](http://plts.edu).



## INFORMATION SESSIONS FOR NEXT JOURNEYS IN FAITH GROUP:

Thinking about your faith journey and a community to support it? If you are interested in learning more about St Mark's or maybe exploring making St Mark's your church home, we would love to talk with you! The Journeys in Faith team invites you to meet for coffee or tea and conversation. If you are interested, or have questions, contact Liv Beck ([beckliv@gmail.com](mailto:beckliv@gmail.com); 415-205-3292).

### SACRED ACTS

**Baptism:** Rex Dioli

**Confirmation:** Violet Battaglia, Gabrielle Reed, Nick Reed, Alison Schieber, and Nate Semonian

## THE CHOIR SEASON BEGINS

I always look forward to the beginning of a new choir season. During a break in the choir schedule I miss getting together with our choir members, hearing their stories, staying in touch on a weekly basis. The social aspect is important to me. But our gathering has another purpose that I enjoy even more. We gather to rehearse the creation of a musical moment that when shared in worship can lift up and magnify the Word, illuminate a theme of the day or season, be an oasis of beauty that comforts or inspires a listener in the congregation; in short, is something that ministers to our St. Mark's community. This ministry begins again on Sunday, September 15 at 10 am in the Sanctuary, when we will gather to prepare music for worship that day at 11 am. Our first regular rehearsal will be on Wednesday, September 18 at 7:30 pm in the Sanctuary, when we will start to work on music that we will sing throughout the Fall and even at Christmas time. Come and give this music ministry a try - all are welcome. If you have any questions or concerns, contact our Director of Music, Dr. Timothy Zerlang ([zerlang@stmarks-sf.org](mailto:zerlang@stmarks-sf.org)). Some choir highlights this Fall:

First Sunday, September 15  
First rehearsal, Wednesday September 18  
Singing with our guests, Marigalchor Kiel, Sunday, October 6  
Reformation, Sunday, October 27  
All Saints, Sunday, November 3  
Annual Advent Vespers with St. Mary's Cathedral (tbd)  
Christmas Eve

## JOIN THE ST. MARK'S CHOIR ON TOUR!

On Sunday, December 12 at 4 pm join the St. Mark's Choir as they journey all the way to St. Mary's Cathedral (across Gough Street) where they will collaborate with the choir of St. Mary's under the direction of the Director of Music, Chris Tietze. This joint Lutheran/Catholic Advent Vespers has become a seasonal tradition, and alternates between St. Mark's and St. Mary's each year. The service is less than an hour long, and is a wonderful close to the day as we watch the light fade from within the Cathedral. Take advantage of this opportunity to contemplate the Advent of Our Lord in an inspiring environment with beautiful music.

# Save the Date!



**St. Mark's Oktoberfest  
Sunday, October 20, 2019  
1:00 PM - 4:00 PM**

**German food and live music  
with Deutscher Musikverein**

# Senior Activities

## **SENIOR LUNCHEAS AT NOON ON THE FOURTH THURSDAYS OF THE MONTH**

Residents of Martin Lutheran Tower and Seniors from St. Mark's are invited to gather every fourth Thursday of the month in Heritage Hall for a delicious meal, entertainment, a raffle, and friendly conversation. The dates are September 26, October 24, and November TBD. Watch for more details each month about the menu. Reservations are required. You may sign up by calling MLT office at 415-885-1084. Bring your nominal payment the day of the lunch. Everyone is welcome

## **AGING AND SPIRITUALITY GROUP**

Every Monday residents of MLT and friends of St. Mark's are invited to this group to talk about their week, their insights into aging, and spirituality. The pastors at St. Mark's guide the group in an hour long conversation about challenges and joys of everyday life, but also deeper insights into spirituality and looking back on life. The group meets from 11am to 12 noon in Brockie Lounge (Martin Luther Tower).

It is strongly encouraged to join the group with the intention to come regularly if you find it to be to your liking. We want to make connections and built trust as a group.

If you have any questions contact Pastor Elizabeth at: [ekdale@stmarks-sf.org](mailto:ekdale@stmarks-sf.org) or (415) 928 7770

# ST. MARK'S DELEGATION TO EL SALVADOR

Several members of St. Mark's will be making their annual journey to visit our friends at Cordero de Dios in San Salvador from November 25 to December 1. The delegation will have the opportunity to connect with the members of our sister congregation, continue to build on these relationships, and worship with them in their sanctuary. The delegation will intend to meet with Bishop Gomez, visit some other ministries of the Lutheran Church in El Salvador, and visit some of the historical sites of San Salvador. We are in the final stages of making preparation for this trip. However, if you are still interested in going, you will want to contact Mary Ritter or Matt Helland ASAP.

## EVENINGS OF SERENITY – HOSTED BY PASTORAL INTERN SONJA PILMAN

Are you between 23 and 38 years of age? Then you are what is referred to as a "Millennial". Millennials are considered to be the most anxious generation. How do you handle your challenges? Where do you struggle? Or where are you doing well and what can we learn from you? In four evenings we are going to meet as a group and talk about things that overwhelm us or frighten us. We want to make connections, build trust, and be heard.

There will be a simple meal provided, a glass of wine or beer or non-alcoholic options. Following dinner we will listen to a short presentation to fuel our discussion afterwards.

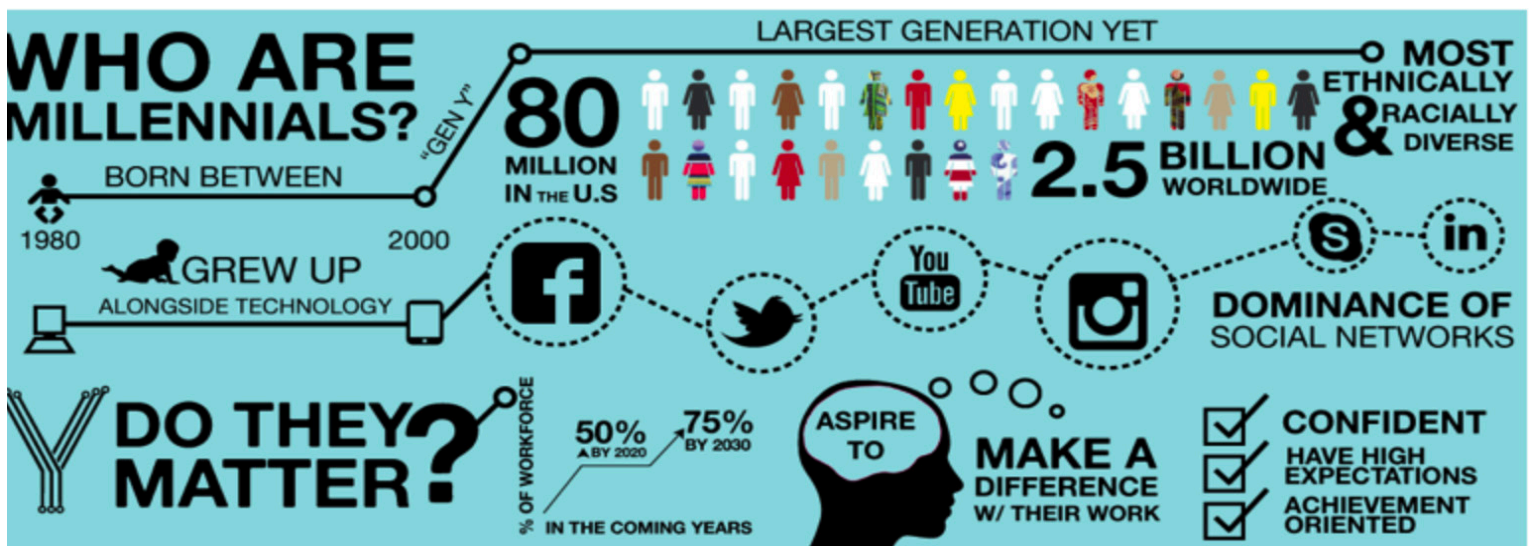
The dates and specific topics for these four Wednesday evenings are:

- **October 23, "Work and Education"**
- **October 30, "Ethics and Social Impact"**
- **November 6, "Environment"**
- **November 13, "Decision-making for Your Future"**

There will be appetizers at 5:30pm. Dinner starts at 6pm (vegan options provided). Presentation and following discussion starts at 7pm. Feel free to join at any point. We end no later than 8:30pm. There is no cost for participants. We will meet in the Conference Room, Urban Life Center, 1031 Franklin Street, San Francisco

Sign up for the evenings of your choosing or ask for more information at: [pilman@stmarks-sf.org](mailto:pilman@stmarks-sf.org) or (650) 431 6693

All are welcome!





## STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN

The St. Mark's Stewardship Team is preparing for our annual fall campaign which will kick off on Sunday, October 20. The campaign will end on Celebration Sunday, November 17, when pledges will be collected at both services.

The members and friends of St. Mark's continue to demonstrate their support for our community of faith through their generous gifts. Last year our theme was "Joyous Generosity" and was successful with commitments exceeding \$420,000. Our upcoming fall campaign will focus on yet another important facet of stewardship. Join us on Sunday, October 20, when we will roll out this year's new theme and continue to explore the meaning and relevance of Christian stewardship over the following weeks of the campaign.



When making a pledge, our team recommends that you consider the electronic method of pledging by utilizing our Simply Giving program. Simply Giving is a no hassle method of fulfilling your pledge commitment with minimal effort. Sign up information for this electronic version of pledging will be provided in your pledge packets, which will be distributed during the fall pledge drive. However, any method of giving works; the more important concept is your personal act of giving. We are greatly blessed with many ministries that make a difference to each of our lives, and to the lives we positively impact, locally and globally. Making a commitment to St. Mark's becomes a meaningful and rewarding way of supporting this community of faith.

The Stewardship Team is grateful to the faithful stewards at St. Mark's and we would like to extend our thanks and gratitude to each of them. Join us again this year as we continue to go Forward in Faith in joyous generosity.

**Number of Pledges:**  
**113 out of 186 Possible Giving Units**  
**Total Amount Pledged \$441,021**  
**Received through 8/15/19: \$234,232.50**

"Although some think of stewardship as only a financial response to God's love, stewardship encompasses so much more than money. It is about how we use all that God has entrusted to our care — our time, our talents and our treasures — to love God and our neighbors, both inside and outside of the church walls and our homes." ELCA

## 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.

### **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 the Hebrew Scripture poetry from Job, Psalms, Lamentations and Song of Solomon.

**September 10 – "Stewarding the Angst of Anger"**

**October 8 – "Stewarding the Ache of Grief"**

**November 12 – "Stewarding the Gift of Joy"**

Women's Book Group on the **Second Saturday from 10:00am to noon in the Conference Room**. Refreshments will be served. We will meet to discuss on:

**Sat. September 14 – Dear Church: A Love Letter from a Black Preacher to the Whitest Denomination in the U.S. by Lenny Duncan**

**Sat. October 12 – Resisting Structural Evil: Love as Ecological Economic Vocation by Cynthia Moe-Lobeda**

**Sat. November 9 – Shameless by Nadia Betz-Weber**

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

## FALL 2019 CONCERTS AT ST. MARK'S SEPTEMBER 2019 –NOVEMBER 2019

### **New Esterhazy Quartet**

Sat, Sep 14, 2019 • 4:00pm  
[www.newesterhazy.org](http://www.newesterhazy.org)

### **California Bach Society**

J.S. Bach, Magnificat  
Zelenka, Missa Divi Xaverii  
Fri, Oct 4, 2019 • 8:00pm  
[www.calbach.org](http://www.calbach.org)

### **Madrigalchor Kiel**

Sat, Oct 5, 2019 • Time TBD (please check St. Mark's  
calendar closer to date)  
[www.madrigalchor-kiel.de](http://www.madrigalchor-kiel.de)  
[www.stmarks-sf.org](http://www.stmarks-sf.org)

### **Voices of Music**

Concerto delle Donne: the secret choir of women virtuoso  
singers at the court of Ferrara. Music of Luzzaschi,  
Marenzio, Monteverdi and Barbara Strozzi. Sophie Junker  
and Stefanie True, soprano; Elizabeth Blumenstock and  
Alana Youssefian, baroque violin; Elisabeth Reed, viola da  
gamba; Hanneke van Proosdij, recorder, harpsichord and  
organ; David Tayler, archlute and baroque guitar.  
Sat, Oct 12, 2019 • 8:00pm  
[www.voicesofmusic.org](http://www.voicesofmusic.org)

### **St. Mark's Hymnfest and Oktoberfest**

Sun, Oct 20, 2019 • 1:00pm  
[www.stmarks-sf.org](http://www.stmarks-sf.org)

### **Grigoryan Brothers, Solo Classical Guitar**

Sat, Nov 9, 2019 • 7:30pm  
Presented in association with Omni Concerts  
[omniconcerts.com](http://omniconcerts.com)

### **Fog City Singers**

Fri, Nov 22, 2019 • 7:30pm  
[www.fogcitysingers.com](http://www.fogcitysingers.com)

### **New Esterhazy Quartet**

Sat, Nov 23, 2019 • 4:00pm  
[www.newesterhazy.org](http://www.newesterhazy.org)

**CHECK OUR CALENDAR FOR  
ADDITIONAL LISTINGS**

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

## PROJECT HOMELESS CONNECT

Project Homeless Connect (PHC) is moving into the Urban Life Center on St. Mark's Square during the months of August and September, and will be fully operational by the beginning of October. The mission of Project Homeless Connect (PHC) is to connect people of San Francisco with the care that they need to move forward in life, to offer basic resources to meet these needs, to provide immediate supportive services, and to be a resource to the entire community. They offer these basic services by appointment two mornings/week, and one day/month they provide optical care, hearing screening, and dental care in the auditorium of the ULC. One day/week, PHC also provides these basic services at other locations throughout the city.

PHC will be having a "Get To Know Our Neighbor" Day of Service on Monday, September 16, 10:00 – 12:00 Noon at which the staff of PHC will officially introduce their organization to the community and volunteers will be able to pack healthy lunches and hygiene kits for participants in the program to receive the next day. Space is limited, so you will need to register at <https://gettoknowphc.eventbrite.com>. If you are not able to attend this "grand opening," people will have plenty of opportunities to volunteer with PHC in the future because their programs are greatly dependent upon the volunteers who provide many of the resources for the unhoused and at-risk people in our city.



# HOLY LAND MINISTRY - SPECIAL EVENT COMING UP SOON!

Holy Land Ministry is starting this fall with a big CELEBRATION: BRIGHT STARS OF BETHLEHEM is marking 15 years as an active non-profit agency doing fundraising and awareness building for the dynamic, imaginative Christian ministry in Bethlehem, Palestine begun and led by Rev. Dr. Mitri Raheb. Dar al-Kalima University and its community outreach through Diyar Academy for Youth and Azyar Senior Center are accomplishing remarkable things in the midst of the relentless and stifling oppression of Israel's military occupation. Dar al-Kalima offers HOPE and LIGHT to Palestinians in Bethlehem; its slogan is "Hope is what we do!" COME AND CELEBRATE with our Bright Stars Committee of Northern California (we as a church are part of this) and find out more details - and treat yourself to a full Sunday afternoon of festivities, Palestinian food, music, live and silent auctions and much more....WHERE AND WHEN? **Grace Lutheran Church, 31 Waverley Place, Palo Alto, SEPTEMBER 22 from 2:00 to 5:00 PM**

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS: **Keynote speaker:** RICK STEVES, Travel writer, author, activist and PBS personality along with book signing of his latest book: *Travel as a Political Act* and extensive sharing of his travel experiences in many diverse countries, e.g., Palestine/Israel, Iran, El Salvador, several European nations as well as Islamic ones. He emphasizes travel as a mind-opening act both fundamental and instrumental to resolving conflicts. He is acquainted with Dar al-Kalima and the Bright Stars ministry, and supports it heartily.

**Other speakers:** BETH NELSON CHASE, Executive Director of Bright Stars of Bethlehem - with updates on DAK's work and future plans; and DR. VICTORIA RUE, Professor of Creative Arts, Women's Studies and Comparative Religious Studies at San Jose State University - sharing experiences from her work as Fulbright Fellow at DAK in Bethlehem in 2018 and Fall semester 2019.

**Festivities:** Music by GEORGES LAMMAM ENSEMBLE; Palestinian food and wine, live and silent auctions at the beautiful church, campus and outdoor plaza of Grace Lutheran Church.

TICKETS: \$50 each. Purchase them NOW directly online from Grace Lutheran: <https://gracepa.ccbchurch.com/goto/forms/226/responses/new>. DON'T MISS THIS WONDERFUL EVENT ! **Every dollar of your ticket** - and other contributions - will go directly to DAR AL-KALIMA's ministry in Bethlehem, Palestine and **will be your own contribution to peace and justice for Palestinians and a peaceful future for all in Palestine and Israel.**

**Some additional suggestions for current reading and study about Palestine/Israel which we recommend:**

- 1) The July-August issue of the Smithsonian magazine features as cover story: "A New Way to See The Holy Land" by Geraldine Brooks, who traveled throughout the Holy Land with two tour guides, one Palestinian Arab, and one Israeli Jew. An excellent read!
- 2) Rick Steves' *Travel as a Political Act; How to Leave Your Baggage Behind.*
- 3) **Rick Steves DVD: The Holy Land** - available at <https://www.ricksteves.com/watch/read-listen-video/tv-show/tv-special/holy-land>.

**...AND COME AND STOP BY OUR TABLE AT THE ST. MARK'S MINISTRY FAIR ON SEPTEMBER 8 for more information and ideas!**

## LUTHERAN OFFICE OF PUBLIC POLICY (LOPP) HAS A NEW DIRECTOR!

Regina Banks is the new Director of LOPP California. LOPP is one of four public policy offices of ELCA Advocacy. LOPP-California primarily advocates for state and local issues. Ms. Banks has been director of LOPP California since January 2019. She and her Board have established 3 advocacy priorities for the year:

1. Water justice
2. Immigration, especially issues of healthcare for immigrants
3. Ending child poverty

Ms. Banks is visiting congregations around California to acquaint them with LOPP and to assist them with organization, advocacy, and building relationships with policy makers in their areas. She coordinated a very successful Lutheran Lobby Day at the California legislature in May 2019 - over 100 Lutherans from around the state visited their legislators in Sacramento to advocate for water justice, immigration issues, and the end of childhood poverty. She had told the legislators, "The Lutherans are coming.", and they did!

We look forward to having Regina Banks visit St. Mark's!

-St. Mark's Social Ministry

## HOLDEN VILLAGE NEXT SUMMER?

Several people in the congregation have expressed interest in going to Holden Village, perhaps next summer, and Pastor Ron is willing to explore this possibility with anyone who might be interested. Holden Village is a Lutheran Retreat Center in the Cascade Mountains in Eastern Washington. You can learn more about Holden Village at [www.holdenvillage.org](http://www.holdenvillage.org). During the time period of August 25 to September 22, you can let Pastor Ron know of your interest. Then at the end of September or early October, those who are interested will get together and try to decide on a week next summer that most people could participate in this congregational retreat.

Holden Village allows a church group to bring 15-40 people to the Village for a minimum of 5 nights. Therefore, we would have space for only 40 people, including children for whatever week we chose. Everybody in the group would have to arrive at the Village and leave the Village on the same days. It is preferable to go into the Village on a Sunday and leave on a Friday or Saturday. Pastor Ron would handle the reservations for the group at the Village and everyone would be on their own to decide how to get there. The cost for a group (2019 rates) is \$76/adult/night and \$56/child (6-17)/night. Round trip on the slower boat (Lady of the Lake) up Lake Chelan is \$35.75/adult. Parking at Field's Point Landing is \$35/week. Please let Pastor Ron know of your interest if you would like to participate in this adventure, (no commitment at this time until we decide on the date).



# AIDS WALK SAN FRANCISCO

On Sunday, July 14, Dana Utz took part in the 33rd annual AIDS Walk San Francisco (AWSF) representing St. Mark's Lutheran Church. And, thanks in large part to generous support by members of the congregation, Dana raised \$2,265.00 to benefit Bay Area AIDS service organizations!

The AWSF event, held in Golden Gate Park as a 10-kilometer walk and rally, advocates for the rights of people living with HIV/AIDS, confronts homelessness, helps feed people in need, and protects the health and dignity of all members of the community. This year 186 teams of walkers, individuals, and virtual walkers like myself raised over \$1,311,000 to benefit PRC (formerly Positive Resource Center), Project Open Hand, and the POP-UP Clinic at Ward 86, as well as dozens of other Bay Area HIV/AIDS service organizations.

AWSF was founded in 1987 by Craig R. Miller and his organization MZA Events. Over the past 33 years it has raised more than \$90 million for lifesaving HIV prevention, testing, and care programs and services in the Bay Area. And, members of St. Mark's have participated in this important cause since the beginning as walkers and donors.

Thank you for your continuing donations and support!

(Information used in the article about AWSF comes from a media release by Cub Barrett, AIDS Walk San Francisco. [https://cdn3.rallybound.com/content/images/img/11779/AWSF\\_2019\\_Post-Walk\\_Release.pdf](https://cdn3.rallybound.com/content/images/img/11779/AWSF_2019_Post-Walk_Release.pdf))

## “NEVER AGAIN’ IS NOW! CLOSE THE CAMPS”. TAKING OUR CALL FOR JUSTICE TO A PUBLIC SPACE.

St. Mark's members joined members of First Unitarian Universalist San Francisco and members of other churches on Sundays July 21 and July 28 at the corner of Geary and Franklin to speak out about frustration and anger at the government's treatment of migrant families and children at ICE detention centers around the country. During the demonstrations, the 8 immigrant children who have died in ICE custody were lifted up and remembered. Flyers were distributed to passing motorists about the concerns for children and families in detention in this country. Demonstration participants encouraged all to speak out and to learn more at [www.freedomforimmigrants.org](http://www.freedomforimmigrants.org)

Watch for upcoming opportunities to speak out about injustices for immigrants.

“Close the camps. Reunite the families. Close the camps. Set the children free!”

-St. Mark's Sanctuary Team



# NORTHERN EUROPEAN CHORAL MUSIC AT ST. MARK'S LUTHERAN CHURCH WITH THE MARIGALCHOR KIEL, PROFESSOR FRIEDERIKE WIEBKEN, DIRECTOR - SUNDAY, OCTOBER 6, 2:00PM

The Madrigalchor Kiel (Germany) is visiting the San Francisco Bay Area from October 3 - October 11, 2019, to perform a series of choral concerts within the framework of the San Francisco—Kiel Sister City Partnership. On Sunday, October 6, at 2:00 pm they will be giving a concert at St. Mark's.

The music exchange between San Francisco and Kiel within this framework was inaugurated by St. Mark's Lutheran Director of Music, Dr. Timothy Zerlang, when he accepted the invitation by Kiel's City Hall (the first step in this music connection) and performed an organ recital at the St. Nikolai Church in Kiel on September 8, 2018. The Madrigalchor visit is the second step, whereby the music connection becomes a music exchange.

San Francisco's citizen-driven sister city partnership with Kiel, the northernmost German port city on the shores of the Baltic Sea, was formally established by the Mayors of both cities in September 2017 for the purpose of connecting people and organizations, and promoting understanding and cooperation in a variety of subjects such as Civil Engagement, Education, Science, Art, Environment, etc. On the San Francisco side, the partnership is served by the San Francisco—Kiel Sister City Committee, founded and registered as a 501c3 corporation in November 2016. This Committee consists of all volunteer facilitators and promoters of the partnership between the two cities. All operations depend on donations.

The Madrigalchor Kiel does not restrict its concerts to Kiel and surrounding area or to the classical interpretation of madrigals. The ensemble is known far beyond its borders for its high-class performance of many types of choral music. The singers of the choir under their director Friederike Woebcken like to discover and explore the multi-faceted soundscapes of polyphonic Scandinavian vocal works to make them known to their local audiences and to introduce them to the world when on their travels. Since its foundation in 1990, the choir has accepted invitations from numerous countries around the world, including the USA, Japan and South Africa. In 2015, it was a guest at the International Choir Festival in Tolosa (Spain).

The choir also frequently returns to its musical roots in Scandinavia, with many concert tours throughout Denmark, Sweden, Norway and Iceland. However, its affinity to Scandinavia is not just through its music. The Madrigalchor Kiel is grateful for the friendship they had with Eric Ericson, the Swedish choir maestro. In 2006 and 2007 Ericson worked on a Scandinavian repertoire with the choir which was presented in two concerts in Schleswig-Holstein.

Apart from North European a-cappella music the choir also dedicates itself to oratorical projects. Consequently, the works of Bach, Brahms, Händel or Rossini are part of its continually expanding repertoire. This wide range can be heard on the audio CDs of the choir, recently as a double live CD "20 Jahre Madrigalchor Kiel" and the CD "Bewegtes Lauschen" that appeared in 2016, or in frequent concerts throughout the world. And of course also those in Kiel.



# ACTIONS OF THE ELCA NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

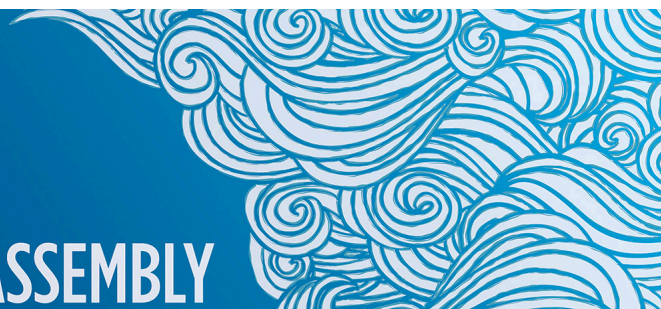
The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America held its triennial assembly during the week of August 6 – 10. Here is a summary of some of the major decisions and actions that took place during that week:

- Re-elected Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton to a second six-year term.
- Issued a declaration of apology to our siblings of African descent, which was received by the African Descent Lutheran Association with thanks and a call for accountability and living into the words shared.
- Approved a resolution declaring the ELCA to be a "sanctuary church body," encouraging participation in the ELCA AMMPARO initiative for migrant children, discernment of care for our immigrant neighbors in our context, and the promise of forthcoming resources for this work.
- Approved support for the World Council of Church's Thursdays in Black, awareness movement for a world without rape and violence.
- Voted to commemorate June 17 as a day of repentance, in honor and remembrance of the martyrdom of the Emanuel 9.
- Approved a declaration for inter-religious commitment, reaffirming ecumenical and interfaith partnerships.
- Approved the recommendations from a strategic task force which has been studying how to work toward authentic diversity in our church.
- Approved memorials: affirming but not "endorsing" the Poor People's Campaign, care for immigrants and refugees, and other statements.
- Adopted a new social statement, "Faith, Sexism, and Justice: a Lutheran Call to Action," and its implementing resolutions.
- Elected Deacon Sue Rothmeyer as the Churchwide Secretary, a full-time position which acts as executive administrator and leader on all constitutional matters and interpretation.
- Passed a Constitutional change for Deacons (rostered ministers of word and service) to be ordained, from the previous practice of consecration.
- Celebrated the milestones of 50 years of women's ordination, 40 years since the first woman of color was ordained, and 10 years since full inclusion of LGBTQIA+ clergy.

You can find additional information on these actions and other highlights at:  
[www.livinglutheran.org/tag/2019-elca-churchwide-assembly/](http://www.livinglutheran.org/tag/2019-elca-churchwide-assembly/)



## 2019 ELCA CHURCHWIDE ASSEMBLY



# ST. MARK'S WORSHIP SCHEDULE

## Sundays

9:00 am.....Holy Communion with Children's Time  
10:00 am.....Refreshments, Fellowship Hour  
10:00 am.....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>
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		
Sonja Pilman, Pastoral Intern		<a href="mailto:pilman@stmarks-sf.org">pilman@stmarks-sf.org</a>

Carl Storey, Security

Adrienne Brown, 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.

## Sanctuary Congregation

St. Mark's is a Sanctuary Congregation. We are committed to a ministry of continuing education about the plight of immigrants in this country, to serve as people who will accompany those in the process of seeking asylum, and to advocate for those whose lives are oppressed or endangered by this process.

## 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>