



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

Freed
& RENEWED
in **Christ**
500
YEARS OF GOD'S
GRACE IN ACTION

FALL 2017
SEPTEMBER - NOVEMBER

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PR. ELIZABETH EKDALE LEAD PASTOR

Re-formation in these autumn days

I was reflecting on all the words which begin with the prefix **"re"** that describe our Christian life: **re**newal, **re**conciliation, **re**pentance, **re**petition, **re**flexion, **re**formation, and so many more. On Sunday, Oct. 29, Reformation Sunday, we will give thanks for our rich Lutheran heritage and look to the future with a spirit of hope centering our lives through the weekly pattern of worship. Each and every Sunday, we receive God's grace and mercy and then depart for service in Christ's name.

Bishop Mark Holmerud of the Sierra Pacific Synod will be our preacher on **Re**formation Sunday at both worship services, Oct. 29. Then, you are invited to attend a synod-wide worship service at Grace Cathedral at 3:00 on that same day. After all, we only commemorate the 500th anniversary of the **Re**formation once in a life-time.

However, every Sunday is an opportunity to gather with family and friends to **re**fect on God's generosity, guidance, and good gifts. **Re**petition is the key – getting back in the routine of worshiping each and every Sunday. For God shows up each and every Sunday – why shouldn't we? God shows up eager to bestow blessings and mercy in word and sacrament. Worshiping every Sunday sharpens our **re**cognition of God's presence in our lives and in our world for the **re**st of the week.

At Sacred Heart Cathedral Prep, where several young people of St. Mark's are attending High School, they begin in class by **re**peating these words: "Let us **re**member – that we are in the presence of God". Attending worship each and every Sunday – showing up to be with and for the community at St. Mark's - will heighten your awareness of God's presence in your lives. So, **re**member to worship . . . and your heart and your lives will be **re**formed and **re**shaped as God's beloved.

With **re**verence and joy,
Pr. Elizabeth



Join us for

"God's work. Our hands." Sunday September 10, 2017

A dedicated day of
service in our community.



Get involved in one of our three service projects!

1:00PM - 4:00PM

Painting project at Lutheran Social Services in the Tenderloin - 191 Golden Gate Ave.

We will leave St. Mark's at 12:30PM and walk together to the location. Stay for as long as you can! Contact Pr. Elizabeth for more information at ekdale@stmarks-sf.org.

10:00AM - 11:00AM & 12:00PM-2:00PM

Communion Bread baking and tasting in the church kitchen with Kathy Lautz

11:00AM - 4:00PM - Sunday Streets

Come and be the presence of St. Mark's at Sunday Streets to all the people who pass by our booth. You can sign up to provide family-friendly activities from 11:00AM - 1:00PM or offer some musical talent for 10-15 minutes from 1:00PM - 4:00PM. You also can staff the booth for any length of time to talk with people and pass out information about St. Mark's. For more info, contact Marisa Lee at marisalouie@gmail.com or Pastor Ron.

Sign-up at stmarks-sf.org/gods-work-our-hands

HYMN FESTIVAL AND OKTOBERFEST, OCTOBER 28

Save Saturday October 28 for St. Mark's 500-year Reformation celebration: Hymnfest starting at 1:00 pm immediately followed by Oktoberfest on the Square at 2:30PM Let's have a big party!

This will be a special celebration of the 500-year anniversary of the Reformation, 50 years of our Martin Luther Tower ministry and a special celebration to highlight our Stewardship efforts and unique ministries.

Hymnfest

Please join us at 1:00PM for a festival of Reformation music. Sponsored by St. Mark's choir with honored guests, choir members from all over the Sierra Pacific Synod - and co-sponsored by San Francisco Chapter of the American Guild of Organists.

The choir will gather in our beautiful sanctuary to sing beloved hymns of the Reformation which will include music by Martin Luther and Johann Walter, Johann Sebastian Bach, and Johannes Brahms.

Many talented Bay Area Organists will lead the hymn-singing from the magnificent Taylor and Boody organ. It will be a performance worthy of a 500-year anniversary.

Oktoberfest

Invite a friend and come join us for this fun German inspired fall festival. It is a wonderful celebration of life on the square and a great opportunity for us to get to know each other better. There will be plenty of beer, apple cider, wine and German food; vegetarian options as well. Entertainment for all: Polka style band, games and a bouncy house for the children. Wear your lederhosen too.

Don't miss this family friendly community event. Join St. Mark's and Martin Luther tower members during this magical time of year. Free for Martin Luther tower residents and suggested \$10 donation for St. Mark's and community members.

Volunteers are needed to assist with Oktoberfest preparation, service, crafts and bouncy house supervision; many hands make light work. Please contact Cristin Owens or e-mail cristinowens@gmail.com if you are available to help.



REMEMBERING THE REFORMATION ON THE TAYLOR AND BOODY ORGAN EVERY SUNDAY IN OCTOBER

Dr. Timothy Zerlang, Director of Music

"We All Believe in One True God" (Wir glauben all an einen Gott), one of the great contributions to the musical heritage of the Reformation by Martin Luther will be the focus of the organ Postlude during the Month of October. Leading up to our Reformation commemoration on Sunday, October 29, I plan to play settings of this great chorale by some of the masters of the North German organ tradition of the 17th & 18th centuries, paired with works by two of my favorite composers for the organ: J. S. Bach and Dietrich Buxtehude. Please feel free to remain seated if you wish for these slightly-extended postludes, somewhat similar to short recitals that often follow services in German churches.

Organ Postludes in October after each Service:

October 1

Preludium in d, Bux WV 140 – Dietrich Buxtehude
Wir glauben all an einen Gott – Michael Praetorius

October 8

Prelude in d, BWV 539 – J. S. Bach
Wir glauben all an einen Gott – Samuel Scheidt
Fugue in d, BWV 539 – J. S. Bach

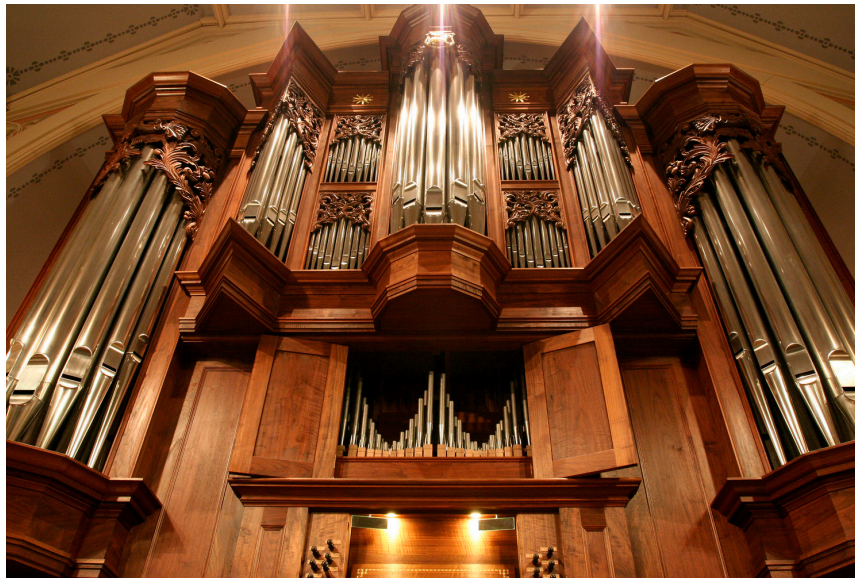
October 15

Passacaglia in d BuxWV 161 – Dietrich Buxtehude
Wir glauben all an einen Gott - Johann Praetorius

October 22

Tocatta in d, BWV 538 – J. S. Bach
Wir glauben all an einen Gott – Heinrich Scheidemann
Fugue in d, BWV 538 – J. S. Bach

October 29



REFORMATION 500TH COMMEMORATION AT GRACE CATHEDRAL OCTOBER 29 AT 3:00PM (DOORS OPEN AT 2:00PM)

"Past, Present, Future!"

Bach's Cantata #80 "Ein Feste Burg" by Pacific Choir with orchestra
Festival Eucharist Liturgy

Bishop Victoria Cortez of Nicaragua preaching,
Bishop Mark Holmerud presiding

Procession, Mass Choir, Tactus Renaissance Choir, Coelis Women's Ensemble

Reception follows an Ecumenical Celebration

Reform the Heart of Humanity!

"For where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them." Matthew 18:20
 Join our excitement in anticipation of our Stewardship Campaign which will begin on September 10, when we come together in service and fellowship! We have many opportunities to gather as a community at St. Mark's... through service, through participating in our many ministries, and more recently through the community gatherings that Pastor Ron and Pastor Elizabeth have organized across the SF Bay Area. We are happy to embrace and continue to share this joy of community by weaving this into our upcoming Stewardship Campaign.



FORWARD
 IN
FAITH
 Building Community

We have several events planned for our Stewardship season, and we welcome all to join! Please note the following events and dates, and join us as we continue building our community:

- **SEPT 10: FORWARD IN FAITH BUILDING COMMUNITY LAUNCH!**
 Join us in Heritage Hall to engage in a fun activity to add your contribution of building community
- **SEPT 23: ST. MARK'S COMMUNITY POTLUCK & VARIETY SHOW @ 6PM – 7.30PM**
 Share a family delicacy, share your talent, and join in an opportunity to autograph the elevator!
- **OCT 8: BUILDING COMMUNITY PICNIC AT PRESIDIO OFF THE GRID @ 11AM-3PM**
 Share a family delicacy, share your talent, and join in an opportunity to autograph the elevator!
- **OCT 28: HYMN FEST @ 1PM**
 Be inspired by the beauty of our sanctuary, be uplifted and moved by the music, and grow in community as we celebrate our history, at St. Mark's and of the last quincentenary!
- **OCT 28: OKTOBERFEST @ 2PM**
 Enjoy fun-filled Oktoberfest celebrations
- **NOV 5: CELEBRATION SUNDAY - BRING YOUR PLEDGE TO WORSHIP**

As we remember our loved ones on All Saints' Day, we remember all those that have gone before us and all they have given. We celebrate and rejoice in our past, present, and are inspired by the future legacy we can create for those that will come! Join us on Celebration Sunday, when we return our pledges, our personal act of giving, along with celebrating our time and talents.

If you have interest in helping with any of our fun / joyful stewardship events, please reach out to anyone on the Stewardship Committee. Committee members are: Roger Ostrem, Greg Jahnke, Jane Borg, Steve Ernst, Stacy Cullison, Laura Evenson, and Mary Birkel.

It is with sincere gratitude that we thank all of you, our stewards, for your generous pledges and contributions to making our sanctuary improvements a reality. We are so appreciative of the time and talents you have given to this enormous effort; with your steadfastness, the community of St. Mark's will continue our strong commitment of welcome.

Our continued support through our pledges to St. Mark's annual General Fund and the FEW projects are critical. With the gap in funds, the church leadership is strategizing about our options to address the difference.

Our invitation to all of us is to take time during our stewardship campaign... give thoughtful consideration, in prayer, in conversation... to the many gifts we have at St. Mark's. We give out of gratitude to God, and our giving is an active way in which we live out our faith, and make a difference in the world.

<p>General Fund Number of Pledges: 121 out of 181 possible Amount Pledged: \$412,324 Received through 7/31/17: \$229,675</p>



ST. MARK'S COMMUNITY POTLUCK AND VARIETY SHOW – SATURDAY, SEPT. 23

You will not want to miss out on this memorable evening of delicious food, great conversation, fun entertainment, and raucous laughter. Everyone at St. Mark's is in for a real treat as we all come together at 6:00PM this evening in order to build community and remind ourselves of all that we enjoy about being a part of this community of faith. If you have any talent to share for the evening, you may contact Greg Jahnke at gregory.jahnke@thrivent.com.

Sign up now at: www.stmarks-sf.org/communitypotluck

If you are able to help with set up or clean up, please contact Laura Evenson at laura@curl.net



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 1, AT 9:00 AM WORSHIP SERVICE!**



St. Mark's is a Welcoming Congregation in the ELCA AMMPARO network, "Accompanying Migrant Minors with Protection, Advocacy, Representation, and Opportunities".

NATIONAL ELCA AMMPARO NETWORK UPDATES

The AMMPARO network grew during Synod Assembly season! St. Mark's is now part of 55 Welcoming Congregations, 8 Sanctuary congregations, 7 synods with AMMPARO-related task forces and 5 sanctuary synods.

Interested in what AMMPARO-affiliated congregations are doing regionally and nationally? Join us for the next AMMPARO National Conference Call: October 5, 2017 at 2:00PM Pacific Time. Contact Cora Rose or Mary Ritter for more information.

ST. MARK'S HOSTS REFUGEE EVENT

On June 21, 2017 St. Mark's hosted a well-attended interfaith event on Helping Refugees Today: What We Need To Know, What We Need To Do. During the session we heard from the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Service, explaining refugee processing procedures, and from International Rescue Committee and Jewish Family & Community Services, explaining how these two refugee resettlement agencies meet and accompany refugees arriving in the United States. While the refugee status and resettlement process is different from the asylum status that unaccompanied minors seek when crossing the border, we learned that the standard used by the government and court system, of fleeing from violence and persecution, is largely the same.

INTERFAITH DETENTION CENTER VIGIL

Can you show up to pray, witness to your faith with others, and give hope to detained migrants? You are invited for a "field trip" opportunity at the monthly ecumenical immigration detention center vigil! This vigil is held for an hour on the first Saturday of the month.

What: Detention Center Vigil

Date: The first Saturday of the month

Time: 11:00 AM to Noon

Where: West County Detention Center, Richmond, CA

Who: Anyone - Supervised youth and children are welcome to attend, too!

Description:

One participant from St. Mark's described the vigil as follows: "Amazing experience! I hope to go again next month... It is a large circle of people, maybe 50 last time, some holding signs, a speaker at a microphone talking about their issues and issues related to local detainees... Then questions and comments from people around the circle, then prayer requests and communal prayer by the leader and Pastor Deborah, and then finally a "moment of noise" with hooting and hollering and noisemakers, loud enough so the detainees inside can hear us and know we are there."

Want to attend? Contact Cora Rose (rose@stmarks-sf.org) or Mary Ritter (mlrpeds@aol.com) for details (including carpool opportunities) for the next vigil.

AMMPARO WORKSHOPS SEPTEMBER 30 AND OCTOBER 14, 2017

These workshops are meant to introduce the AMMPARO strategy to congregations in the Sierra Pacific Synod and give information about how to accompany and advocate for migrants. The two workshops will be held:

September 30, 10 AM – 2PM at Christ the Good Shepherd Lutheran in San Jose

October 14, 10AM – 2PM at St. Paul's Lutheran in Lodi

You can register on-line at www.SPSAMMPARO.org with your lunch request. The cost is \$10/person prior to the event or \$15 at the door. Checks or cash will be accepted at the door. For more information, contact Mary Ritter, mlrpeds@aol.com.

ELEVATOR PROJECT UPDATE

This fall, we will see the completion of the elevator project at St. Mark's! The project broke ground in April and has had a slow start, but Plant Construction, Architectural Resources Group and the FEW (Flooring, Elevator & Windows) Committee have collaborated these past months to initiate the project, get necessary Planning Commission approvals and review the drawings and details needed to fabricate the elevator and the project's many components. During this time, the construction team has completed many preparatory tasks such as pouring the concrete foundation and setting steel anchor bolts; modifying the balcony doors to accommodate new power-assisted door operators; refinished the main entry doors and installed new hardware; and framed the partitions for the new elevator equipment room opposite the Men's Restroom entry.

As the project swings back into full gear in the coming weeks and months, we expect the following progress:

- Mid-August: A crane will install the steel structural frame for the elevator addition.
- Mid-August – Mid-September: Workers will frame the exterior walls, sheath the walls and install windows at the three elevator lobbies (one on each floor level).
- Mid-September – Mid-October: Plant will install the elevator equipment and car; complete electrical and life safety systems; roof the addition; and apply the exterior plaster base and parge coats. During this month, Plant will also install the joint covers between the new addition and the existing historic structure. The new addition is designed as a self-supporting structure that can move independently of the church building during an earthquake.
- October: Carpenters and painters will complete the interior finishes and masons will apply the brick finish to the exterior walls. With the exterior complete, Plant will remove the exterior scaffolding and install a new decorative iron fence on the north side of the addition.

If all goes according to schedule, the elevator will be finished just in time for our commemoration of the 500th Anniversary of the beginning of the German Reformation, but we all know that construction projects can often take longer than expected. Whatever the conditions, you can rest assured that St. Mark's will not sell indulgences to accelerate the completion of this long-awaited project!

Watch for updates on the project and schedule in the weekly announcements. We'll keep you apprised of the progress and completion of the elevator and window restoration projects. Thank you to everyone who has made a financial gift to this project! If you have not made a pledge or one time gift we invite you to do so at www.stmarks-sf.org. Click on the give tab to give a gift today!



FOOD PANTRY: OUTSIDE THE ROUTINE

When I consider the story of the Good Samaritan, I am reminded that all people need the loving care of food, shelter, and rescue from harm, and that sometimes this loving care is an act which is completely outside the caregiver's daily routine. I like to get outside of my daily routine once a month on Saturday mornings by working with the Interfaith Food Pantry at Old First Presbyterian Church where it's fun to watch Dave and Vik vie for who is the strongest as they heft bags of potatoes and carrots, and to compete with Michael, Jessie, and Maryann as they do the mental math in dividing up the food so that everyone gets a share of the food without having any food left over at the end of the morning.

It's always gratifying to see the smile on little Titus's face when his Dad hands him a flat of strawberries and asks for his help in sliding it into the distribution room, or to watch little Imogen wave the flag to direct the next group into the receiving line and bring a smile to an elderly lady's face. As the people go through the line, I like to learn to speak phrases in their language and give people a chance to practice their English with me. Looking into their faces as they open their bags, receive the food, and express smiling appreciation definitely is a plus.

Getting rid of empty boxes is a big part of Food Pantry day as they are hauled into the kitchen where they are cut up for recycling while music plays in the background. After all of the food has been distributed to the 325 patrons, it is time to clean up. As I go back to pick up my car at the Old First Church garage, I sometimes give the valet a special treat from the morning's distribution before taking off for lunch.

I like this way of giving loving care to others. The SF/Marin Food Bank does a great job in facilitating this ministry. They drop off the food, handle all of the patron ID cards, and support the volunteers in this way. This organization has won awards for its extensive, sustained outreach to feed hungry people over a wide geographic area, across diverse neighborhoods. Their greatest need is people-power.

St. Mark's contribution to this ministry is to pay for 25% of the year's supply of weekly food to 325 patrons. Three other churches share the remaining 75% of the cost: The First Unitarian Universalist Church, Calvary Presbyterian Church, and St. Luke's Episcopal Church. Along with the host site, Old First Presbyterian Church, we all take turns in being the primary host for the Interfaith Food Pantry throughout the year.

Our St. Mark's pantry volunteers number @ 25 and like to divide our Saturday mornings into 3 shifts:

7:30 – 9:00 AM	Unload the pallettes of food into the distribution room
9:00 – 10:30AM	Distribute the food to patrons in six 15-minute shifts
10:30 – 11:00AM	Clean up

We always are in need of more volunteers, especially for the clean-up. People of all ages, including children, are welcome to participate. No one is denied the opportunity to help. If you would like to help, contact me or look for me at the 11:00AM service, and I will put you on a monthly notification list to invite you to sign up for the next distribution date—which is October 21 and December 2 of this year.

Diana Gomez
dianamrgomez@mindspring.com
(415) 533-5205

Now that I have done the Food Pantry for two years, I find myself in the story of the Good Samaritan because I am outside my routine, and loving it. I also am reminded of the verse in 2 Corinthians, "Each person must do as he/she has made up one's mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion. For God loves a cheerful giver."



HOW THE JESSIE AND MICHAEL PEIRCE FOUND ST. MARK'S

We came to St. Mark's shortly after moving to San Francisco from Texas for our first jobs after college. We were drawn by the welcoming website after growing up with much more conservative Christianity, and by how St. Mark's clearly works (through the interfaith food bank, homeless shelter in the winter, and other avenues) to help people in San Francisco as well as worldwide. We've been welcomed by Journeys in Faith, the coffee hour, and new opportunities like the young adult ministry and intergenerational Sunday activities.



EVERY YEAR, BUT NEVER THE SAME: JOURNEYS IN FAITH

Those of you who have taken Journeys in the past can surely agree that no journey is like the other even if you have been visiting the same location.

The same is true for journeys in faith. St. Mark's Journeys in Faith team takes aspiring members and sometimes long-time members on a journey mirroring a good part of the church year and typically ending around Pentecost. The weekly meetings at 10:00AM Sunday mornings center around the scripture of the day and start with the dwelling in the word.

As members of the group reflect on the reading and share their interpretation of the meaning, the unique fabric of the group materializes, presenting new perspectives for all...even those who have read the text many times over.

This year's Journeys group was one of the largest in the last few years. Their journey started in the early days of January and continued until Pentecost. The high point of the journey was the Easter Vigil with the Baptism of Michael Peirce and the Affirmation of Faith of the other members.

The team is gathering the new aspiring members for the upcoming journey. If you are interested or know of someone who might be interested, please contact the Journeys in Faith team (Liv Beck, beckliv@gmail.com, 415-205-3292). This next Journeys in Faith will once again look to provide a unique experience for its participants. This journey will commence with a one-day retreat this fall, a new addition to the journey.

If you want to be close to the Journeys group but don't have the time to journey with us, become a sponsor! We are looking for members who would like to sponsor a Journeys member. Sponsors will have a chance to meet with other sponsors and the team during a sponsors' dinner. The sponsors will serve as resources to those on their journey, sharing their experiences at St. Mark's and offering another friendly face in the congregation. It is a great way to engage with new members and show them the diversity of people and ideas at St. Mark's. Don't miss out! Those interested should contact Liv Beck or any of the pastors.

Finally, if you don't feel the calling for a new journey just yet, take a day trip to the group and be a guest for a Sunday. Guests are always welcome to share their perspectives and experiences for part of the Journey.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 21

Fall Retreat for those interested in participating in Journeys in Faith

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 5

Begin weekly Sunday Journeys in Faith Gatherings

FIRST SUNDAY IN ADVENT, DECEMBER 3

Rite of Welcome

For more information contact Liv Beck at beckliv@gmail.com

SENIOR Adults

AGING AND SPIRITUALITY GROUP – BEGINNING SEPT. 11

Every Monday, 11:00AM – 12:00PM, in the Brockie Lounge of Martin Luther Tower. This group led by Pr. Elizabeth provides support and facilitates discussion on a variety of topics, including issues around aging, spirituality, coping with depression and loneliness, and how to thrive in our senior years. Refreshments served – everyone is welcome.

SEPTEMBER LUNCHEON

St. Mark's Seniors, Thursday September 21, is our next MLT monthly luncheon in Heritage Hall from 12:30PM-1:30PM! Please join us for the beginning of fall with accompaniment on the piano by MLT's very own Tom Berg! The cost is \$5, to be paid by Wednesday, September 13 in the MLT office. Luncheon entrée options are: #1 Roast Pork Loin au jus with mashed potatoes and summer squash, #2 Rotini Pasta with Tomato Marinara, Spinach and Portobello Mushrooms. Both entrees come with mixed green salad and French bread. Dessert will be Lemon Pound Cake. Come be among friends. See you there!

ADVENTURES WITH PR. ELIZABETH ON THURSDAY, SEPT. 28

We're off to be tourists and explore beautiful Sausalito! Enjoy walking along the waterfront, sitting on a bench and taking in the beautiful scenery, shopping and lunching at The Joinery (www.joineryca.com) Sign up with Pr. Elizabeth (Ekdale@stmarks-sf.org or 415 928-7770 ext. 2300) or the MLT office (415 885-1084)

We will leave St. Mark's/Martin Luther Tower at 10:00AM and return around 3:00PM Bring lunch money and wear comfortable walking shoes.

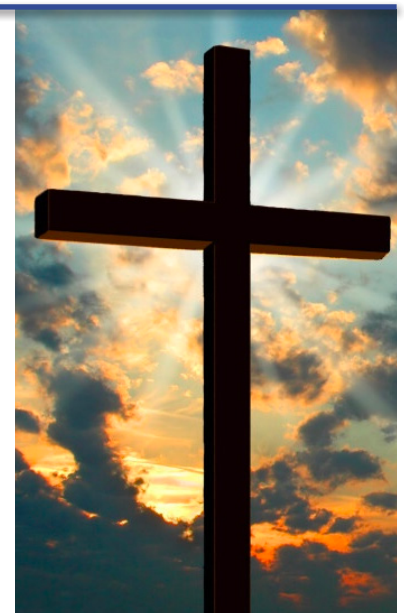
"LET YOUR LIGHT SHINE" IN WORSHIP!

Members of the Worship Team are eager to include you as a Lector or Assisting Minister in our worship services. We will provide training and support for you to use your gifts in worship.

If you are interested in reading the lessons (lector), please contact Sharon Reinbott at sharon.reinbott@gmail.com. If you would like to be trained as an Assisting Minister, please contact Ed Chitty (ed.chitty@me.com) or Kyle Schiefelbein-Guerrero (kschiefelbein@ses.gtu.edu)

We have expanded our lector and assisting minister teams and want to include anyone feeling called to serve in this way. We look forward to hearing from you!

Worship Team members: Kathy Lautz, Ed Chitty, Kyle Schiefelbein-Guerrero, Sharon Reinbott, Pastor Ron, Pastor Elizabeth



ADULT EDUCATION AT ST. MARK'S 10:00AM IN THE FIRESIDE ROOM

FALL ADULT FORUM SCHEDULE

SEPTEMBER 17 - The ELCA Social Statement: Freed in Christ: Race, Ethnicity and Culture: Join Pr. Elizabeth for reflection on what our church has said about racism and what the ELCA is doing to combat racism. We will use the ELCA Social Statement as a guide for our conversation together. Racism – a mix of power, privilege, and prejudice – is sin, a violation of God's intention for humanity. Learn more about the ELCA Social Statement – Freed in Christ, race, ethnicity and culture at this adult forum

SEPTEMBER 24 - "Learning Together" St. Mark's AMMPARO committee invites you to hear a speaker tell their migration story and how they are impacted by today's immigration policies. Bring friends and family to this adult forum that will broaden and humanize the immigration experience. There will be time for Q&A.

OCTOBER 1 - California Interfaith Power and Light - Guest Speaker Rev. Will Scott - The mission of California Interfaith Power and Light (CIPL) is to be faithful stewards of Creation by responding to global warming through the promotion of energy conservation, energy efficiency and renewable energy. This ministry intends to protect the earth's ecosystems, safeguard public health, and ensure sufficient, sustainable energy for all.

OCTOBER 8 - Justice through Faithfulness: A Re-reading of Romans - Guest Speaker - Rev. Ray Pickett Luther ignited a reformation by related relating the message of Romans to religious oppression in the context of Christendom. The theme of Romans is the revelation of God's righteousness, but in Paul's day the word the common meaning of the word that has been translated as "righteousness" was actually "justice." The first audience heard the theme was the heard the theme of the letter as the revelation of God's justice through faithfulness. In this adult forum we will explore the significance of this fresh translation of Paul's letter for our own post-Christian time.

OCTOBER 15 - Bread for the World - Come learn about the plight of hunger in San Francisco from the staff of the San Francisco/Marin Food Bank.

OCTOBER 22 - What would Luther do today? - Five centuries ago monk and academic Martin Luther stood up to say the Church can do better. Today that's still the case. In this adult forum, Elizabeth Eaton (via video), the presiding bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America applies Luther's thoughts and writings to contemporary issues. Join Pr. Elizabeth and Presiding Bishop Eaton (via video) for reflection on Luther and contemporary issues that challenge us today

GUEST PREACHERS AT ST. MARK'S THIS FALL:

Sept. 10: Pr. Kathryn Gulbranson – Assistant to the Bishop of the Sierra Pacific Synod

Sept. 24: Rev. Jim DeLange – retired pastor who served at St. Francis Lutheran Church, SF

Oct. 1: Rev. Will Scott – Program Director of California Interfaith Power and Light

Oct. 8: Rev. Ray Pickett – Rector of Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary

Oct. 29 – Reformation Sunday – Bishop Mark Holmerud of the Sierra Pacific Synod of the ELCA

Please welcome this diverse group of preachers in our worship services at St. Mark's.

ST. MARK'S IS HAVING A REFORMATION 500 BOOKSTORE!

The 500th anniversary of the Reformation is fast approaching! Do you want to learn more about Martin Luther, his writings, and their impact on Christianity? Do you want to reflect on the ongoing impact of the Reformation today? Stop by our Reformation 500 Bookstore to shop for engaging books on the Reformation for readers of all ages and interests! Save up to 50% plus receive free shipping on all Bookstore titles.

Stop by the pop-up bookstore in Heritage Hall on Sundays, October 15, 22, and 29 between services (at 10:00 AM) and after the 11:00 service to get fascinating books on the Reformation for you and your family.

Our Bookstore is sponsored by Augsburg Fortress, the publishing ministry of the ELCA. The books will include bestselling biographies like Luther the Reformer as well as an atlas of the European Reformations, a graphic novel for young readers, and primary sources from The Annotated Luther series.

Questions? Can you help staff the bookstore for an hour? Please contact Cora at rose@stmarks-sf.org or talk to her during coffee hour!

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 6:30 to 8:30 in the Conference Room

You are invited to come for dessert and fellowship for the first half hour and then discussion until 8:30.

Our books for this time are:

Sept. 12 (note date change) – The Round House by Louise Erdlich

Oct. 3 – TBD at the September meeting

Nov. 7 - TBD at the September meeting

Second Tuesdays from 11:00 to 1:00 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 Bible study will center on the Apostles' Creed.

Sept. 12 – "I Believe in God..."

Oct. 10 – "I Believe in Jesus Christ..."

Nov 14 – "I Believe in the Holy Spirit..."

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



SUNDAY SCHOOL AT ST. MARK'S

Welcome back to Sunday School! September 10 is "God's Work Our Hands Sunday", when we kick off a new year of Sunday School. On this Sunday we will meet as a large group and make cards for Project Open Hand in San Francisco, to be distributed with food to the needy. Please come and visit the classrooms and greet your child's teacher.

Just a reminder of the Sunday School schedule:

9:40 (approximately): After Communion is finished.

Sunday School staff exits sanctuary with children and will enter Urban Life Center via Starr King entrance. Staff member waits at the Starr King entrance until 9:50 for latecomers.

9:40-10:00:

Children's Chapel with Brandee and Bill, songs with instrumental accompaniment.

10:00-10:45:

Sunday School instruction by age group.

10:45:

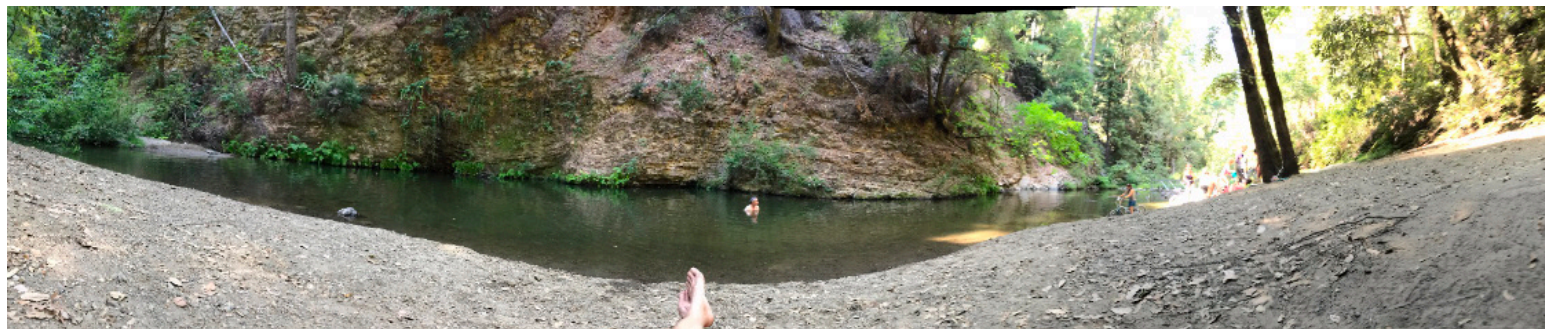
Sunday School pick-up using Church office door-downstairs from Plaza. Ring bell and we will let you in. Wait in lobby if your children's class has not been dismissed.

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

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

FAMILY CAMPING TRIP

Four families, along with Pastor Ron, headed to Portola Redwoods State Park for a weekend of camping and playing in the shadows of the giant redwoods. We shared delicious meals together, sang around the campfire, made s'mores, hiked to a waterfall, swam in the creek pool, defended ourselves against the mosquitoes, and joined in a communion service on Sunday morning. Thank you to the Dickinson's for coordinating this event.

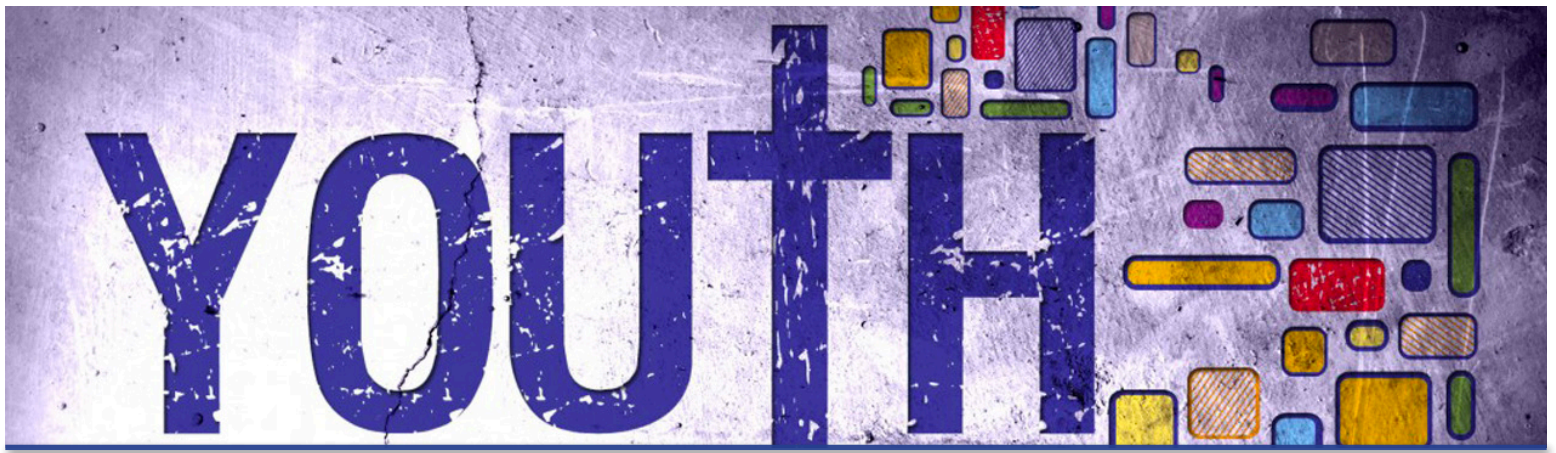


ST. MARK'S CHRISTMAS PAGEANT WILL BE COMING SOON!

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 men and their assistants.

The Christmas Pageant will be on Christmas Eve, December 24 at 5pm. There will be two rehearsals on Saturdays, December 16 and 23 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, then please email Mari Tuominen at maridesigns@earthlink.net.





HIGH-SCHOOL YOUTH

Now that St. Mark's has a small but dedicated group of high-school youth, opportunities abound in terms of sustaining the relationships that have been established during their previous years at St. Mark's. Pastor Ron met with these young people on Sunday, August 20 to brainstorm and discuss what interest they may have in Sunday morning fellowship, monthly activities, lock-ins, retreats, and service events. In the fall, these young people will be gathering twice a month on Sunday mornings, will be involved in God's Work, Our Hands Sunday projects, will serve at the Food Pantry, and gather for a lock-in at church on a yet-to-be-scheduled Saturday night.

CONFIRMATION

On Sunday, September 17, the middle-school youth will gather in the Youth Room to resume their instruction and fellowship in the confirmation program during the Education Hour at 10:00 a.m. Confirmation will transition to a 2-year program this year, with the first year concentrating on the Old Testament and two portions of the Catechism. The Biblical study will be based on Dan Erlander's booklet, "Manna and Mercy." The program will include field trips, service projects, and retreats. Along with Pastor Ron, Suzanne Smith will serve as a co-teacher for this ministry.

MIDDLE-SCHOOL RETREAT

The Sierra-Pacific Synod Youth Committee is sponsoring a Middle-School Retreat at Mt. Cross Camp the weekend of November 10 – 12. This 3-day event will include a keynote speaker, a ropes course, an all-camp game, campfire, worship, delicious meals, and exciting fellowship with youth from other congregations throughout the Synod. Mark your calendar for this event, and watch for more details as they are made available.

ELCA 2018 NATIONAL YOUTH GATHERING

Next summer, the ELCA will be sponsoring the next triennial Youth Gathering in Houston from Wednesday, June 27 to Sunday, July 1. The Gathering is open to youth who are in the 8th – 12th grades this school year. Registration for this Gathering opens on September 15. The sooner that we get commitments from our youth who want to go, the sooner we will be able to register and begin to prepare and raise funds (total cost/person is @ \$1,200) for this once-in-a-lifetime event. If you are interested in participating, please let Pastor Ron know ASAP.

YOUNG ADULT FELLOWSHIP

A new nucleus of young adults at St. Mark's has met three times during the summer for a simple lunch and conversation in order to get acquainted and begin talking about how they would like to nurture their relationships and participate in the ministries of the congregation. If you self-identify as a young adult (usually 18 – 30 years of age and single, a couple, or parent) you are invited to join in this conversation and fellowship. Suggested activities for the fall (yet to be scheduled) include board games, bowling, contemporary issue discussion, etc. Watch for details in forthcoming bulletins and e-newsletters and consider inviting your friends to join in this growing fellowship. Contact Pastor Ron if you would like to be put on the email list for this fellowship.

OUTREACH TEAM

Inviting others to be a part of our precious and vibrant community takes some intentionality and effort. In order to undertake this purpose, individuals of the congregation have been invited to be a part of a newly-established Outreach Team in order to ascertain the people in the community whom we could contact in order to introduce them to St. Mark's and invite them to come and join us in worship and fellowship. If you have not received such an invitation, but would like to be a part of this ministry, please contact Pastor Ron.

WELCOME TEAM

Over two dozen people of the congregation have been invited to be a part of a Welcome Team that would concentrate on greeting people on Sunday mornings, accompanying them in worship, introducing them to St. Mark's after the service, and requesting their contact information. Everyone in the congregation can take on this role on Sunday mornings, and many people do so. However, this team of individuals will be front-and-center in this ministry in welcoming people to St. Mark's with some intentionality and guidance. If you did not receive an invitation to be a part of this team, and would like more information, please contact Pastor Ron.

ST. MARK'S AT PRIDE

Dozens of Lutherans and friends joined with thousands of people to participate in the 47th annual San Francisco Pride Parade on Sunday, June 25. Bishop Mark joined marchers virtually before our contingent set forth, offering words of blessing and encouragement. Pastors Elizabeth and Ron, Director of Music Tim Zerland and members of St. Mark's joined with other Lutherans in the ReconcilingWorks group to process the eight blocks of the parade route, carrying signs identifying Lutheran congregations that are open and welcome to all people.



GREETINGS FROM PR. KATE WARN - ELCA MISSIONARY IN RWANDA

Greetings of grace and peace one last time from Kigali!

Attached you will find a final reflection on our mission in Rwanda.

I will be back in the US on July 18, attending the ELC Summer Missionary Conference in Chicago at the end of July, and then open to the work of the Holy Spirit for next things. I will be mostly in NY, NJ, and PA and would be open to arranging opportunities to speak and visit as logistically possible in the interim time ahead.

I look forward to summer days in the US, and to holding Rwanda in my heart as new things unfold.

As always, I give thanks to God for your partnership in the gospel.

Kate

NEWS FROM RWANDA

Traveling without a Map

At the end of June I traveled with 2 colleagues from the Lutheran Church of Rwanda to Iringa, Tanzania to celebrate the consecration of a new bishop there. Our goal was to strengthen relationships across borders with fellow Lutherans. We were an American missionary, a Tanzanian missionary in Rwanda, and a Rwandan who grew up a refugee in Tanzania. With passports in hand we crossed the Rwanda/Tanzania border and traveled far – all the way and back without a map.

Since the days of Abraham and Sarah, God has called people to travel to new places and to new experiences, and to go without a map. The biblical story testifies that God creates a way and provides bread for the journey. I have been privileged to serve in Rwanda for the past 3 ½ years, and I have often been conscious of traveling without a map in my work with the LCR and with the YAGM program. But God has provided abundantly in this time, and has opened the door to mission possibilities. I continue to be amazed and graced by the wonder of it all: strangers come together across borders of nationality, culture and language, and God’s Spirit makes new things possible. I have seen young adults from the U.S. transformed by surprising friendships. I have seen LCR evangelists and pastors excited to learn and grow as Lutheran leaders. I have seen relationships growing deeper.

Last week after returning from Tanzania I began the process of saying goodbye to this place I have called home for the past few years. I will be carrying a great cloud of witnesses in my heart as I pack up and leave Rwanda to return to the US on July 17. My good-byes are to Rwandan friends and colleagues, Tanzanians, Burundians, Ugandans, Americans, Dutch, Malagasy, South Africans, Lutherans, Anglicans, Catholics, Presbyterians, and Evangelicals. These good byes are to God’s people in glorious diversity but what strikes me in light of recent border crossings is that we are “no longer strangers and aliens, but citizens with the saints and members of the household of God” (Ephesians 3:19). I will miss this glimpse of God’s kingdom on earth when I leave the remarkable country of Rwanda.

It has been a great privilege to serve as the first ordained missionary with the Lutheran Church of Rwanda these past few years. This work, this journey without a map has only been possible because I did not travel alone, but always with the support, guidance and prayers of so many. Thank you for your accompaniment in mission!



Rev. Janelle Neubauer (right) has been in Rwanda since May and serves as the new YAGM Rwanda Country Coordinator. She will welcome the 4th YAGM group to the Land of a 1000 hills in August.

The current YAGMs meet for their closing retreat on July 10 and depart from Rwanda on July 13.

BRIDGES TO BETHLEHEM: SUPPORT CHRISTIANS IN THE HOLY LAND!

FROM BETHLEHEM comes this significant news about our Lutheran Christian ministry there: The Rev. Mitri Raheb has left his role as pastor of the Evangelical Christmas Lutheran Church in Bethlehem after thirty years of visionary and dedicated work throughout a challenging time for the Church and all people in the Holy Land. However, he will continue his Christian work in two ways: through academic work and his on-going leadership of Dar al-Kalima University (which he conceived and built after Israel's military invasion of Bethlehem in 2002 and continues to direct); and also by being the "Palestinian Christian prophetic voice in international gatherings, a voice that will uphold truth, proclaim liberty and defend human dignity." As Dr. Raheb declares, "The great wide world is the stage for the work of [God's] Kingdom."

We honor Rev. Raheb's tireless witness to the living Gospel and take inspiration from his words and ongoing work for our own calling and Christian service.

PHOTOS FROM PALESTINE are still with us in California! PALESTINE: UNLIMITED, the photography exhibit from Bethlehem's Dar al-Kalima University, has been touring the greater Bay Area's churches since its initial showing at St. Mark's last December. In response to many inquiries, it is now also possible to purchase these beautiful prints on canvas through Bright Stars of Bethlehem. Contact them at www.brightstarsbethlehem.org to order or to donate to scholarships for the young Christian and Muslim students of Dar al-Kalima University.

GRACE CATHEDRAL announces it will exhibit these prize-winning photos from the Karimeh Abboud Competition throughout October, from 9-6 PM, with a festive Opening Reception on October 8 featuring music by the Georges Lammam Ensemble.

For even more Palestinian cultural experience, also on October 8, visit Golden Gate Park's Hall of Flowers for the Bay Area PALESTINE DAY, presented by the Palestine American Coalition of eight Bay Area Palestinian organizations to celebrate and introduce their culture to the Bay Area.

This is a good time to plan ahead for special gifts for loved ones and memorable occasions –

GIFTS FROM THE HOLY LAND that not only will commemorate a baptism or confirmation, a birthday or wedding or other event; they will at the same time contribute to the well-being of struggling Christians in Palestine who hand-carve or embroider their unique and beautiful handicrafts for us to enjoy. Look for them at St. Mark's Advent Fair; or speak to Linda Krauskopf (415-285-4424) for other ways to find them locally; or browse the website of St. Mark's friend Claire Anastas: www.anastas-bethlehem.com to view them online.



ST. MARK'S CHURCH COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS FOR WINTER/SPRING QUARTER 2017

- Planning for Hymnfest/Oktoberfest to celebrate the 500th anniversary of the Reformation and highlight the wonderful campus and ministries of St. Mark's church
- Continued discussion of St. Mark's square redevelopment and plans to establish a St. Mark's square board to provide vision for redevelopment projects.
- Appointment of Jerry Lundblad, by the MLT board to serve as MLT liaison to St. Mark's church council
- Continued support for the elevator updates (FEW projects)
- Discussion of need to update and formation of a committee to work on St. Mark's Strategic Plan

For more updates and copies of the St. Mark's council meeting minutes please e-mail: cristinowens@gmail.com

Respectfully submitted, Cristin Owens, St. Mark's Church Council Secretary

SACRED ACTS AT ST. MARK'S

Baptism of: John Adlai Francis (Jack)

YOU'RE INVITED!

Kyle and Rommel Schiefelbein-Guerrero invite all of you to the blessing of their civil marriage, which will take place during the 11 am liturgy on Sunday, November 12. The liturgy will include selections of J. S. Bach's cantata "Wachet auf, ruft uns die Stimme" as a reflection on the gospel assigned for that Sunday. A festive reception in Heritage Hall including Filipino food will follow the liturgy, followed by dancing in the Urban Life Center.



FALL CONCERTS AT ST. MARK'S

New Esterhazy Quartet Concert

Sat, Sep 23, 2017 4:00 PM
www.sffcm.org/www.newesterhazy.org

Voices of Music Concert

Thu, Sep 28, 2017 7:30 PM
www.voicesofmusic.org

AA District 6 Unity Day

Sat, Oct 14, 2017 10:00 AM- 4:00 PM
www.sfgeneralservice.org

California Bach Society Concert

Fri, Oct 20, 2017 7:00 PM
www.calbach.org

SF Night Ministry Fall Gala

Sat, Oct 21, 2017 5:30PM - 8:30PM
www.sfnightministry.org

SF Early Music Society Concert

Sun, Oct 22, 2017 4:00 PM
sfems.org

Reformation 500 Commemoration and Oktoberfest

Sat, Oct 28, 2017 9:00am - 10:00pm
www.stmarks-sf.org

SF Composers' Chamber Orchestra Concert

Sat, Nov 4, 2017 7:00 PM
www.sfcco.org

Omni Concert

Sat, Nov 11, 2017 7:30 PM
omniconcerts.com

New Esterhazy Quartet Concert

Sat, Nov 18, 2017 4:00 PM
www.sffcm.org/www.newesterhazy.org

SF Early Music Society Concert

Sun, Nov 19, 2017 4:00 PM
sfems.org

NOTES FROM THE OFFICE

Winnie Heslin, Director of Operations

Summer in the Office

Despite slowing down in programming during the summer months, the church office has had a busy summer! At the on-set of summer, we took on a lengthy list of "summer projects" and were able to accomplish many tasks not only in the office, but in ULC and the church. These tasks ranged from items such as cleaning and reorganizing supplies closets, pantries and equipment to updating our membership database and reorganizing filing systems. It was quite an undertaking and our staff did a stellar job of tackling these projects!

New AED Machine

We are pleased to announce that we have acquired an AED machine for the church, in the event of cardiac emergencies. This life saving device is an important addition to our church building and is mounted in a wall cabinet near the eastern Heritage Hall doors. Earlier this year, our staff participated in a CPR/AED training course, in which we were certified to operate an AED in the event of emergencies.

Events and Room Scheduling

As we look towards the fall and at our calendar that is quickly filling up, please be reminded to contact our Events Administrator, Deidre Rettenmaier, to schedule any meeting/event spaces that you may need, be it for church or personal needs. Deidre can be reached at events@stmarks-sf.org or via telephone at 415-928-7770.

ST. MARK'S WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Sundays

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

Check our weekly Parish Announcements and our Facebook page

www.stmarks-sf.org/blog

www.facebook.com/stmarkssf

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

Church Office Hours

Monday through Friday - 9:00AM to 5:00PM

415-928-7770

Staff

Extension

Email

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

Carl Storey, Security

Elvira Markov, Johanna Najera, and Chanelda Daniels, Nursery Attendants

Jenny Hart, Sunday School Coordinator

The Rev. Chuck Lewis, Visitation Pastor

Reconciling in Christ

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

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

Other Important Numbers

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