

*St Mark's*  
LUTHERAN CHURCH

# VOICE

QUARTERLY JOURNAL OF REFLECTION & NEWS



***Spring 2016***  
**MARCH-MAY**

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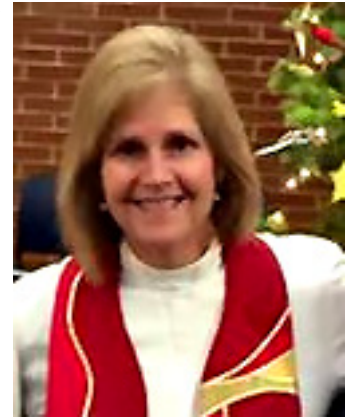


## *From Lenten fast to Easter feast*

We have fasted during the season of Lent. We have fasted from empty promises, feelings of entitlement, bitterness over past wrongdoings, judging others, self absorption, distractions and our addictions to our electronics. Now the great feasting begins in the celebration of Easter!

In Easter, through the resurrection of Christ, we feast on the enduring promises of new life from God. We feast on gratitude and forgiveness, compassion and purposeful silence, and the gift of our brothers and sisters in Christ who love us and accompany us.

Yet, there is more. There is the season of Easter – an entire season of celebration, joy, and good news of Christ’s resurrection. The feasting continues; a season of abundance brimming with Alleluias, of life overflowing in goodness, of hope replacing despair.



Pr. Elizabeth

One of my favorite hymns is a “Lenten fast to Easter feast” kind of hymn.

*This is my ending, this my resurrection;  
Into your hands,  
Lord, I commit my spirit.” (ELW 342)*

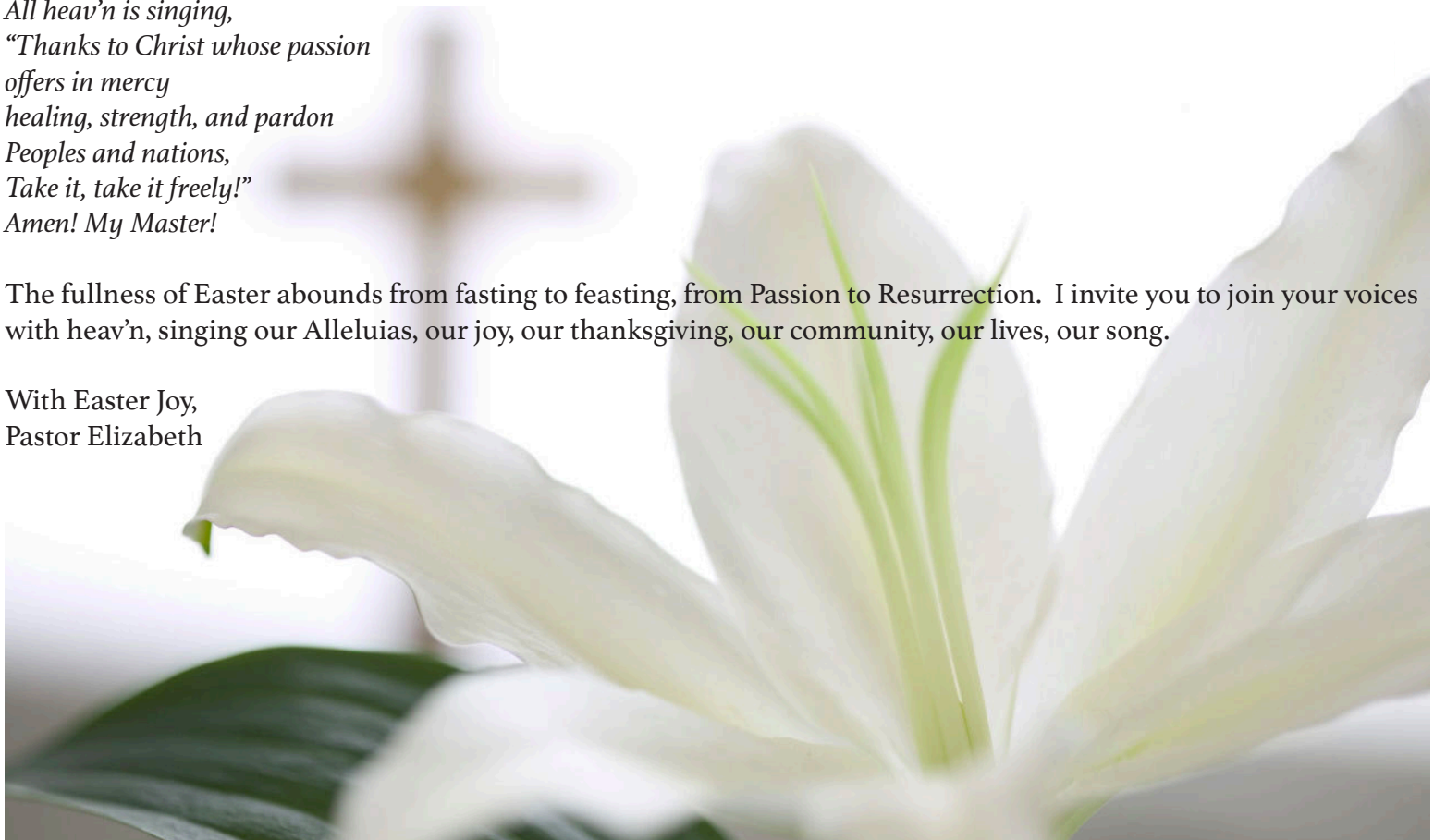
Christ from the cross, in the fullness of his passion, commits his life so we may have new life. We sing Christ’s words in this 5th verse, his words become our own, his passion embodied in our voices. No wonder, I weep when I sing this verse.

Then and only then do we arrive at the glorious 6th and final verse of the hymn: There in God’s Garden

*All heav’n is singing,  
“Thanks to Christ whose passion  
offers in mercy  
healing, strength, and pardon  
Peoples and nations,  
Take it, take it freely!”  
Amen! My Master!*

The fullness of Easter abounds from fasting to feasting, from Passion to Resurrection. I invite you to join your voices with heav’n, singing our Alleluias, our joy, our thanksgiving, our community, our lives, our song.

With Easter Joy,  
Pastor Elizabeth



# HOLY WEEK WORSHIP

2016

*Palm Sunday*  
*March 20th*  
*9:00 & 11:00 AM*

*New this year-A Procession around the block*

*Maundy Thursday*  
*March 24th*  
*7:00 PM*

*Holy Communion and stripping of the Altar*

*Good Friday*  
*March 25th*  
*12:00 & 7:00 PM*

*Stations of the Cross (12) The Passion according to St. John (7)*

*Easter Vigil*  
*March 26th*  
*8:00 PM*

*Baptisms and receiving new members*  
*Festive reception to follow*

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



# EASTER SUNDAY

## March 27th

### 9:00 AM

*Holy Communion with Children's Time*



### 10:15 AM

*Easter Egg Hunt for All Children  
Bring your own basket - Invite Friends!*

### 10:30 AM

*Heut triumphieret Gottes Sohn, BuxWV 43,  
Dietrich Buxtehude  
"Today God's Son Triumphs"  
Buxtehude's glorious Easter cantata for choir,  
soloists, trumpets and strings.  
and*

*Organ Concerto in C, Hob. XVIII, n. 1,  
Franz Joseph Haydn  
Prelude and Fugue in C, BWV 531, J.S. Bach*

### 11:00 AM

*Choral Eucharist Worship Service*







**March 27, 2016  
10:15 AM  
St. Mark's Square**

**Kid Friendly! All are Welcome!  
Invite Family and Friends!  
Bring your own basket**





# 4000 GOOD WORDS

Many of you know that I am a medical ethicist. Since Thanksgiving, I have been working on an article for a book on conscience and Catholic healthcare. The article needs to be 4000 words, which my neighbor claims is more words than he knows! At the rate this is going, it may be more words than I know! Suddenly it dawned on me—the best way to get 4000 words quickly is with 4 pictures! Each one worth 1000 words—voilà, 4000 words!

What better way to see God’s work being done with our hands in Rwanda than with pictures of the children of Kigali parish writing a thank you note to us just before Christmas in their outdoor Sunday school. Their note reads:



“We the children of Kigali parish would like to thank you St. Mark’s Lutheran Church for the contribu-

tion of \$2000 for construction of our Sunday School class. God bless you and happy Christmas.”

See Patrick, Evelyne, Ivan, Ester, Happiness and the others expressing their gratitude for the \$2000 grant from our Endowment fund that will help to build their Sunday school room.

When Kigali Parish of the Lutheran Church of Rwanda applied to the Endowment for funding, they were concerned that the children were being “driven out of the church” into the alley, rain or shine, heat or less heat. The children made a presentation to the congregation on “how we drive them out when it’s time to preach” and the congregation decided to build a small building where the children can learn to “worship, read and teach the gospel.” So,



together with Kigali parish, we are literally building the foundation of their Sunday school—we buy rocks; the members of Kigali Lutheran lay the foundation—we are in this ministry together! Wow! Alain, Teonesh, Diane, Kevin and the



others dreamed it and we’re helping to make it happen.

In this the second year of grant giving, we were also able to support an upcoming visit to St. Mark’s by our missionary in Rwanda, Pr. Kate Warn, and a retreat for our choir.

The Endowment Fund began 5 years ago (2011) with \$25,000.

As of January 1, 2016, the Fund balance was \$117,366.51. There were no monies received from bequests in 2015.

Allow me a brief public service announcement—the Endowment Fund relies on bequests and other gifts from people like you. Your gifts stay invested in the fund, earn interest, and support fantastic innovative projects like the Rwandan Sunday school, a visit by our missionary Pr. Warn, and the chance for our choir to retreat together.

I want to ask you to thank the Endowment Committee members the next time that you see them for the extraordinary work they did in 2015—work done with patience, expertise, good will, and a great deal of humor. Please thank: Becky Burad, Stacy Cullison, Allana Helland, Greg Jahnke, Marisa Louie (Council Liaison), Robert Rathmell, Randy Schieber, and Debbie Varian (Secretary and Fund Advisor). Two new members will

join the Committee in 2016—Catherine Hurley and Barbara McCormick.



Having served since the Committee began, Stacy Cullison and I have completed our terms. I want to thank Stacy for her valuable insights and refreshing honesty in enabling us to do God’s work with our hands through the Endowment Fund.

This article is based on remarks made at the Congregational Meeting, January 31, 2016.

Margaret R. McLean, Outgoing Chair  
Endowment Committee

## Endowment Committee Update

Dream it! Make it happen!

The Endowment Committee is eagerly looking forward to the coming year. At our February meeting, we made a recommendation to disburse \$4,000 in grant funding in 2016, an increase from the \$3,600 that was distributed in 2015. Additional details regarding how to apply for grant funding will be communicated to the congregation in May, but we encourage you to start thinking now about new ideas for how this funding could be used to further the mission and ministry of St. Mark’s.

We are also planning a fun, informative event - Calling All Angels - following coffee hour on Sunday, April 10 to highlight some of the work and stories from programs we have funded. Look for more information regarding this event soon.

We are fortunate to have a committed group of Endowment Committee members providing leadership in the coming year. Please reach out to any of us with questions or comments, and thank you for your support of this important work!

Randy Schieber  
2016 Endowment Committee Chair



**NEWS FROM RWANDA, January 2016**  
**Rev. Kate Warn, Country Coordinator**  
**Young Adults in Global Mission (YAGM)**  
[kate.warn@elca.org](mailto:kate.warn@elca.org)  
PO Box 5692 Kigali, Rwanda



**ELCA Global Church Sponsorship**  
**Evangelical Lutheran Church in America**  
God's work. Our hands.

This February marks the two year anniversary of my call to serve with the Young Adults in Global Mission program in partnership with the Lutheran Church of Rwanda. In my work establishing and building up the YAGM program here, I have worked closely with Bishop Mugabo of the LCR and other leaders in the Lutheran community. I often feel that we are learning to dance together as we seek to understand one another and discern what is possible in mission partnership. I have been gratefully amazed to see what arises from shared gifts and interests when we are relationship together. This past year, YAGMs with an interest in music and worship helped the LCR to update a Kinyarwanda hymnal, and this in turn led to an ongoing effort to teach congregations new hymnody as well as Lutheran liturgy. YAGMs also helped pilot a vacation bible school day camp program for Christian education at one of the local parishes, and we hope to introduce this model in other congregations of the LCR.

Over the past two years, I have been privileged to begin to understand the unique history, strengths and challenges of the Lutheran Church in Rwanda. Education is a particularly pressing concern for the LCR and I was recently asked to assume responsibility for a bible training school for evangelists and pastors. To date, such training has been handicapped by many dynamics, including a lack of resources coupled with low levels of primary and secondary school education among those called to serve the church. Training of lay leaders and pastors is an issue near and dear to my heart, and I am particularly interested in helping the LCR strengthen and affirm its own Lutheran identity in a context where Pentecostalism and prosperity gospel teachings are dominant influences.

Challenges abound but as St. Paul reminds us, God's grace is sufficient. I see this grace in the sheer fact of the LCR's emergence from the ruins of genocide 21 years ago, in the joy and faithfulness of the Lutheran community in Rwanda, and in the stories the YAGM's tell of their life amidst God's people here in this place. As this year unfolds, I look forward to sharing more about these things. And as always, I am grateful for your partnership in mission in Rwanda!

In Christ's peace,  
Kate

*The photo on the right shows my participation in the ordination of a missionary from Tanzania who has been serving the Kigali Lutheran Parish. Renewed partnership between Lutherans in Rwanda and Tanzania may open up new possibilities for learning and ministry.*



Traditional Rwandan dancing during worship in Kigali.

Follow the 2015 YAGM Rwanda team on Facebook at **YAGM Rwanda**, and at:

Chad Nelsen in Cyangugu:

[www.ramblingsfromrwanda.wordpress.com](http://www.ramblingsfromrwanda.wordpress.com)

Savanna Sullivan in Rwamagana:

[www.savyagm.blogspot.com](http://www.savyagm.blogspot.com)

Stephanie Engel in Kibungo:

[www.rolickinginrwanda.wordpress.com](http://www.rolickinginrwanda.wordpress.com)

Laura Hermanns in Butare:

[www.peaceonourwings.wordpress.com](http://www.peaceonourwings.wordpress.com)

Ben Warner in Rukira:

[www.beninrwanda.blogspot.com](http://www.beninrwanda.blogspot.com)



**Pastor Kate Warn will be St. Mark's Preacher and teacher on May 22.**



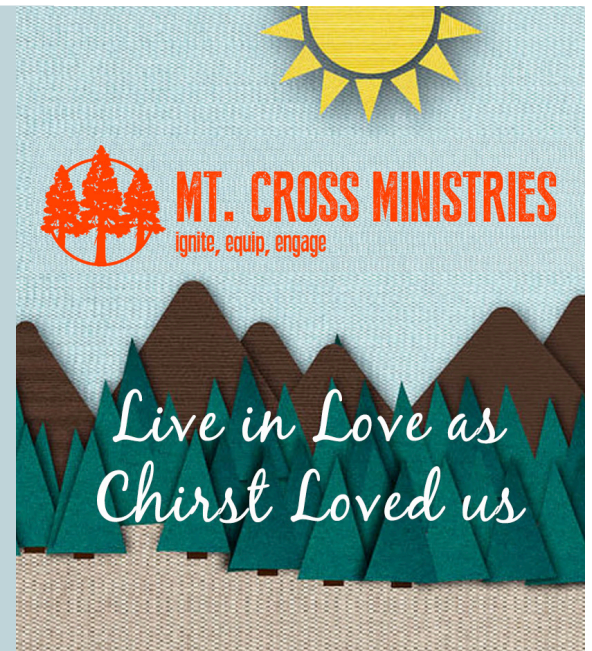
## JOIN MT. CROSS SUMMER CAMPS AND ACTIVITIES

Every year, there are many opportunities to combine spirituality, fun, nature and fellowship for our youth and family. The following are some opportunities for year 2016:

July 10-15, Shalom Camp for Confirmation youth (6, 7, & 8 graders). We are inviting our confirmands to participate in this yearly event with other confirmation classes from various congregations. This year will be filled with camp activities, worship, and evenings of special activities. Please contact Pastor Tita if you are interested.

Other camps during summer are Day Camp, Explorers for 2nd and 4rd graders (June 12-17, July 3-8) Pathfinders for 4th-6th grades (June 12-17, July 3-8, 17-22, 24-29) TreeToppers for 4th-6th Grade (July 24-29), Trailblazers for 7th-9th grade (same dates as Pathfinders), Beach Camp for 7th-9th grade (July 10-15, 17-22, 24-29), Family Camp (June 27-July 1), just to name some of them. Please check their website for program descriptions, registration information and other : <http://www.mtcross.org/#!/summer-programs/c3vg>. Pastor Tita would also be happy to assist you.

We hope that you consider these possibilities for renewal and support at Mt. Cross Lutheran Camp in the beautiful Santa Cruz mountains.



## Youth City Exploration and Service

We invite all our Jr. and Sr. High Schoolers to join in the upcoming fun and meaningful (yes, these words could be together) events:

April 24th – Worship at Glide Memorial at 11:00 am. We will leave from St. Mark's at 10:30 am and walk to Glide together. Glide is a United Methodist community so this is an opportunity for us to learn from our full communion partner.

May 7th – Let us serve together at St. Mark's Food Pantry from 7:30 am until 10:30. We only have 8 dates a year so let us take advantage of this possibility. We are hoping that youth from St. Mary and Martha will also join us to continue building relationship with our congregations. For more information, please talk to or contact Pastor Tita Valeriano ([valeriano@stmarks-sf.org](mailto:valeriano@stmarks-sf.org)) or Diana Gomez ([dianamrsgomez@mindspring.com](mailto:dianamrsgomez@mindspring.com)).





## Sunday School at St. Mark's

St. Mark's is truly blessed with capable, caring and fun Sunday School teachers. Elise Semonian is our new Pre-K teacher.

"This is my first year of teaching Sunday School, or any school at all. I draw experience from parenting two boys, Nate (11) and Peter (7), many years of babysitting in my hometown of San Anselmo, and religious education in my formative years. I have fond memories of Sunday School at Christ (the Victor)



**Elise Semonian**

Lutheran Church in Fairfax, attending a neighborhood vacation bible school set up by visiting youth, and six years at St. Anselms Catholic School. My husband Mark and I have been members of St. Marks since 2002. For my day job, I am Planning Director for the Town of San Anselmo." -Elise

Adrienne Brown is in her third year teaching the K-2nd graders. She is a lawyer turned stay-at-home mom to her two boys, Gordon and Glenn. She "loves the enthusiasm the children bring each Sunday!"

Adrienne was born and raised a Lutheran and has been a member at St. Mark's for 12 years. In addition to teaching Sunday School every Sunday, she serves on the Martin Luther Tower board.



**Adrienne Brown**

Gail Culp teaches 3rd-5th grade every Sunday, as she has done for many years. Gail is the backbone of the Sunday School program, most of the traditions we honor have been initiated by her. Gail is retired and volunteers with the Stanford Childhood Reading Program at our public schools in San Francisco. Gail and her husband Cal are both from the Midwest. She has her Masters of Fine Arts, and now has time to spend in her art studio. Gail is a strong advocate of hands on teaching, which she practices every Sunday.



**Gail Culp**



## "CALLING ALL ANGELS"

Sunday, April 10th, 10:15 & 12:15

It's time to get our your wings and polish up your halos for this year's "Calling All Angels" Sunday at St. Mark's. On Sunday, April 10th, we will celebrate St. Mark's Endowment Fund as we honor our recipients and share news of our Endowment Fund. We hope to inspire and educate you with stories and videos of how our Fund is already changing lives. We will share information at both services and host a special gathering in Heritage Hall at the end of coffee hour. Rumor is that angel food cake is on the menu. Mark your calendars for "Calling All Angels" Sunday.



## *Breathing into the Future: A Report from the Call Committee*

The Call process relies on prayer. Please pray this one written by Call Committee member, Cora Rose:

Gracious and gifting God,  
As we work to call a new pastoral leader to St. Mark's,  
we remember that you are the one who called us first.  
May your Holy Spirit lead us to discern the gifts we seek  
to address our needs and the needs of our community.  
Remind us to trust that you provide for every need in your church.  
We ask this in Jesus' name, Amen.

As many of you know, I am a teacher—and what do teachers do? Give tests! So, here's a True/False test for you—graded on the curve!

True or False

- Most members of St. Mark's are over 50 (False)
- Most members of St. Mark's live in the neighborhood (False)
- On average, over 150 people worship here each week (True)

Shortly after Pr. Bekah resigned to concentrate on getting well, we entered into the Call Process in partnership with the Sierra Pacific Synod. Although technically we employ our pastors, "calling" is not "hiring;" it's not so much about rifling through resumes as about opening ourselves to the Holy Spirit breathing a new future into us.

Your Call Committee—Gretchen Armstrong, Pr. Elizabeth Ekdale, Laura Evenson, Philip Krikau, Margaret McLean, Lew Randall, Cora Rose, and Andrew Sallach—has been thinking and praying about the leader we seek to take us into the future, a leader who will help us to become our best selves, who will help us to do more of God's work with our hands.

Currently, we are working on a Ministry Site Profile—yes, paperwork!—a document that asks us to think about who we are not only in terms of demographics—the source of the quiz—but also in terms of mission, of giftedness: How do we understand ourselves in light of God's call to mission and service? What are the gifts we bring in answering God's call? What are the gifts we seek in a leader? What future is the Holy Spirit breathing before us?

The Ministry Site Profile is no ordinary job description series of check boxes but a deep look into the heart of the congregation to determine who we are and who we are called to be here in this place at this time. This process is helping us to discern the type of leader we seek and to identify who can help us become the congregation that the Holy Spirit is breathing us to be.

We value your help; we need your help. This is your call process entrusted to us so please talk to us; ask us questions. We'll provide updates in the bulletin and here in the Voice—but nothing beats a good conversation with you!

This article is based on remarks made at the Congregational Meeting, January 31, 2016.

Margaret R. McLean, Chair  
Call Committee





## Timothy Zerlang in Recital

Sunday, March 13, 2016, 5:30 pm

St. Mark's Episcopal Church,  
2300 Bancroft Way, Berkeley

Our very own Timothy Zerlang will play an organ recital on the Flentrop organ at St. Mark's Episcopal Church in Berkeley on Sunday, March 13 following a brief evensong service which starts at 5:30pm. Tim will play works by Buxtehude, Scheidt, Reincken, Sweelinck and Bach. Three of the pieces are based on the chorale "An Wasserflüssen Babylon" which we now associate with the text "A Lamb Goes Uncomplaining Forth." The Reincken fantasy on that chorale survives today because of a copy Bach wrote out while still a young student. Many years later Bach improvised on An Wasserflüssen Babylon for the very elderly Reincken for almost an hour, receiving high praise from the older master. Bach later reworked some of that improvisation into a beautiful chorale prelude - Tim will play both the Reincken fantasy and the Bach chorale prelude.

## Revisiting Outreach

By Rev. Tita Valeriano

One of the joys and challenges of church ministry is outreach. The word "outreach" has many different meanings to church people. Some say it is evangelism, while others say it is about community service. I say it's a joy because it is where we have vitality of our witness together, while it is a challenge for many reasons, such as the changing landscape of the neighborhood. Conversations that touch on these joys and challenges have surfaced in our staff conversations, and Pastor Elizabeth and I imagined revisiting our outreach, focusing on family and children's ministry and the young professionals who have recently flocked to the city to join the tech world boom. The hope is that we can improve the use of social media (facebook, website and the like) to communicate better who we are and what we are called here to be and do, as well as increase our commitment and visibility in the city. I am re-energized to help in the process, which will happen in one-on-one interviews, coffee time round tables and definitely surveys of what/who is/are around us.

So in the next few weeks, I hope to meet with a few people one on one, set round table talks during Sunday coffee hours (after 11 am service) in April, and work with a few people on the survey. Please feel free to approach me or email me if you are interested in this work. I am looking forward to share some early results and possibilities by summertime. It is truly an exciting time at St. Mark's!



## Easter Midweek Services Wednesdays at 6:45 pm

Beginning Wednesday, April 6, we will use "Unfailing Light," a new setting of the Holy Communion service composed by Marty Haugen, with text by Susan Briehl. This service was written especially for evening, and was commissioned by the Lutheran Campus Ministry at the University of Texas in Austin.

Susan Briehl writes,

At the close of the day, the Spirit calls us out of time marked by daylight and darkness, measured by clocks and calendars, and gathers us into time welling up from the past, widening toward the future, and welcoming eternity. This setting draws upon scripture that evokes eventide, especially in the gathering and sending—our transitions from one kind of time to another.

The story of the two disciples walking from Jerusalem to their home in Emmaus as the sun sets on the day of Christ's resurrection flows through this setting (Luke 24:13–35). Verses from this story annotate the pattern of our prayer—gathering, word, meal, sending. This has been the shape of Christian worship since followers of Jesus gathered on the first day of the week to devote themselves "to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of the bread and the prayers" (Acts 2:42). From the hymn of praise to the final prayer we echo the invitation of those disciples to Jesus, "Stay with us, for it is evening."

In every time and place, when the Spirit gathers us around the word and sacrament, Christ crucified and risen comes among us. Our hearts burn as Jesus opens the word and we recognize him in the breaking of the bread. By faith we receive forgiveness, life, and salvation as Christ comes to us in his holy supper. After the meal, God blesses us and sends us, nourished, strengthened, and refreshed, back to our clocks and calendars. We go, trusting God to abide with us as darkness deepens and to raise us in the morning as Christ's body—blest, broken, and given for the life of the world.

## UNFAILING LIGHT

*An evening setting of Holy Communion*



### Wednesday Schedule

**6:00 - Community Dinner**  
**6:45 - Unfailing Light Worship**



## Annual Congregational Meeting Highlights Sunday, January 31, 2016

- Approval of a balanced budget for 2016
- A congregational vote in favor of fully proceeding with the three capital campaign projects: installation of an elevator, repair of the art glass windows, and replacement of the floors in both the sanctuary and the balcony, and a vote to use the housing equity fund as a bridge loan to fund the remaining costs of our sanctuary renovation projects, to be repaid within ten years of the end of the capital campaign
- Election of new Council members Matthias Will and Nadine Robinson, and returning Council members Matt Helland and Mark Semonian
- Reports from Margaret McLean on behalf of the Call Committee and the Endowment Committee, from Jon Moeller on behalf of the Redevelopment Task Force, from Matt Helland on behalf of the Human Resources Committee, and Omer Voss on behalf of the Martin Luther Tower Board
- Distribution of a congregational survey: if you have not yet completed the survey, please do so online at: [https://eSurv.org?s=LLDJIK\\_fd9575d4](https://eSurv.org?s=LLDJIK_fd9575d4)



# Stained Glass Windows of St. Mark's

Brochure written by Marge Jencks, a member of

St. Mark's Lutheran Church who died January 31, 2016. Marge was a frequent contributor to "The Voice". She wrote a beloved column titled "Mice Tales" about St. Mark's history. We are looking for someone to continue the column in the future.

The Crown, a symbol of victory, represents Christ's reign and the reward of eternal life to those who follow Christ, the King of Kings. (James 1:12, 1 Peter 5:4, 2 Tim. 4:8)



The Dove represents the Holy Spirit and is traditionally seen as a symbol of peace. In the gospels, the Spirit of God descends like a dove and rests on Jesus at his baptism. (Matt. 3:16)



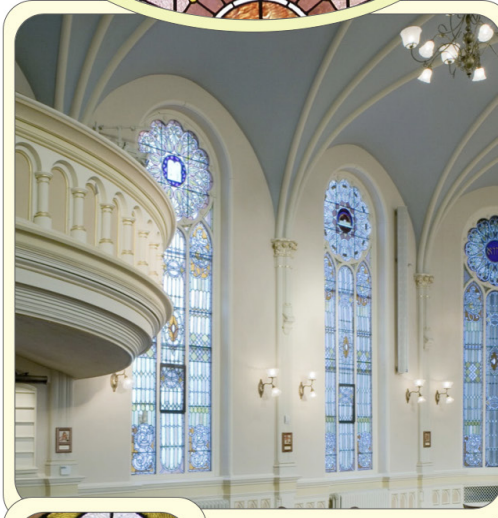
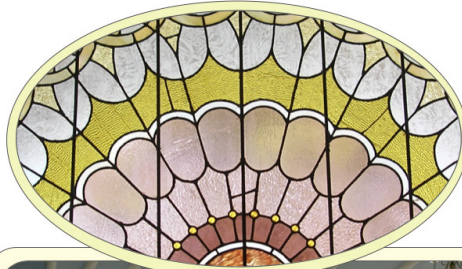
The Ten Commandments, depicted on tablets of stone, are God's basic laws for all people. The first three on the left worship and serve God, and the seven on the right guide and serve humankind. (Deut. 5:6-22)



The Rainbow represents God's covenant with humanity, promising that a flood will never again destroy the earth. Noah's ark, also shown here, is a traditional symbol of the church and God's protective care. (Gen. 9:8-17)



Yahweh, the proper name for Israel's God, is here represented by four Hebrew letters. The spelling is quite unusual and the artist may be invoking the idea that God's existence is a mystery that can never be precisely defined.

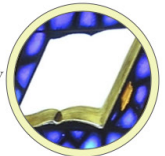


Alpha and Omega, the first and last letters of the Greek alphabet, symbolize that Jesus is the beginning and the end of all things. "I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and ending, saith the Lord." (Rev. 1:8)



Agnes Dei, the lamb of God, is an emblem of Christ with the banner of victory suggesting the victorious nature of Jesus' sacrifice. (John 1:29)

Holy Bible is the inspired word of God and God's power unto salvation. The open Bible symbolizes that the Old and New Testaments are open for all to read.



The Chalice, the cup raised by our Lord, blessed, and given to the disciples, symbolizes Christian faith, worship, Holy Communion, hope, pardon and peace. (Luke 22:17-20)

The Budded Cross is a Latin cross with each of its extensions capped with a three-lobbed tree bud (trefoil) to suggest the Holy Trinity. (Matt. 16:24, 1 John 5:5-11, John 3:16)



The stained glass windows are long past due for cleaning and restoration, including replacement of lead strips fastening the glass panes. The congregation approved refurbishing the windows on January 31, 2016. Donations toward the renovation of the windows are gratefully accepted and appreciated. Checks can be made to St. Mark's Lutheran Church with a notation: window refurbishing or you can donate online at: <http://www.stmarks-sf.org/give-a-gift/>

## Sacred Acts at St. Mark's

Baptism of Kyle Beckham Ong-Bendel - January 31, 2016  
 Memorial of Marge Jencks - February 24, 2016





## SPRING CONCERTS AT ST. MARK'S

**Saturday, March 5, 2:00 PM**

Golden Gate Symphony - <http://www.goldengatesymphony.org/>

Concert for Kids, age Six to Six Hundred

**Saturday, March 5, 8:00PM**

Clerestory – <http://www.clerestory.org/>

New Lights

**Sunday, March 6, 7:30 PM**

San Francisco Youth Ensemble

Program TBD

**Saturday, March 12, 2:00 PM**

Einstein String Quartet

Program TBD

**Saturday, March 12, 2:00 PM**

Chamber Music “Inspired by Women” - [www.natalieraneycello.com/inspiredbywomen/](http://www.natalieraneycello.com/inspiredbywomen/)

To benefit the Ovarian Cancer Research Fund

**Sunday, March 13, 4:00 PM**

San Francisco Early Music - <http://sfems.org/>

ENSEMBLE CAPRICE—Salsa Baroque: Music of Latin America and Spain

**Friday, March 18, 8:00 PM**

American Bach Soloists - <http://www.americanbach.org/>

Bach's Birthday Concert

**Saturday, March 19, 8:00 PM**

Voices of Music - <http://voicesofmusic.org/>

The Art of the Countertenor

**Sunday, March 20, 4:00 PM**

Magnificat - <http://magnificatbaroque.com/>

Buxtehude: Membra Jesu Nostri

**Monday, March 21, 7:00 PM**

California Lutheran University Choir – <https://earth.callutheran.edu/schools/cas/programs/music/tour/>

**Sunday, March 27, 7:30 PM**

Junior Bach Festival – <http://www.juniorbach.org/>

**Saturday, April 2, 4:00 PM**

New Esterhazy Quartet – <http://www.newesterhazy.org/>

Viola Quintets from Haydn's Circle

**Sunday, April 3, 4:00 PM**

San Francisco Girls Chorus - <http://sfgirlschorus.org/>

Program TBD

**Saturday, April 9, 5:00 PM**

Ensemble SF - <http://ensemblesanfrancisco.com/>

ESF At The Movies

**Saturday, April 16, 6:00 PM**

Ortega Trio

Program TBD

**Friday, April 22, 4:00 PM**

California Bach Society - <http://www.calbach.org/>

Singet dem Hern

**Saturday, April 23, 7:30PM**

Omni Foundation for the Performing Arts - <http://omni-concerts.com/>

Amadeus Guitar Duo

**Sunday, April 24, 4:00 PM**

American Bach Soloists - <http://www.americanbach.org/>

Easter & Ascension Oratorios

**Saturday, May 7, 7:30 PM**

Deutscher Musikverein - <http://www.sfgermanband.org/>

Program TBD

**Sunday, May 15, 2:00 PM**

Sunset Youth Orchestra – <http://www.sunsetyouthorchestra.com/>

Spring Concert

**Saturday, May 21, 7:30 PM**

SF Composers Chamber Orchestra – <http://www.sfcco.org/index.php>

Program TBD

**Sunday, May 22, 4:00 PM**

Musae – <http://www.musae.org/>

Bridge of Song

**Saturday, May 28, 4:00 PM**

New Esterhazy Quartet – <http://www.newesterhazy.org/>

From Bohemia's Fields & Groves



## Forward in Faith - Lifted by Love Capital Campaign

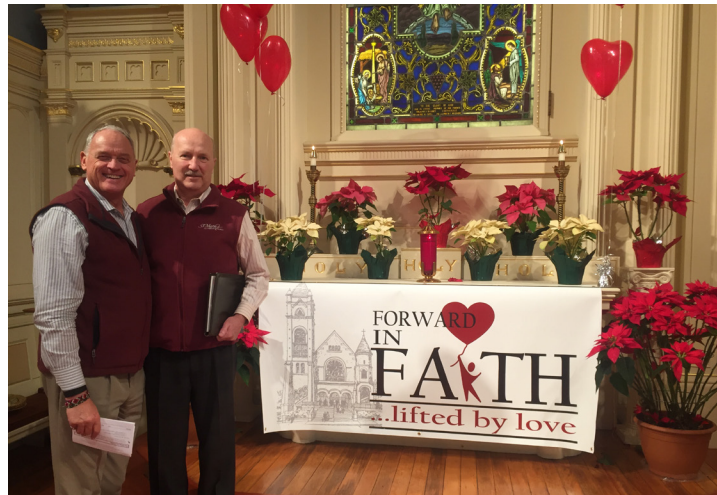
A little over a year ago, on January 25, 2015, St. Mark's held its annual meeting, at which time the congregation voted to proceed with a capital campaign to raise funds to install an elevator in the church building. Based on the congregation's affirmative vote a Capital Campaign Committee was formed, a consultant, the James Company, was enlisted to provide professional fundraising guidance to the committee and the campaign was undertaken. The annual fundraising efforts of the Stewardship Committee were rolled into the efforts of the Capital Campaign Committee and the resulting fall fundraising appeal was a combined appeal to raise funds for both the capital campaign and the general fund.

The Capital Campaign Committee commenced work on the fall campaign during mid-year 2015. The campaign was introduced to the congregation on October 18th. Over the following four Sundays, members of our community of faith gave temple talks and shared their unique perspective and personal comments about the campaign and its goals. Words and phrases such as "provide accessibility to all", "promote openness" and "increase safety" were recurring themes throughout all of the temple talks. On October 25th our committee hosted an advance gathering event at the San Francisco Conservatory of Music to further promote the campaign. Pledge packets were distributed to the congregation on November 22nd and 29th and pledge cards were returned



on Commitment Sunday, December 6th. This year, for the first time, pledges could also be made online at St. Mark's website. On Celebration Sunday, January 24th, pledge results were announced and the congregation joined together for a fiesta themed luncheon after the 11:00 service.

The congregation's vote at the January 2015 annual meeting provided an approval to proceed with a capital campaign; however, it did not authorize the actual construction project. A second vote was required to



authorize proceeding with the project and spending the funds raised by the capital campaign. The project was expanded to include the originally proposed elevator, plus the installation of new hardwood flooring in the sanctuary and balcony, plus the repair and restoration of the stained glass windows in the sanctuary. During the most recent annual meeting on January 31, 2016, the congregation overwhelmingly approved proceeding with the entire project.

Many members and friends of the congregation have generously supported the capital campaign project with their financial pledges of support. The most recent accounting indicates that \$965,859 has been pledged thus far to the capital campaign from 98 pledges received from 51% of the congregation households. A total of \$386,970 has been pledged to the general fund from 111 pledges received from 58% of the congregation. Pledges to both the capital campaign and the general fund continue to be made. Friends and members of the congregation who have not pledged are encouraged to prayerfully consider joining those who have stepped forward with their personal pledge of support. Pledges can be made on-line at St. Mark's website by clicking on "2016 Pledge" or by contacting the church office.

Thank you for your generous support of this worthwhile project. May be all go "Forward in Faith...Lifted by Love".

Roger Ostrem  
Capital Campaign Committee, Co-chair



# Women's Monthly Study Gatherings

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

## **First Tuesdays from 6:30pm to 8:30pm in the Fireside Room**

All women are invited to gather on the first Tuesday of the month from 6:30pm to 8:30pm in the Fireside 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:

**March 1 – Life Together by Dietrich Bonhoeffer**

**April 5 – Lentil Underground: Renegade Farmers & the Future of Food in America by Liz Carlisle**

**May 3 – Learning to Walk in the Dark by Barbara Brown Taylor**

## **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 is on the book of Philippians. Our program topics are:

**March 8 – “Being of One Mind”**

**April 12 – “Keep on Keeping on”**

**May 10 – To Be Announced**

## **NEW - Third Sundays Bible Study from 10:10 to 10:50 in the Conference Room**

All women are invited to come for Bible study from the Women of the ELCA's Gather Magazine.

Our study is on the book of Philippians and our monthly topics are:

**March 20 – “Being of One Mind”**

**April 17 – “Keep on Keeping On”**

**May 15 – To Be Announced**

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

## **Pr. Elizabeth and Pr. Tita are available throughout the week for pastoral conversation with you.**

You can reach Pr. Elizabeth and Pr. Tita several different ways and they will gladly arrange a time to meet with you either in the church offices, at your home, in the hospital, or another location convenient for you.

1. Call the church office and ask to speak to one of them. Feel free to leave a confidential voice mail at their extensions- Pr. Elizabeth ext. 2300, Pr. Tita ext. 2460
2. Email: [ekdale@stmarks-sf.org](mailto:ekdale@stmarks-sf.org), [valeriano@stmarks-sf.org](mailto:valeriano@stmarks-sf.org)
3. If you are in need of immediate, emergency assistance (for example, an unplanned hospital visit or death of a family member), please call Pr. Ekdale's cell phone-415-846-4340. In addition, clergy are available for pastoral appointments. You are invited to contact them directly to set up an appointment. Note that Pr. Ekdale's day off is Friday. Pr. Valeriano is in the office on Wednesdays. Pr. Chuck Lewis is also available to visit in the hospital and/or bring Holy Communion to you. Please contact Pr. Ekdale to request a visit.
4. If you are aware of a St. Mark's member who is hospitalized or in need of pastoral care, please contact the pastors to let them know. Do not assume that the clergy have been informed or are even aware of the situation - please help out by communicating with our pastors directly. They want to know how they can be of help. Thanks!



# Good news from Bread for the World about hungry people in 2015!

Bread for the World, a Christian advocacy office based in Washington D.C. with strong Lutheran connections, tells us 2015 was a record year for letters and emails advocating for hungry people in the United States and around the world.

Because of our good letter writing, Congress has done the following for hungry people:

1. Made permanent the earned income tax credit and child tax credit which are linked to improved maternal and child health as well as better performance by children in school.
2. Passed the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2015 which protects funding for programs such as the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC). Bread has been encouraging this since 2011.
3. Passed a 2016 spending bill which included an increase of \$1.1 billion in response to the ongoing humanitarian crises in Syria, Yemen and South Sudan.
4. Thanks to widespread involvement by Bread members and congregations – as part of the 2015 Offering of Letters – members of Congress heard a strong message of support for our nation's child nutrition programs. Several bills were introduced to close the summer meals gap. Congress is committed to passing bipartisan child nutrition reauthorization in 2016.



You can read more about the work of Bread for the World at [www.bread.org](http://www.bread.org).

Our next St Mark's Bread letter writing will be on May 29, "Survive and Thrive." Watch for information about how you can participate.

## Pr. Mitri Raheb's Speech

The acceptance speech of Pr. Mitri Raheb, of Christmas Lutheran Church in Bethlehem, to the Swedish Parliament, on the occasion of receiving the Olof Palme Prize in January 2016. He shared the prize with Israeli journalist Gideon Levy. Olof Palme was a prime minister of Sweden who espoused humanitarian values and was assassinated by an unknown assailant. Link to his speech: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rWvHDiZR9R4&feature=youtu.be>



# ADULT FORUM SCHEDULE

Location - auditorium unless otherwise noted

Sundays – 10:05 am – 10:55 am

**Come and learn, grow, and expand your faith through the variety of teachers and topics!**

**March 6 – Bible study on Luke 13:1-5 – “Power and Powerlessness” with Pr. Tita**

**March 13 – Bible study on Joshua 5:9-12 “A Grand Cast” with Pr. Elizabeth**

**March 20 – Bible study on John 12:1-8 “Abundant Faith” with Pr. Elizabeth**

**March 27 – no forum – Easter Egg hunt on the Square**

**April 3 – Mt. Cross Lutheran Camp**

Come and learn more about this treasure – a wonderful Lutheran camp located in the Santa Cruz mountains available for you, your family, your children and grandchildren to use and enjoy. Kyle Damiano on staff at Mt. Cross will share information with us – including their wonderful summer program!

**April 10 - Islam 101**

Our own Dr. Jennifer Snow (Pr Tita's spouse) will help us understand the basics of Islam. What is the difference between Sunni and Shi'a? What's a prophet? When we talk about “shari'a,” what do we really mean – and what do Muslims mean? Come and learn a little bit about the diverse and deep Muslim faith, approached from the point of view of history and culture. Our goal will be to become familiar with some of the concepts, people, events, and religious commitments that shape Muslim Life.

**April 17 – Christian-Muslim relations from the year 611 to now**

We will learn about the most pertinent details and events in the relationship between these two Abrahamic Faith Traditions

**April 24 – The radicalization of Muslims in the 21st Century**

This forum will bring a better understanding as to why radical groups have formed (Daesh, Al Qaeda and Boko Haram) and what fuels their agenda

**May 1 – Theological Responses to Religious Extremism**

In what ways can we respond with and in our Christian faith to acts of religious extremism that occur overseas, as well as here in the United States?

Karen Hernandez, who is United Methodist and a Latina, has focused her education in these areas as well as religious fundamentalism and extremism. She will be teaching all three forums on these very timely topics.

**May 8 – “Root Causes: The Pushes and Pulls that Contribute to Someone Leaving ‘Home’”**

Rev. Deborah Lee will be our preacher and teacher on May 8 helping us to understand the critical issues around immigration and refugees. She works with faith communities to engage, accompany and advocate for the fair treatment and dignity of immigrants.

**May 15 – Global Music with Pr. Tita**

Bring your instruments and be ready to learn, sing, and celebrate the gift of global music

**May 22 – Young Adults in Global Mission (YAGM) is in partnership with the Lutheran Church of Rwanda**

Meet Rev. Kate Warn, our preacher and teacher on May 22 who coordinates the YAGM program in Rwanda. We support Rev. Warn through our ministry budget. We welcome her to St. Mark's and the strengthening of our relationship with her and ministry in Rwanda

**May 29 – Bread for the World letter writing**

**June 12 and June 19 – Confronting Racism**

Mary Ritter will facilitate our reflection as we watch the webinar with ELCA Presiding Bishop and her guests who include: Judge Yolanda Tanner, an ELCA member who serves as an Associate Judge for the Baltimore City Circuit Court; Leonard Duncan, an ELCA member who will share his experience of incarceration, poverty and homelessness; and Charlene Guiliani, ELCA member and former police sergeant.



# COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

## November 2015

- Received its annual report from the Endowment Fund Committee.
- Voted to send letter to elected officials in support of peace negotiations in El Salvador, at the behest of Mary Ritter and Liv Beck, recently returned from the Encuentro of sister parishes.
- Modified the Safe Congregations policy to require training of staff and Council members every three years (former policy had required training every two years.)
- Approved short term contracts with bookkeeper Rachel Friedland.
- Approved entering into contract with Hyland Studio to remove, restore and replace the rose window, with the initial funding of \$7,500 coming from Bequests and Memorial Funds, and funding for the remaining work to be decided once Council knows the amount pledged to the capital campaign.
- Approved entering into a contract with East Bay Restaurant Supply to make and install steel cabinets for the kitchen.

## December 2015 (Special Meeting)

- Passed resolution specifying that Council will designate representatives to maintain St. Mark's account with Deutsche Bank.
- Designated Jeremy McClain and Rachel Friedland as said representatives of St. Mark's with Deutsche Bank.

## January 2016

- Formulated a recommendation to the congregation regarding the capital campaign projects, to be considered at the annual meeting
- Reviewed and recommended the 2016 budget to the congregation
- Passed motions designating portions of the cash salaries of Prs. Ekdale and Valeriano as housing and furnishing allowances
- Increased the amount tithed to the Sierra Pacific Synod by approximately \$2000, to reflect the increase in actual general envelope giving for 2015
- Approved the use of the ULC auditorium for an emergency El Niño shelter as needed, to support First Unitarian Universalist Church's ministry.

The Church Council elected its 2016 officers (who comprise its Executive Committee) at its meeting on February 18: Matt Helland, President; Mark Semonian, Vice President; Marisa Lee, Secretary; and Jane Borg, Member at Large. Steve Ernst, a regular worshipper who will be baptized and welcomed into membership at St. Mark's at the Easter Vigil, was affirmed as Treasurer. He will be appointed at the April Council meeting.



Matt Helland



Mark Semonian



Marisa Lee



Steve Ernst



Jane Borg





## St. Mark's Worship Schedule

### Sundays

9:00 am.....HOLY COMMUNION with Children's Time  
10:00 am.....Refreshments and Fellowship Hour  
11:00 am.....CHORAL EUCHARIST  
12:15 pm.....Refreshments and Fellowship Hour

### Wednesdays

6:45 pm.....Mid Week Worship

### Check our weekly Parish Announcements

(<http://www.stmarks-sf.org/blog/>)

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

Church Office Hours

Monday through Friday 9:00 am to 5:00 pm

### Staff

The Rev. Elizabeth E. Ekdale, Lead Pastor...x 2300...ekdale@stmarks-sf.org

The Rev. Tita Valeriano, Interim Pastor...x2460...valeriano@stmarks-sf.org

Dr. Timothy Zerlang, Director of Music...x 2330...zerlang@stmarks-sf.org

Rachel Friedland, Bookkeeper/Accountant...x 2320...friedland@stmarks-sf.org

Stefani Lawrence, Communications & Media Coordinator...x2260...lawrence@stmarks-sf.org

Chiara DeJoy, Events Administrator...x2290 dejoy@stmarks-sf.org

Carl Storey, Security

Elvira Markov & Johanna Najera, Nursery Attendants

Jenny Hart, Sunday School Coordinator

The Rev. Chuck Lewis, Visitation Pastor

Matt Helland, Church Council President...helland@stmarks-sf.org

### 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

Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary...(510) 524-5264

Sierra Pacific Synod...(800) 275-3522

ELCA (national office in Chicago)...(800) 638-3522

