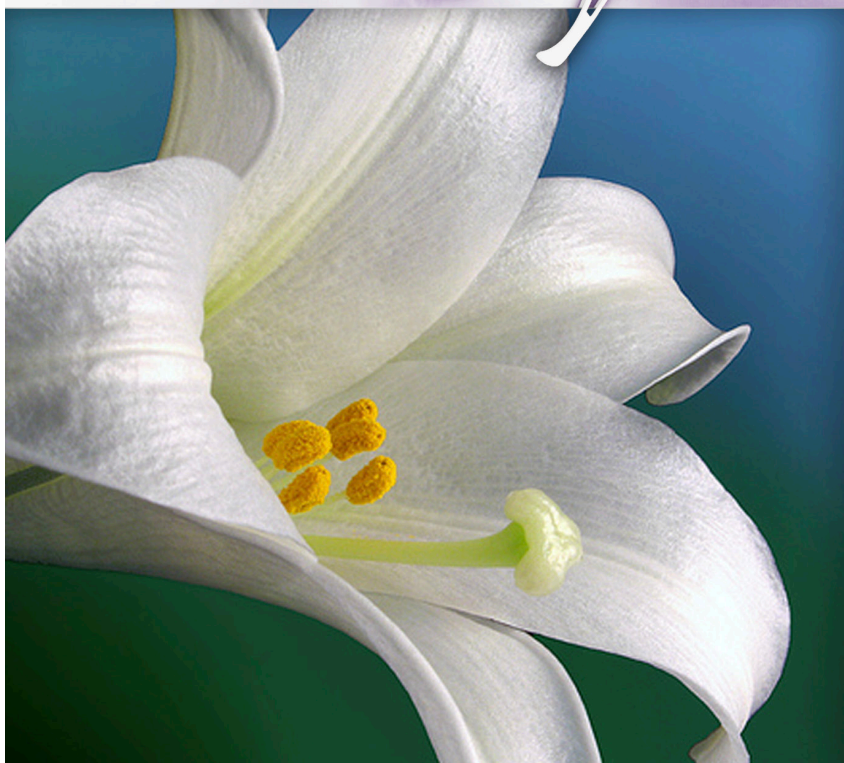


*St Mark's*  
LUTHERAN CHURCH  
**VOICE**  
QUARTERLY JOURNAL OF REFLECTION & NEWS



**Spring 2017**  
**MARCH-MAY**

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# EASTER DAY

**APRIL 16**  
**9:00AM**  
**SERVICE**

*Holy Communion and Children's Time at 9:00AM*

**10:15AM**  
**EASTER**  
**EGG HUNT**

*Easter Egg Hunt for All Children on the Square at 10:15AM*

**10:30AM**  
**EASTER MUSIC**

*Easter Music, J.S. Bach's Christ lag in Todes Banden at 10:30AM*

**11:00AM**  
**SERVICE**

*Choral Eucharist Worship Service at 11:00AM*

# HOLY WEEK

## PALM SUNDAY

*April 9th - Services at 9:00AM and 11:00AM  
Procession Around the Square*

## MAUNDY THURSDAY

*Eat  
Drink  
Wash  
Love*

*April 13th - Service at 7:00PM  
Stripping of the Altar and Holy Communion*

## GOOD FRIDAY

*April 14th - 12:00PM - Stations of the Cross  
7:00PM - The Passion According to St. John*

## EASTER VIGIL

*This is the Night...*

*April 15th - 8:00PM - Service of Light, Scripture Readings, and  
Holy Communion - Baptism and Affirmation of Baptism*

# ASH WEDNESDAY

MARCH 1, 2017

Services at  
12:00PM and 7:00PM

*Imposition of Ashes and  
Holy Communion*



WEDNESDAYS AT ST. MARK'S DURING THE SEASON OF LENT  
MARCH 8 – APRIL 5

6:00 - Community Soup Supper

6:45 - "With Awe and Love" Lenten worship

7:30 - Lenten Book Study,

"The Last Words of Jesus – A Meditation on Love and Suffering" by Daniel Horan  
Led by Greg Jahnke, Pr. Ron and Pr. Elizabeth

## EASTER FLOWERS

You can help us beautify St. Mark's Sanctuary by making a donation for our Easter flowers. You can make the donation in honor of, or in memory of, a loved one. Please go to [www.stmarks-sf.org/give-a-gift](http://www.stmarks-sf.org/give-a-gift) to make a donation. Please send all donations by April 10th.



## LENTEN BOXES FOR ALMSGIVING

During the season of Lent, we are invited to remember the poor through our giving. Our Lenten coin boxes are for you to deposit your change throughout the 40 days of Lent. The proceeds will be donated to Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Services.

## EASTER MORNING MUSIC J.S. BACH'S CHRIST LAG IN TODES BANDEN

This year, as we prepare for the 500th anniversary commemoration of Luther's 95 theses, we have been exploring instrumental and choral settings of Luther's chorales. We will continue with Christ lag in Todesbanden during the season of Easter, beginning on Easter Sunday @ 10:30 am when the choir will offer J.S. Bach's early, but masterful cantata BWV 4.

J. S. Bach's Christ lag in Todes Banden, (BWV) 4 is a chorale cantata, a style in which both text and music are based on a hymn. The cantata is based on the seven stanzas of Luther's chorale, which was derived from Medieval models. Bach used the unchanged words of a stanza of the chorale in each of the seven vocal movements, in the format of chorale variations per omnes versus (for all stanzas), and he used its tune as a cantus firmus. After an opening sinfonia, the variations are arranged symmetrically: chorus-duet-solo-chorus-solo-duet-chorus, with the focus on the central fourth stanza about the battle between Life and Death.

Christ lag in Todes Banden is Bach's first cantata for Easter – in fact, his only extant original composition for the first day of the feast – and his earliest surviving chorale cantata. It was related to his application for a post at a Lutheran church at Mühlhausen. He later repeatedly performed it in Leipzig, beginning in 1724 when he first celebrated Easter there. Only this second version survives. It is scored for four vocal parts and a Baroque instrumental ensemble with two components, an instrumental "choir" of cornet (we will use trumpet) and three trombones doubling the choral voices, and two violins, two violas, and continuo. While this scoring reflects the resources at Bach's disposal (the cornetto and brass players would have been available because of the city band tradition in Leipzig). Even in Bach's time, this cantata would have been considered a bit 'old-fashioned,' but we know that Bach performed it several times during his tenure as Kantor in Leipzig.

Easter morning will also include Bach's organ setting of "Christ Is Arisen," a modern setting of "In Thee Is Gladness," and a short motet by Martin Luther himself, "Non moriar."



## Lenten Soup Suppers

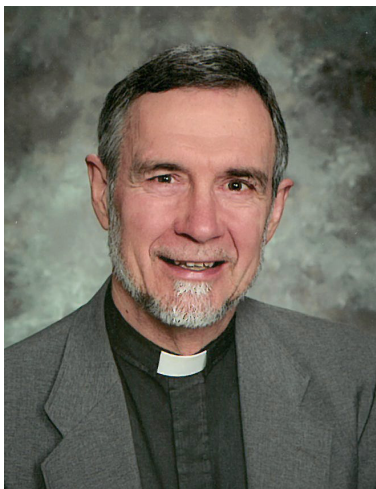
### INVITATION TO THE SOUP MAKERS OF THE CONGREGATION!

Potato Cheese, Tomato, Lentil, and Chicken Noodle . . . if you make the soup, we will eat, enjoy it and praise your soup making abilities! A Thrivent Action Team grant will offset all grocery expenses for soup making. Pick up the card from the office in order to purchase your groceries.

We need soup for our Wednesday evening community dinners on these dates: March 8, 15, 22, 29, and April 5.

Sign up at [www.stmarks-sf.org/lenten-soup-suppers](http://www.stmarks-sf.org/lenten-soup-suppers) if you can make any kind (vegetarian preferable) of soup for 25 hungry people.

You can use the church kitchen to make the soup or simply drop it by - but we hope that you will stay and eat it with the rest of the community and then worship at our "With Awe and Love" service beginning at 6:45. Soup at 6:00 - worship at 6:45 - for Lent! Thank you!



**PR. RON MOE-LOBEDA**

## WELCOME PR. RON MOE-LOBEDA

With great joy and delight, I look forward to our ministry together at St. Mark's Lutheran Church. As a way of introduction (besides what already has been shared with you), I come from a strong Germanic background on both sides of my family. Having been born in Tacoma, Washington, I am the second of 6 children—the rest all being sisters. Having attended a Missouri Synod

parochial school for 9 years, I made a decision in 9th grade to become a pastor. After 3 years of public high school, I went through 4 years of LC-MS college and 2 years at Concordia Seminary in St. Louis before deciding to leave the seminary and pursue another course of study at California State University at Northridge where I received a Master's Degree in Recreation Administration. I often quip that I learned more down-to-earth theology in those two years at a secular university than I had in 6 years of formal religious education.

After graduating from CSUN, I stayed in Los Angeles for 3 more years and worked as a residential counselor at Rancho San Antonio in Chatsworth—a home for teenage boys who were wards of the court. Longing to get back to the Pacific Northwest, I accepted a call in 1977 to serve Christ Lutheran Church (ALC) in Tacoma as a full-time Youth Minister. For the next 4 years, I facilitated programs for junior high youth, high school youth, and single young adults, and I was responsible for the entire confirmation program. When my wife, Cynthia, and I married in August, 1981, we decided to settle in Seattle where I received a call from 4 Lutheran congregations in northeast Seattle to serve as their Youth Minister for a creative joint ministry that had been established one year previously. As I was completing my second year in this exciting ministry, I decided to return to seminary and complete my Master's of Divinity.

I chose to attend Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary because that was the only seminary that would consider giving me an equivalency for internship since I already had served the church full-time for 6 years after 2 years of theological education. During that next year, Cynthia remained in Seattle to continue in her profession as the Director of a senior center. My first call right out of seminary was a 3-year term call as the Associate Pastor at Phinney Ridge Lutheran Church in Seattle. During my third year at PRLC, Cynthia decided to pursue her passion of advocating for justice in Central America. This call took us to Washington DC where she served as the Director of the Center for Global Education in their east coast office. As I was without a call at the time, I chose to be the full-time dad for our first child, Jonathan Leif, who was born 4 months after we settled in DC.

Ten months later, I received a call to serve Luther Place Memorial Church as their Associate Pastor. Along with being the pastor on staff that primarily attended to the pastoral needs of the congregation, I also became immersed in LPMC's ministry with homeless women. During my tenure there, the congregation decided to build an 8-story structure on its parking lot to include 51-units of affordable housing and all of the programs for homeless women that comprised what had become known as N Street Village. I served as the Program Development Coordinator for that \$17 million project. About that same time, our second child, Gabriel David, was born. When the senior pastor announced his retirement in 1996, I also was obliged to resign my call and decided that it was time to return to the Pacific Northwest to seek a call.

With the opening of that door, the Spirit responded quickly and within a few months I was called to serve as the pastor at University Lutheran Church in Seattle—a metropolitan congregation dedicated to social justice and advocacy. While at ULC, we gave birth to Elizabeth Gregory Home—a ministry that provided a day center and transitional housing for homeless women. We also gave birth to the Sanctuary Arts Center—a ministry with homeless young adults that focused on the arts. The congregation also opened its doors to a year-round shelter for homeless women and a dinner program for homeless young adults (3 nights/week). ULC also was very involved in pursuing ecumenical relationships with the congregations in the University District and together established the U District Ecumenical Parish. As an outgrowth of UDEP, a group of visionaries also established the U District Ecumenical Campus Coalition in order to develop a plan to build a new structure that would house several of the churches in the U District.

When Cynthia received the call to serve at PLTS as a professor of Christian Ethics beginning in the fall of 2015, I decided to leave ULC a year later without call and join her in Berkeley. It was a good time to transition from ULC because we had just completed the renovation of our organ and the construction of a Wellness Center, including 2 showers, for Elizabeth Gregory Home. As I now move into my new call as the Associate Pastor at St. Mark's, I bring with me the desire and hope that, with Pastor Elizabeth, we can look to the future of this wonderful congregation and consider together how we might want to reach out into the community and develop our land while tending to the needs of our own members, especially our children, youth, and young adults as they face the challenge of a society and world that is so longs for the love that binds us together as one people in Jesus Christ by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Peace,

Pastor Ron

# FOR SUCH A TIME AS THIS: THE FINAL REPORT FROM THE CALL COMMITTEE

## January 29, 2017

Let me begin by expressing my deep gratitude to the Call Committee: Pr. Elizabeth Ekdale, Laura Evenson, Greg Jahnke, Phil Krikau, Cora Rose, and Andrew Sallach and to Lew Randall and Gretchen Armstrong who needed to step off the Committee during the process.

A resounding thank you to: Pr. Tita, John Barton, the Confirmation class, Tim Zerlang, Matt Helland, the Office Staff, the Council, and to you, the congregation, for your thoughts and prayerful support.

What better way to begin than with a few words about ministry from Martin Luther?

“All Christians are called to the ministry of serving God and neighbor, but for the sake of good order in the church certain Christians are specially called to the ordained ministry of Word and Sacrament.”

On January 29th, the congregation voted to call the Rev. Ronald Moe-Lobeda to ministry with us here on the Square and in the wider world. This happy moment was the culmination of a process begun over 15 months ago when the Call Committee formed to seek a new leader on your behalf in light of Pr. Bekah Davis’ surprising resignation.

We took our task seriously—first meeting with Bishop’s Associate, Rev. Nancy Fenuik Nelson, in September 2015 and subsequently scaling the mountain of paperwork that was the Ministry Site Profile. We gazed deep into the heart of the congregation to determine who we are and what sort of leader could help us become who the Spirit is molding us to be. We identified three ministry areas poised for growth—children-youth-young adult-family ministry, outreach to our local community, and multicultural ministry—and desired an experienced pastor to support these endeavors.

The Ministry Site Profile was uploaded to the ELCA portal in April 2016 so that those looking for call could learn about us and about our ministry. Rev. Nelson forwarded Rostered Leader Profiles from interested candidates to us beginning in July.

Between July and October, we interviewed eight candidates from across the country via Skype:

- 3 women; 5 men
- 3 persons of color
- 2 “first call;” others with 3 to 30 years of pastoral experience

We invited three candidates to join us for two days in December. During their time with us, each had formal and informal interactions with Committee members, with staff, and with you. Activities included:

- joining members of the Committee in a neighborhood walk-about from Cathedral Hill to deep in the Tenderloin and mostly in the rain
- meeting with Pr. Elizabeth
- worshipping at both Sunday services and enjoying Coffee Hour
- attending Confirmation class
- speaking with Tim Zerlang and Matt Helland
- and, having dinner and a formal interview with the Call Committee

We enjoyed our time with each of them.

While many people were sipping eggnog and feasting on 12th Night Cake, your Call Committee celebrated the 12 Days of Christmas by watching sermon videos and querying references.

After joyful but serious conversation and prayerful consideration, the Call Committee discerned that Pr. Moe-Lobeda is the Spirit-filled leader for us in this time and place.

Let me close this final report by giving you a deeper sense of Pr. Moe-Lobeda through sharing some responses from Call Committee members when asked to describe him and his ministry commitments using a single word: community, experienced, enthusiastic, justice, prophetic, wise, action-oriented, and a pastoral heart. He is a leader for us in such a time as this.

Margaret R. McLean, Chair  
SMLC Call Committee

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# PR. RON'S INSTALLATION MARCH 26, 2017 AT 11:00AM

Preacher: Dr. Phyllis Anderson

Rev. John Kuehner, Dean of San Francisco and Peninsula Conference will install Pr. Ron.

\*We will still have our regular 9:00AM worship service.



PR. TITA, JEN, AND TA'AL

Grace and peace to you from our Parent God, Jesus our Christ and the Holy Spirit whose sustaining presence we celebrate and experience this day.

This day was expected from the time I began my interim ministry with you. I have both joy and sadness in my heart as I now say goodbye. There are not enough words to thank you for your support, hospitality and love to me and my family, Jennifer and Ta'al. It is my ardent prayer that St. Mark's will continue to be a shining beacon of hope for those rejected, unheard, the least, the last and the lost in this beautiful city. May the grace and mercy of the gospel we preach and live out give you courage and boldness as you continue to love one another, serve God and your neighbor, and be the church you are called to be.

Thank you, Pastor Elizabeth, the staff and ministry leaders, whom I have learned from and humbly worked with, side by side, in our mission and ministry. In the short 16 months I was here, you also have accompanied me in both the joys

and pains of life and affirmed my calling to the church.

As for me, please join my prayers, as I continue to wait and discern where God is calling me next. Meanwhile, Jennifer, Ta'al and I will remain committed to pray for you all.

In our parting, I cannot think of better words to share with you written by Apostle Paul to the Philippians. "I thank my God every-time I remember you, constantly praying with joy in every one of my partners for all of you, because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now. I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ." (Philippians 1:3-16)

May your light continue to shine forth always and forever.

Thank you very much for all the farewell gifts to my family - food, music, children's books, cross, and some inspirational decors. We will definitely enjoy them.

Peace and blessings,

Pastor Tita Valeriano, Jennifer and Taal



# ST. MARK'S IS AN AMMPARO WELCOMING CONGREGATION!

At the January 29, 2017 Annual Meeting, St. Mark's prayerfully committed to be the ELCA Sierra Pacific Synod's fourth Welcoming Congregation.

We have heard for years from our sisters and brothers in El Salvador about the violence they face every day. Our beloved late Pastor Norma Castillo from Cordero de Dios, St. Mark's sister parish in El Salvador, always encouraged us to seek out and work with Salvadorans who had needed to escape the violence and had made the treacherous trip to California.



Immigrants crossing through Guatemala

The ELCA Churchwide Assembly in August 2016 voted overwhelmingly to support the AMMPARO Initiative – Accompanying Migrant Minors with Protection, Advocacy, Representation and Opportunities. Three other Sierra Pacific Synod congregations have become Welcoming Congregations – congregations which make a commitment to welcome and minister to migrant guests in the community. St. Mark's is now the fourth.

Becoming a Welcoming Congregation requires a commitment by the congregation. Welcoming Congregations are willing to be a church home for migrant children and older individuals and families in the same way that congregations several generations ago welcomed Lutheran migrants from Europe, then Southeast Asia and Africa, helping them navigate life in their new homes.

A Welcoming Congregation is encouraged to consider do the following:

1. Pray for migrants and their families.
2. Invite migrants to join in the life of the congregation.
3. Form accompaniment teams to meet a migrant child, adult individual or family, and support them in a variety of ways, including such activities as having dinner with them once a month, and phoning or texting them weekly.
4. Provide courtroom accompaniment at Immigration Court in San Francisco for the day. Stories abound about the positive response in the courtroom when there is an advocate for the immigrant, even if the advocate is not a lawyer or even a Spanish speaker!
5. And finally, advocate for public policy that will positively impact the current immigration crisis.

St. Mark's had two representatives on a recent ELCA visit to the Texas–Mexico border at El Paso. Allana Helland and Pastor Tita Valeriano traveled with other Lutherans and spoke with immigrants and Immigration Customs Enforcement (ICE) officers. Here is what Allana shared upon her return: “AMMPARO is basically a strategy set forth by the ELCA. A hope, a dream and a recommendation for important work to be done. It's up to us, each individual congregation – to decide how AMMPARO lives in our church. Does it mean we do a partnership with a local organization to support migrant minors in their court appointments? Does it mean we mail goods to the churches at the border doing triage work with migrants? Does it mean we organize a delegation to go to the border and educate our youth? Does it mean we visit migrants in detention and pray with them? Does it mean all of the above? We decide how AMMPARO happens here. But we have a charge – a challenge – to understand the crisis and find a way, or ways to respond here in this community.”



Pr. Norma Castillo and Allana Helland in November 2011

Several St. Mark's members have now reached out to local San Francisco and Bay Area organizations serving migrants, and have begun to think of ways to accompany, protect, advocate, represent and help migrants seek opportunities. A leadership group has met and feels we are ready to respond to the needs of migrants in our midst.

Watch for opportunities to be involved as we prayerfully Accompany Migrant Minors (and adult individuals and families) with Protection, Advocacy, Representation, and Opportunities.

Pastor Norma would be so pleased that we are doing this!

St. Mark's Welcoming Congregation Team

# NOT JUST ANY ORDINARY FRIDAY NIGHT AT ST. MARK'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

St. Mark's confirmation students, along with Pr. Tita and Pr. Elizabeth, arrived at 6:00 pm to serve the evening meal at the St. Mark's homeless shelter. We expected to welcome the 60 homeless men and help serve their evening meal. We did that. What we didn't expect was the opportunity to serve alongside our Jewish friends from Temple Emanu-El and to be part of their Shabbat service.



Senior Rabbi Jonathan Singer brought a loaf of challah bread and grape juice and led all of us, homeless men and confirmation students alike, in the singing of the Friday evening prayers - a prelude to the Jewish Shabbat meal and sabbath. We became part of this sacred worship service and felt God's blessing upon the simple meal of rice, beans and burritos. We too felt the blessing that God was offering in those prayers. It struck all of us that even in the midst of a country divided and torn, we experienced unity in our purpose and in our humanity. We were Jews and Christians, homeless men and staff, worshipping together and then eating the blessed meal together. That which was divided and torn became one.

St. Mark's provides the "space for grace" - for these kinds of connections on a daily basis. Our mission of serving the homeless has a direct impact on their lives - they are fed a warm meal and know they are welcome in this space. Our youth were able to experience unity and a common sense of purpose with the volunteers from Temple Emanu-El. As Rabbi Singer exclaimed, "There are very few places where Jew and Christian can come together and serve together. You are doing this at St. Mark's!"



## PALESTINE: UNLIMITED - PHOTOS PRESENT CURRENT IMAGES OF BETHLEHEM

Did you see the photos from Bethlehem? Throughout December St. Mark's hosted a unique photography exhibit by young Palestinian artists and media students from Dar al-Kalima University College of Arts and Culture in Bethlehem. PALESTINE: UNLIMITED transformed the walls of Heritage Hall into a photo gallery presenting the winners from Dar al-Kalima's first photographic competition. Appropriately in the season of Advent, we were surrounded by moving and thought-provoking images of life in today's Bethlehem, which has been surrounded by Israel's Separation Wall since 2002. This year Palestine is experiencing its 50th year of military occupation by Israel!

These photographs by young Palestinians revealed for us their talents and hopes that thrive behind, and in spite of, the Separation Wall. The poster photo of a young girl reaching upwards against the background of a wall, beyond the limitations of her situation, illustrated poignantly the hope and dreams of a child's unlimited aspirations, a spirit of determination to rise above her limiting circumstances. Other photos portrayed traumas of home demolition and disappearances of loved ones; strong, proud, aspiring youth; weary elders at work and prayer; perplexed, innocent children robbed of their childhood by ubiquitous military presence. But their strength of character and humanity permeated all photos.



It is our hope that viewers were impressed and touched by the photos' excellence and message, the students' creativity and skills, and the positive spirit and potential they represent. Dar al-Kalima University is funded primarily by Lutherans and other communities of faith outside of the Holy Land and offers excellent education for Palestinian Christian and Muslim youth alike. We urge support for this university and the other programs emanating from Rev. Dr. Mitri Raheb's ministry at Bethlehem's Christmas Lutheran Church, which steadfastly build hope through imaginative, proactive, positive programs to achieve peace, justice and fullness of life for all people in the Holy Land. "Hope is what we do!" For more information check [www.brightstarsbethlehem.org](http://www.brightstarsbethlehem.org) ; subscribe to their newsletter and follow their inspiring work.

Support for this outstanding, visionary Lutheran ministry can be given year-round by sending your tax-deductible contribution to Bright Stars of Bethlehem, c/o Mazza Foundation, Bay Area Bright Stars, 900 Mirador Terrace, Pacifica, CA; or to P.O. Box 185, Mt. Morris, IL 61054-0185.

PALESTINE: UNLIMITED was co-sponsored by St. Mark's (through a grant from our Endowment Fund); Grace Lutheran Church of Palo Alto, University Lutheran Chapel in Berkeley, Thrivent Financial for Lutherans, and Bright Stars of Bethlehem. The exhibit has now moved on to St. John's Presbyterian Church, San Francisco for the month of January; and will then continue touring to other Bay Area venues: Santa Cruz for February, Cupertino, Berkeley, then Chicago and beyond – unlimited!

What can one person do to address the Holy Land impasse and injustice?

- Peruse the 3-ring binder on the table in Heritage Hall for stories documenting many of the countless disturbing injustices and events taking place in Palestine-Israel.
- Learn more about the Holy Land and how to advocate for peace at these websites: [www.ELCA.org/peacenotwalls](http://www.ELCA.org/peacenotwalls); [www.CMEP.org](http://www.CMEP.org) (Churches for Middle East Peace); [www.jvp-bayarea.org](http://www.jvp-bayarea.org) (Jewish Voice for Peace) and [www.friends@fosna.org](mailto:www.friends@fosna.org) (Friends of Sabeel in North America, the Voice of Palestinian Christians.) Go and see first-hand. Share your insights with others. Write a letter. Take action. Advocate.
- PRAY for peace and justice!

Holy Land Ministry/Social Ministry of St. Mark's

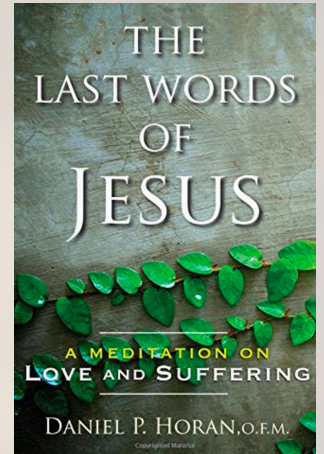
# ADULT EDUCATION AT ST. MARK'S

## LENTEN BOOK STUDY

Wednesday Nights (after Lenten services)

March 8 - April 5

Join us as we consider Christ's last words from the cross. These famous last 7 words have been written about, set to music, and been the source of meditation for centuries. What do they mean to us today? We will read and discuss Daniel P. Horan's book, "The Last Words of Jesus". It is subtitled – A Meditation on Love and Suffering. The group will be led by Pastors Elizabeth & Ron and Greg Jahnke. Books can be purchased from Amazon. A few will be available for purchase Wednesday evenings.



## ADULT FORUM

### With New Voices

Studying the Small Catechism with Pr. Elizabeth Ekdale and Dr. Kyle Schiefelbein

March 5 – April 2

The Lutheran Community of faith today includes a rich and diverse choir of voices. This Adult Forum series invites you into a fresh engagement with the Small Catechism as a way of embodying the hope and grace from God in dealing with today's challenging issues. We are not attempting to return to some imagined purified Christianity in the 1500s nor attempting to recapture some nostalgia rooted in the 1900s. We invite you to hear the gospel anew in our time and to be renewed in our voices for this day.

**March 5:** "With New Voices": Introducing Luther's Small Catechism to the 21st-Century

**March 12:** Rick Steves' Luther and the Reformation video – part one and discussion

**March 19:** "What Does This Mean?": Investigating the Texts of the Catechism

**March 26:** Rick Steves' Luther and the Reformation video – part two and discussion

**April 2:** "This is Most Certainly True": Living and Praying the Catechism in Daily Life

### Faith, Sexism, and Justice

Facilitated by Pr. Elizabeth Ekdale, Pr. Ron Moe-Lobeda and Dr. Margaret McLean

April 30 – May 28

We will study and discuss "Faith, Sexism, Justice" utilizing the study document of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. We hope these forums will generate honest and empowering conversations about sexism and how it negatively affects individuals and families in our homes, congregations and communities. These issues can be complex and hard for some to talk about. We trust, though, that when we come together as members of the body of Christ, the Holy Spirit is with us and among us. Everyone is invited to these forums – men, women, young, old: **ALL** are welcome.

## WOMEN'S MONTHLY STUDY GATHERINGS

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

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

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

Our books for this time are:

**March 7** – finish the last half of Resilient Reformer by Timothy Lull & Derek Nelson (Note, we will meet at Jo Chadwick's. Please contact Suzanne Smith for more information.)

**April 4** – Romeo and Grande: Companions on the Journey by Ana Maria Pineda

**May 2** – TBD

### 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. This winter our Bible study will center on "Galatians: Christian faith and Christian freedom." Our program topics are:

**March 14** – Heirs of the Promise

**April 11** – For Freedom Christ Has Set Us Free

**May 9** – All Anew

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

## WELCA WORKSHOPS

### March 11, 18 and 25 – Women and Justice

St. Mark's-St. Paulus Women of the ELCA (WELCA) invites women of all ages to attend Saturday morning workshops to learn about and discuss some of the many issues addressed in the ELCA's upcoming Women and Justice social statement titled "Faith, Sexism, Justice". Some of the topics to be discussed include: sexism, violence against women and girls, the misuse of scripture against women and girls, and economic sexism. There will also be opportunities to provide feedback for the draft social statement.

The workshops will be held Saturday mornings from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. on March 11, 18 and 25 in Heritage Hall. Childcare will be provided, and light refreshments will be served.

Teenagers are especially encouraged to attend on March 25, when we plan to study and discuss "Mis-representation" - how women and girls are depicted in media.

## NEWS FROM SUNDAY SCHOOL BY JENNY HART

St. Mark's Sunday School has many wonderful traditions. We have met as a "Big Group", and celebrated Carnival, Ash Wednesday and Passover for years. These celebrations are ways we make Christian traditions come alive for our students. We not only teach the Bible stories, but we actively engage in the celebrations.

This year our upcoming "Big Groups", when all age groups meet together, will be on the following dates:

**February 26th:** We start off with a "Carnival" like celebration with Carnival beads and decorations, sparkling cider and sweets. We make a big deal out of creating a party atmosphere. About half-way through class time we transition into Lent, the burning of ashes and the ripping of our garments, all in preparation for the season of Lent.

**April 2nd:** We will celebrate Passover together, a tradition from the Hebrew Scriptures that we embrace at Sunday School. We retell the Hebrew Scripture story of the Exodus and we celebrate Seder together as a "Big Group". We always have traditional food and drink while retelling the story. Again, we teach the story, while celebrating together, keeping learning alive!!

Students engage in their learning through seeing, feeling, tasting and talking, and celebrating Christian traditions. Children will remember participating in these events and will reflect on their active spiritual engagement. In this way Sunday School at St. Mark's brings student's Christian faith and traditions to life! Tell others!!

## STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE FORWARD IN FAITH...LIFTED BY LOVE<sup>2</sup>

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

This year's campaign, "Forward in Faith...lifted by love<sup>2</sup>" is to serve as an inspiration, for us to reflect on the importance of stewardship in our everyday Christian life, and also to serve as an opportunity to move forward in faith with the assurance that God's love will support and lift us. In our campaign, we invited the community in a six-week meditation on what it means to be a steward, by pondering three questions:

How do I SPEND my life?

How do I SPEND my time?

How do I SPEND my blessings?

Our fall pledge drive started on October 23 and ended on Celebration Sunday November 27, where we held a festive Thanksgiving dinner to celebrate the culmination of our campaign and return our pledges for 2017. Our campaign theme Forward In Faith...Lifted by Love<sup>2</sup>, is a continuation of last year, as we are entering the second year of a three year capital campaign.

Our Sunday temple talks focused on the three questions of how one spends his/her life, time and blessings. We were uplifted by the talks from...



...Tim Bohan, chair of the FEW (floors, elevator and windows) committee, shared what it means to be a steward;  
...Mila Sall shared that at 15, she knows this is a loving community that has known her almost her entire life and cares for her;  
...Rev. Brian Stein-Webber, Interim Chief Administrative Officer and Director of Seminary Relations at Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary (PLTS) in Berkeley, shared what it means to be a steward;  
...Mary Ritter shared an inspirational story of women who have been lifted by love through the PICO Rwanda project.

Our congregational gifts this year were handmade crafts from the women from the PICO Rwanda project, thanks to Mary Ritter. Gifts consisted of animals, jewelry, bags and toys. What a wonderful way to remember these women whose life and time were blessed by God's love. (The journey of these women can be read on our Facebook page; see "Regina Pacis Stewardship Talk" under Photos / Albums).

To date, the congregation has pledged a total of \$397,644 with 117 pledges to the general fund. This amount compares with \$386,646 pledged last year with 114 pledges. There are 14 new pledgers this year. The total number of people who pledged this year was 62% of the congregation, as compared to 59% last year. Pledges can be made any time, though we focus on the end of the prior year to enable us to plan effectively the coming year's budget. (Pledges can be made by contacting the church office, or by using the online form located on the St. Mark's website by clicking on "Forward in Faith...lifted by love".)

We are grateful for the two anonymous donors who provided an additional financial incentive this year. They offered to donate \$100 to the general fund for each additional pledge received between January 10th and February 1st, up to \$2000. They shared, "This is a tangible thanksgiving for a successful call process and in support of "full staffing". We encourage the community of St. Mark's to take a definitive step to support the church we love." During this time frame, we reached 15 new pledges. A special thank you to the anonymous donors in seeking to help uplift our congregation to share our blessings, with an additional gift of \$1,500!

Sincere GRATITUDE and THANKS to all that pledged to the 2017 General Fund and the Capital Campaign! The Stewardship Committee would like to thank ALL members and friends of St. Mark's for their personal gifts of stewardship... your time, talents and resources. Thank you as well for your ongoing involvement in strengthening relationships that exist within our community of faith, our neighborhood and beyond. It is with gratitude and celebration that we embrace our love of our community, and continue to be lifted by love at St. Mark's!  
Stewardship Committee: Roger Ostrem, Greg Jahnke, Jane Borg and Mary Birkel



Celebration Sunday at St. Mark's last November

# CHILI DINNER WITH BISHOP MARK HOLMERUD OF THE SIERRA PACIFIC SYNOD APRIL 6TH AT 6:15PM

All members of St. Mark's are invited to attend a dinner with our Bishop.  
April 6 @ 6:15 for Service of Prayer; 6:45 chili dinner and conversation with Bishop Holmerud

Please RSVP to Rev. John Kuehner at [jkuehne@yahoo.com](mailto:jkuehne@yahoo.com)  
Location: Unity Lutheran Church, 609 Southwood Drive, So. San Francisco

## THE 250 CLUB AT ST. MARK'S

If you are a Thrivent member holding an insurance policy, annuity, investment portfolio, or other qualifying account, you are eligible to apply twice a year for a pre-paid \$250 gift card to support projects at St. Mark's and beyond. For the past few years, St. Mark's has engaged in several projects and received these dollars from Thrivent to support our projects.

To effectively coordinate and utilize the Thrivent Action Team program, Pr. Elizabeth is forming a 250 Club at St. Mark's. If you are a Thrivent member and willing to have your grants support St. Mark's ministries, please contact Pr. Elizabeth to join. She will connect you with a member of St. Mark's who wishes to organize a volunteer project. This member will write up a description of the project for you to use with Thrivent in applying for the Thrivent Action Grant. If approved, your grant will help support a project at St. Mark's, in the community or even around the world! Thank you!



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## LUTHER LECTURE: "LUTHER AND WOMEN" - WITH DR. ELSE MARIE WIBERG PEDERSEN OF AARHUS UNIVERSITY, DENMARK WEDNESDAY, MAR. 8, 2017, 9:00 AM AT PLTS CHAPEL OF THE CROSS

### Schedule

9:00 a.m. – Registration and Refreshments  
9:30 a.m. – Lecture with Q&A  
11:00 a.m. – Worship with lunch to follow  
Advance registration is \$20 and appreciated by March 3rd so we can plan for lunch.

### Topic: Luther and Women

Dr. Wiberg Pedersen will give the lecture titled "Luther and Women." From a contextual, hermeneutical, and theological perspective, Dr. Wiberg Pedersen will elucidate this theme that has been at once highly debated and, in fact, minimally examined. Dr. Wiberg Pedersen will address such questions as: What was the situation of women in the 16th century Europe? How can we (or how should we) understand Luther's alternately Latin and German rhetoric, especially his formulations on and to women, in the many different genres in which he wrote? And how do Luther's view on women and his theology intersect? How can we evaluate Luther's theological reform project and his achievements that took place in a special 16th century setting, historically and politically, without imposing our 21st century values on him, yet with a validity for the future?





## MARTIN LUTHER TOWER NEWS ANNUAL MEETING AND BUILDING PROJECTS

There is another elevator in town, in fact two! St. Mark's is not the only one having elevator work done in 2017. MLT will sign a contract soon to replace the mechanical parts of the Tower's elevators, one at a time, beginning this summer. Work to replace the original HVAC system heating the common areas and the hot water boilers is almost complete. New energy-efficient lighting has been installed in the public areas along with energy-saving upgrades in each apartment, and new apartment doors soon. These projects qualified for a significant rebate from PG&E. And new furniture for the residents' Brockie Lounge is on order.

The Annual Meeting of the Martin Luther Tower Corporation, whose Members are the MLT Board and the St. Mark's Church Council, will take place on Tuesday, March 21st at 6 pm in Heritage Hall. A review of 2016 and activities for 2017 will be followed by the election of new Trustees of the Board. MLT residents and St. Mark's members are invited to attend the meeting to hear reports, ask questions, and have dessert.

## PROPERTY TEAM SPRINGS INTO ACTION

The building and grounds at St. Mark's certainly support the ministries of our congregation, but they are also an important resource for our neighborhood and city. Housing the homeless, providing space for rehearsals, concerts, community meetings, weddings and conferences, St. Mark's Square is host to thousands of visitors every year. All these activities, coupled with our own intensive use of the facilities cause inevitable wear and tear. More importantly, they provide the impetus for improvements that make St. Mark's better for everyone.

Members of the Property Ministry Team meet every 6-8 weeks on Saturdays to help implement projects that will support and enhance our ministry and service. This spring, we will meet from 9 a.m. until noon-ish on April 8th and May 20th. Our projects range from painting rooms to planting shrubs; from cleaning windows to assisting with seasonal decorations. There are projects for a wide range of skills and interests with the common bond of coffee and pastries to get us going.

If you're interested in participating in this rewarding ministry, or if you'd like to learn more about the Property Team, please contact Gary Schilling at 415-218-2778.

## ELEVATOR ADDITION IN SANCTUARY TO BEGIN IN MARCH!

The Elevator Addition will be progressing with visible progress in the coming months. Subcontractors have received the plans for construction and have made a site walk to see where this major improvement to Saint Mark's Church will be located. Pending the issuance of a building permit, construction is expected to begin in mid-March. At that time, Plant Construction will locate a job trailer in the north parking lot and begin the excavation and foundation work for the elevator Addition. As stated earlier, there will be little impact on our ability to use or rent the building. This project is on schedule to be completed by the end of August this year, provided there are no more delays.

# SPRING CONCERTS AT ST. MARK'S

**Friday, Feb. 24 - 8:00 P.M.**

California Bach Society  
North German Masters before J.S. Bach

**Saturday, Feb. 25 - 7:30 P.M.**

Omni Foundation Presents David Russell, Guitar

**Friday, Mar. 3 - 8:00 P.M.**

Civic Symphony Presents  
Mozart to Mendelssohn Winter Concert – “Eroica”

**Saturday, Mar. 4 - 8:00 P.M.**

Volti – Mantras, Miracles, Meditations

**Sunday, Mar. 5 - 4:30 P.M.**

Bay Choral Guild – Songs of Isaiah

**Thursday, Mar. 9 - 7:30 P.M.**

Berkeley Baroque Strings  
Musica Animalia: Larks, Cuckoos & Frogs, Oh My!

**Saturday, Mar. 11 - 2:00 P.M.**

Golden Gate Symphonic Orchestra & Chorus  
Concert for Kids

**Saturday, Mar. 11 - 8:00 P.M.**

Chamber Music San Francisco Jewel Box Series

**Sunday, Mar. 12 - 2:00 P.M.**

San Francisco Night Ministry Concert

**Saturday, Mar. 18 - 8:00 P.M.**

Voices of Music – Pergolesi Stabat Mater

**Sunday, Mar. 19 - 4:00 P.M.**

Junior Bach Festival

**Saturday, Mar. 25 - 4:00 P.M.**

New Esterhazy Quartet – Grand Concert Symphonique II

**Sunday, Mar. 26 - 4:00 P.M.**

San Francisco Choral Artists – Witches, Saints and Mothers: Music by and about Women

**Saturday, Apr. 1 - 8:00 P.M.**

Chamber Music San Francisco Jewel Box Series

**Sunday, Apr. 2 - 4:00 P.M.**

American Bach Soloists  
Bach's Motets for Double Chorus

**Thursday, Apr. 6 - 7:30 P.M.**

Pacific Edge Voices  
Dreams and Machines

**Sunday, Apr. 9 - 4:00 P.M.**

San Francisco Early Music Society presents  
Hallifax and Jeffrey

**Friday, Apr. 21 - 8:00 P.M.**

California Bach Society  
A Charpentier Showcase

**Saturday, Apr. 22 - 7:30 P.M.**

Omni Foundation Presents Ana Vidovic, Guitar

**Sunday, Apr. 30 - 4:00 P.M.**

Esfera Armoniosa

**Friday, May 5 - 8:00 P.M.**

Chamber Music San Francisco Jewel Box Series

**Saturday, May 6 - 2:00 P.M.**

Deutscher Musikverein of San Francisco

**Saturday, May 6 - 8:00 P.M.**

San Francisco Chamber Orchestra

**Sunday, May 7 - 4:00 P.M.**

American Bach Soloists – Handel's La Resurrezione

**Saturday, May 13 - 3:00 P.M.**

Sunset Youth Orchestra

**Saturday, May 20 - 4:00 P.M.**

Musae – A Child's Garden

**Sunday, May 21 - 4:00 P.M.**

Volti – Ivory Depths, Slippery Slopes

## SACRED ACTS AT ST. MARK'S

Baptism of: Faith Carole Mueller, Alexander Cottrell, Sophie Herman

## VOICE DEADLINE

The deadline for the Summer edition of the Voice newsletter will be May 3rd. Please send all submissions to Stefani Lawrence at [lawrence@stmarks-sf.org](mailto:lawrence@stmarks-sf.org).

# Senior luncheon

## MLT MONTHLY LUNCHEON

St. Mark's Seniors, Thursday March 9, is our next MLT monthly luncheon in Heritage Hall from 12:00-1:30pm! Join us for a delicious meal, be among friends, and enjoy a complimentary glass of sparkling wine! The cost is \$5, to be paid by Wednesday, March 1st in the MLT office. Luncheon options are spaghetti and meatballs with string beans and garlic bread or butternut squash lasagna with string beans and garlic bread. Both options include a Caesar salad and Italian cookies for dessert. See you there, March 9, April 13, May 11, and June 8. To sign up, call the MLT office, 415-885-1084

## COUNCIL MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

### November 2016

- Received update from the Call Committee regarding December on-site interviews
- Received update from the HR Committee regarding staffing and staff benefits
- Treasurer's Report: news of bequests and discussion about electronic loose plate giving during worship
- Encouraged CPR and AED training for staff, discussed having AEDs on-site at ULC/St. Mark's

### January 2017

- Acknowledged departing Council members (Clovis Curl, Marisa Lee, Jeremy McClain, Bill Mooney, Andrew Sallach)
- Reviewed and discussed 2017 budget, forwarding recommended budget to congregation
- Made motions designating housing allowances for Pr. Ekdale and call candidate Pr. Ron Moe-Lobeda

# 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

## Wednesdays

6:00 pm.....Community Dinner  
6:45 pm.....Mid Week Worship (Fall, Winter, Spring)

**Check our weekly Parish Announcements and our Facebook page**

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

[www.facebook.com/stmarkssf](http://www.facebook.com/stmarkssf)

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

## Church Office Hours

Monday through Friday 9:00 am to 5:00 pm  
415-928-7770

### Staff

### Extension

### Email

The Rev. Elizabeth E. Ekdale, Lead Pastor	2300	<a href="mailto:ekdale@stmarks-sf.org">ekdale@stmarks-sf.org</a>
The Rev. Ron Moe-Lobeda, Associate Pastor	2460	<a href="mailto:moe-lobeda@stmarks-sf.org">moe-lobeda@stmarks-sf.org</a>
Dr. Timothy Zerlang, Director of Music	2330	<a href="mailto:zerlang@stmarks-sf.org">zerlang@stmarks-sf.org</a>
Winnie Heslin, Director of Operations	2250	<a href="mailto:heslin@stmarks-sf.org">heslin@stmarks-sf.org</a>
Stefani Lawrence, Communications & Media Coordinator	2260	<a href="mailto:lawrence@stmarks-sf.org">lawrence@stmarks-sf.org</a>
Jeremy McClain, Interim Events Administrator	2290	<a href="mailto:events@stmarks-sf.org">events@stmarks-sf.org</a>
Rachel Friedland, Bookkeeper/Accountant	2320	<a href="mailto:accounting@stmarks-sf.org">accounting@stmarks-sf.org</a>

Carl Storey, Security

Edda Mai Johnson, Nursery Coordinator

Elvira Markov & Johanna Najera, 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  
Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary (510) 524-5264  
Sierra Pacific Synod (800) 275-3522  
ELCA (national office in Chicago) (800) 638-3522