



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

Spring 2018
FEBRUARY-APRIL

WHAT'S INSIDE

Lent, Holy Week, and Easter Worship
Schedule

Pr. Elizabeth's Devotion
"Lent to Easter – Death to Life"

Upcoming Adult Education Opportunities

Men's Retreat



HOLY WEEK

PALM SUNDAY

MARCH 25

Services at 9:00AM and 11:00AM
Procession Around the Square



MAUNDY THURSDAY

MARCH 29

7:00PM
Holy Communion and Stripping of the Altar

GOOD FRIDAY

MARCH 30

Services at 12:00PM - Stations of the Cross
7:00PM - The Passion According to St. John



EASTER VIGIL

MARCH 31

Service at 8:00PM - Service of Light, Scripture
Readings, Baptism, Affirmation of Baptism
and Holy Communion

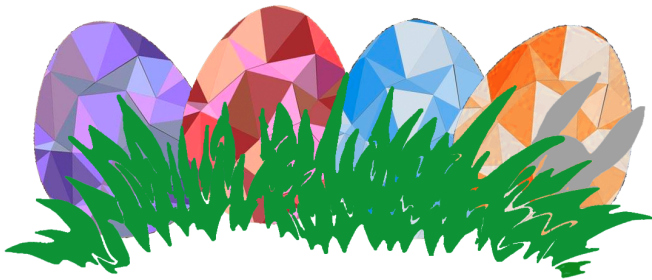


EASTER DAY

9:00AM SERVICE

APRIL 1

Holy Communion and Children's Time



**10:15AM
EGG HUNT**

Easter Egg Hunt
for All Children on the Square

**10:30AM
EASTER MUSIC**

Special Easter Music
J.S. Bach- Brandenburg Concerto No. 5, BWV 50
Johann Schelle - Heut' triumphiert Gottes Sohn
(Today God's Son Triumphs)



11:00AM SERVICE

Choral Eucharist Worship Service



Lent to Easter – Death to Life

“While we live, we live for Christ Jesus, and when we die, we die for Christ Jesus. Both in life and in death we belong to Christ.” Romans 14: 7

We belong to Christ. These words from Paul’s letter to the Romans have shaped my experiences about death throughout my life. When I was a teenager, my Grandmother living in Iowa at the time, came to live with us. We moved a hospital bed into my bedroom and there Grandma would remain until her death. Every morning, I would tiptoe into my bedroom to retrieve school clothes terrified that I would be the one who would find her dead.

Instead, she greeted me with a cheerful hello and sent me to school with a blessing. This routine continued for many months and gradually I discovered that Grandma was not afraid of dying, and therefore, I didn’t need to be afraid for her or myself.

Hospice nurses visited frequently but it was the pastoral visits from the Visitation Pastor – Retired Pastor Raymond Overgaard who brought her abiding peace and hope. Scripture was read, prayers were offered, and communion was shared. Grandma knew she was in God’s hands – she knew that her entire life was held by God and in her death, she would be held by God. Her death, several months later, though sad for all of us, helped me understand as a teenager that in all matters of our lives – life and death and everything in between, - we are God’s.

As a faith community, we enter into an intentional time of hopeful reflection about our lives – we call this time Lent and it will lead us to Holy Week and the celebration of Christ’s death and resurrection. It is a sacred time to remember that our lives are held by God – and not only our lives but our children’s lives, our neighbor’s lives, and all lives. Lent calls us back home into this loving relationship and centers our lives once again on God’s gracious and forgiving love. To this day, I remember my early morning conversations with my Grandmother and feel blessed to have witnessed her faith and love as a teenager. I knew I belonged to Christ. She reminded me. In the journey ahead through Lent into Holy Week and throughout the 50 days of the Easter season, we remind each other with these words: You belong to Christ – in whom you have been baptized – Alleluia!



ASH WEDNESDAY



FEBRUARY 14, 2018

Services at
12:00PM and 7:00PM

Imposition of Ashes and Holy Communion

MIDWEEK LENTEN SUPPER AND WORSHIP ON WEDNESDAYS

Join our "Lenten Journey to the Easter Vigil" during this Lenten season by coming to our Midweek Lenten Supper and Worship on Wednesday evenings, February 21 – March 21. A simple supper of soup and bread will be served at 6:00 p.m., followed by our worship service in the sanctuary at 6:45 p.m. For our worship services, we will be using 5 of the assigned lessons for the Easter Vigil as our theme and emphasis for each week leading up to the Easter Vigil.

February 21 Genesis 1:-2:4a

February 28 Genesis 7:1-5,11-18; 8:6-18; 9:8-13

March 7 Exodus 14:10-31; 15:20-21

March 14 Isaiah 55:1-11

March 21 Daniel 3:1-29

Creation

Flood

The Red Sea

Salvation for All

The Fiery Furnace

If you would be willing to provide soup and/or bread for one of our Lenten suppers, please email Deidre at events@stmarks-sf.org. Food for 12 – 18 people usually is sufficient. Thank you.

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 to make a donation. Please send all donations by March 18. Thank you!



MUSICAL OFFERINGS DURING TRIDUUM AND EASTER WORSHIP: A SAMPLER

By Dr. Timothy Zerlang

Maundy Thursday

From Life to Life, text by Dolores Dufner, music by Petr Eben

Dolores Dufner is an American sacred music composer, librettist, and organist whose works have been included in Catholic hymnals in the United States, Canada, the United Kingdom and Australia. Dufner is a nun of the Order of Saint Benedict at Saint Benedict's Monastery in Saint Joseph, Minnesota. Her lovely poem, *From Life to Life*, is a profound meditation on the Eucharist:

O wheat whose crushing was for bread,
o bread whose breaking is for life,
o life, your seeming end is seed,
a seed for wheat, our bread and life.

O fruit whose crushing was for wine,
o wine whose flowing is for blood,
o blood, your pouring out is life,
our life in you, o fruitful vine.

O life whose crushing was for love,
o love whose spending was to death,
o death, your mourning is our joy,
full joy and birth to lasting life.

Petr Eben (1929-2007) set this poem to music in 1999. Eben was one of the most prominent Czech composers of his day. He was a devout Catholic (although his father was Jewish) and lived a life a faith forged in hardship. He was captured in 1943 and imprisoned in Buchenwald for the duration. As an adult, he refused to join the Czech Communist Party and openly continued to attend church, with great consequences to his career until 1989. After the fall of the Communist government he received several important academic appointments and cultural positions.

Good Friday

The Passion of Our Lord According to St. John
setting by Eric Meyer (2017)

Erik Meyer (b. 1980) is an all-around musician who likes to keep busy and get his hands dirty. A native of Collingswood, New Jersey, he earned his music degrees from the Peabody Conservatory of Music in Baltimore. He is the composer of the new Johns Hopkins University school song and has won various awards for his compositions. Meyer is music director at the Church of St. Martin-in-the-Fields, Philadelphia, where he oversees a large choral and instrumental program. His *Passion* was featured at last year's ALCM (Association of Lutheran Church Musicians) conference in Minneapolis and is very traditional in style and weaves the chorales "Herzliebster Jesu" and "Jesu meine Freude" throughout

Easter Sunday, April 1, 2018

Johann Sebastian Bach, Brandenburg Concerto No. 5, BWV 1050

Few musical works are as loved--and as often performed--as the six "Brandenburg" Concertos by Johann Sebastian Bach. These six works display a lighter side of Bach's imperishable genius, yet they came into being as an unexpected gift. That's what happened in 1721 when Bach presented the Margrave of Brandenburg with a bound manuscript containing six lively concertos for chamber orchestra, works based on an Italian Concerto Grosso style. The Margrave never thanked Bach for his work--or paid him.

When Bach played chamber music, he usually took the viola part so he could sit--as he wrote in a letter--"in the middle of the harmony" — but for the Concerto No. 5 he had a real inspiration. He switched to harpsichord, gave it a knock-out part and, in the process, invented the modern keyboard concerto. This Easter we celebrate, with this wonderful piece, the renovation of our harpsichord; made possible by a generous gift given in memory of Joan Craig Dickert. In addition to the solo harpsichord, Concerto No. 5 features solo violin and flute.

Johann Schelle, Heut' triumphieret Gottes Sohn (Today God's Son Triumphs)

Johann Schelle (1648 - 1701) served as Kantor of the Thomaskirche in Leipzig from 1677 until his death, and was succeeded by Johann Kuhnau, and then J. S. Bach. Schelle, having descended from a family that produced several Kantors, seems to have limited his composing almost entirely to vocal music for church services. It was probably Schelle who introduced the chorale cantata (a concerted work based on a hymn familiar to the congregation) into the liturgy in



Leipzig, inserting it after the reading of the Gospel, and following it with the congregation singing the chorale itself.

Heut' triumphieret begins and ends with a festive chorus based on the first verse of the hymn, with three very short solo movements in the middle.

Chorus
Today's God's Son triumphs,
He is risen from death — Hallelujah!
with great splendor and glory,
for which we thank him eternally. Hallelujah!

Soprano duet:

The risen conqueror has defeated the devil, the world, and death; he has erased the record of our sins. He has reconciled the Father's wrath; he is crowned with honor and glory. He teaches us the way to life.

Alto and Tenor duet:

The lion and the lamb have done this; the Servant and King waves the banner. He has penetrated through enemy and grave and calls with a clear voice comfortingly to the chosen: death is swallowed up in victory.

Bass solo:

Death, where is your sting? Your bright laughter to me is a mockery; the victorious Prince has overcome you a fought valiantly for us. Thanks be for this to the highest God, who has given us the victory.

Now Is a Great Time to Join!

New singers are always welcome to join our choir here at St. Mark's. If you have ever thought that this may be a ministry opportunity you would like to try, join us for Lent and Easter. Singing in the choir can have another, deeper dimension to your worship experience, and contributes to the worship experience of the entire community here at St. Mark's. Rehearsals will be held in the sanctuary on Wednesdays @ 7:30 pm, immediately following our Lenten mid-week services. Throughout Lent our

From Diana Gomez

I joined the St. Mark's choir a year before I joined the church. I was attracted to the repertoire, and I enjoyed making music with other people who shared my interest. The unexpected gift was that being in the choir, and assisting with Liturgy, made me aware of the beauty and wisdom of the Lessons, Sermons and the whole message of Christ's Gospel.

From Tom and Liz Benson

The heart of St. Mark's is surely many things for many people. For us, the heart of St. Mark's has always been the choir since we first walked through the church doors in 1986. It has been a place where our musical passions could find a voice, a place where the experiences of the Holy Spirit, for which words do not suffice, can find expression, a place for love, community and tears, a place for laughter and the goofier sides of faith, and finally, a place where our family of three generations could become one in worship.

From Kim Ortner

When I think of why I enjoy the choir at St Marks the first thing that comes to mind are the words of Jesus in Matthew 25:35....I was a stranger and you welcomed me....There is a real warmth in every member of the choir. It is always intellectually challenging and spiritually uplifting. I am blessed every week when I participate in the services. I feel fortunate to study music with a director that is a real master. Singing with the choir is always a thrilling experience for me.

Thank you for letting me be a part of the choir at St Marks!

From Linda Krauskopf

I love to sing in St. Mark's choir, especially with our extraordinary Music Director Tim Zerlang! Tim's knowledge, mastery and gifts of music are awesome and truly inspiring. He shares his gifts readily, making it both fun and satisfying to practice and proclaim the Word to others musically. Singing the psalms and often challenging anthems deepens my own worship experience. Choir also offers a very meaningful connection with St Mark's community. We learn, sing, pray, perform and find joy together through music and worship. What a privilege!

LENTEN BOXES TO LUTHERAN IMMIGRATION AND REFUGEE SERVICES (LIRS)

Giving something up for Lent? Put the amount you would have spent on it every day into your St. Mark's Lenten box. The money you deposit into your St. Mark's Lenten box during the 40 days of Lent will be donated to Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Services (LIRS). LIRS has been caring for immigrants and refugees in the United States for over 70 years. Look at <http://lirs.org>, or @LIRSortg on Facebook, for information about Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Services. You can also see a video, "The Journey" at <https://vimeo.com/117593637>. The 5-minute video is about young unaccompanied migrants from El Salvador, the difficult journey they have made, and their lives now filled with hope because of the accompaniment of Lutherans and the Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Services.

During the season of Lent, we are invited to care for immigrants and refugees through our giving. Fill your box with coins or bills, or write a check to St. Mark's with "Lenten Box" or "LIRS" in the memo line. LIRS thanks you!



LENT DEVOTION AVAILABLE ONLINE

The bishops of the Lutheran, Anglican and Episcopal churches in the U.S. and Canada have prepared Lenten devotions on the theme "Set Free by Truth," which reflect upon truth-telling and racial justice. Each segment presents Scripture, a reflection and a prayer.

Lent begins with Ash Wednesday on Feb. 14.

Download devotions: <http://bit.ly/2nCGk74>

Print-friendly download: <http://bit.ly/2BQcwsP>



SET FREE *By Truth*

ST. MARK'S AMMPARO AT MONTHLY INTERFAITH VIGIL

On the last day of the church year (the day before Advent began), a group of St. Mark's members rang out the old year in an especially meaningful way. We participated in the monthly interfaith vigil and "moment of holy noise" at the West County (Immigration) Detention Center in Richmond, CA to gather with other people of faith and witness to our common humanity and shared human rights with those detained inside.

During the vigil we heard a testimony from a nurse from Nigeria who had been detained at SFO upon entering the country with a tourist visa and shackled, handcuffed, and detained despite absolutely no criminal conduct and with all the right paperwork on his part. During last month's vigil he had still been detained, but our interfaith partners rallied around him for his bail hearing, fundraised his bail, and are helping him get stable while he awaits further court dates. What a joy to see him out, and what valuable insight he shared about conditions on the other side of the wall where we stood.

After some songs, reflection, prayers, and announcements about ways to get involved, we took out noisemakers and raised a mighty shout to let the detainees know we were present and sending them love.

Do you have maracas, a kazoo or tambourine that you could put to good use with us next time? Bring a friend or child and join the crowd! St. Mark's has had representatives almost every month -- the vigil is always:

First Saturday of the Month

11AM - noon

West County Detention Center

5555 Giant Hwy, Richmond, CA 94806



HIGH SCHOOLERS HEADING TO HOUSTON

This summer, a couple St. Mark's high school students (and an adult leader) will join ELCA youth from our Sierra Pacific Synod and from all over the country in Houston. Why? As the ELCA Gathering Handbook explains, "Every three years, 30,000 high school youth and their adult leaders from across the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America gather for a week of faith formation known as the Gathering. Through days spent in interactive learning, worship, Bible study, service and fellowship, young people grow in faith and are challenged and inspired to live their faith in their daily lives."



The theme this year is "This Changes Everything". It's a reference to the 2018 Gathering Bible verse, Ephesians 2:8: For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God. Maybe you memorized it as a Sunday School student, or maybe you came across it later in life. The theme is relevant to each of us, whether or not we are attending the Gathering, particularly because we so value this insight from Ephesians that it forms part of our foundational "Lutheran solas" as sola gratia - "by grace alone".

Although the Gathering is an exclusive event for high school students, there are ways you can contribute! Will you pray for God's grace and gift in each of our high school student's lives? Will you share how "by grace alone" has been inspiring and freeing in your own life? Can you recommend a spot for a tasty, quick, and cheap meal in downtown Houston?

In the meantime, you can see some of the fun, inspiration, and service work in store for those of us who are attending. Check out the Gathering preview video here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CMR2w8d5OIQ>



MT. CROSS MINISTRIES

MT. CROSS MINISTRIES SUMMER CAMP

Registration for the summer program at Mt. Cross Ministries is open. You can go to their website (www.mtcross.org), preview all of the camps that they have to offer for children and youth, and register. Mt. Cross Ministries is a joint ministry of the ELCA and LCMS in our region.

MEN'S RETREAT

ST. MARK'S MEN'S RETREAT THIS SPRING

We have reserved the Mercy Center in Burlingame for a Men's Retreat on Friday – Saturday, April 27 – 28. Please mark your calendar for this special opportunity to spend 24 hours with the men of St. Mark's and engage in a conversation about the joys and challenges of being a male person of faith in our contemporary culture. Pastor Ron will be facilitating this retreat, and will draw us into conversations around the topic, "Men Also Have Feelings." The cost is \$154/person for the overnight, 3 meals, and our meeting room. Therefore, we may check in any time after 4:00 p.m. on Friday evening, have supper at 6:00 p.m., and conclude our retreat at 4:00 p.m. on Saturday. Please let Pastor Ron know if you need a scholarship to defray your expenses. To sign up, please email Pastor Ron at moe-lobeda@stmarks-sf.org.



WOMEN'S MONTHLY STUDY GATHERINGS

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

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

All women are invited to gather 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:

Feb. 6 – "Jesus – A Pilgrimage" by James Martin, Chapters 1-10

Mar. 6 – "Jesus – A Pilgrimage" by James Martin, Chapters 10-18

April – Date to be determined – "Jesus – A Pilgrimage" by James Martin, Chapters 18 to the end

May 1 – "Evicted: Poverty and Profit in the American City" by Matthew Desmond

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 Bible study will center on the Apostles' Creed.

Feb. 13 – "Prepare the Way of the Lord," Luke 3:3-17

Mar. 13 – "The Good Samaritan," Luke 10:30-37

April 10 – "The Prodigal Son," Luke 15:11-20

May 8 – Intergenerational Devotional from the Gather Magazine

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

ADULT Education



ADULT FORUM SCHEDULE

February 11 - Pr Elizabeth Ekdale, Jo Chadwick, and Sharon Reinbott - #MeToo and the Church

How has the church responded to the #MeToo movement? What do people of faith have to say about it? Join Pr.Elizabeth, Jo Chadwick, Sharon Reinbott and others for an honest and safe discussion about sexual harassment and how the church responds. We will introduce a draft of the Social Statement: Women and Justice as a framework for our discussion. Everyone is welcome - men and women!

February 18 - March 11- Dr. Margaret McLean - Lutheran Doing Ethics

If theology is how we speak about God, then ethics is how we speak about life. Ethics is our lived response to the good news of the gospel. As Lutherans, we have a penchant for ethics—for recognizing that we are sinners striving to live as saints. But, as Lutherans, do we think differently, live differently precisely because we are Lutherans? Please join us as we consider “Lutherans Doing Ethics.” These 4 forums are facilitated by Dr. Margaret McLean, Senior Lecturer in Religious Studies and Associate Director of the Markkula Center for Applied Ethics at Santa Clara University and member of St. Mark’s.

February 18 - We Are a Community of Moral Deliberation

February 25 - Deliberating About Genetics

March 5 - Deliberating End of Life Options

March 11 - Deliberating Together from Birth to Death

March 18 and 25 - Dr Cynthia Moe-Lobeda - Climate Justice and God’s Call to Love Neighbor as Self

Humankind stands at a turning point in history. Either we continue on a fast track toward climate disaster or we harness human genius and creativity to forge a sustainable relationship between the human species and our planetary home. The moral challenge is heightened by matters of climate justice: those most vulnerable to the ravages of climate change are also the people least responsible for it. In this context, Earth’s religious traditions are called to plumb their depths, seeking wellsprings of moral vision, hope, and wisdom for building ecologically sound and socially just ways of living. Lutheran traditions are rich with such resources. On March 18 we will face the climate justice crisis as a moral crisis with implications for the proclamation of the gospel. On March 25 we explore sources of hope and moral-spiritual power found in Lutheran traditions." These two forums will be taught by Dr. Cynthia Moe-Lobeda, a well-known Lutheran ethicist who holds a joint appointment at Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary and LDSP.

April 1 - No Adult forum

JOURNEYING THROUGH LENT

JOURNEYS

in Faith

This year's Journeys in Faith group has been meeting regularly since November, engaging with Scripture and with each other. At the beginning of Advent, they were officially welcomed into this journey, where they were accompanied by their sponsors, signed with the cross (multiple times), and received a Bible as a companion on the path.

Our journeyers continue gathering now through Lent and Eastertide, meeting together weekly to dwell in the Gospel readings and ponder on the basic questions of living the life of faith and grace through Christ. Lent marks an "intense" period of preparation for Affirmation of Baptism, where journeyers will focus their attention on Luther's Small Catechism, that entrée into a unique Lutheran focus on faith. Topics include worship, the New Testament, the chief parts of the Catechism, and of course baptism.

Publicly, the journeyers and their sponsors will participate in rites throughout Lent. This begins on Ash Wednesday, signaling a transition to the period of Lent. With the whole congregation, they commit themselves to the continuing conversion of their lives to which they have been called, dying daily to sin and walking in newness of life. On a subsequent Sunday in Lent, they are blessed as they continue their journey to Affirmation of Baptism at the Easter Vigil.

As we all are renewed in faith and life during this season of Lent, I invite you to pray especially for our journeyers, who have been led by the Holy Spirit to affirm their baptisms. I also invite you to reflect on your life of faith during this Lenten season, ponder how the gospel frees you to live toward your neighbor, and consider joining Journeys in Faith in its next cycle.

ST. MARK'S FEW COMMITTEE

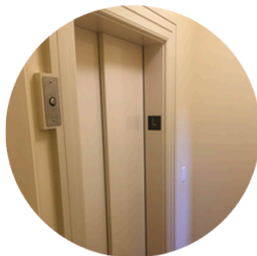
On February 11, 2018, the people of St. Mark's will thank God for the completion of our FEW (Floors, Elevators & Windows) projects. Dedicating the Elevator and blessing the floors and windows marked the successful completion of these long awaited improvements to our historic building. As reported at the Annual Meeting on January 28, 2018, the projects are virtually complete (the exterior fencing and landscaping are scheduled for installation in February 2018). With the challenges of approvals and technical construction issues behind us, we'd like to highlight an interesting aspect of each project:

- The wood flooring is white oak with a custom stain to complement other wood finishes in the worship space. To make the steps more visible, a clear-finished maple nosing creates a contrasting color stripe at each stair tread.
- As the windows were repaired and re-leaded, The Hyland Studio corrected an 1895 typo: the Hebrew name of God, found at the top of the southeast window, is finally spelled correctly!
- The elevator may seem slow – as do most hydraulic elevators – but take some comfort in the fact that the because the car is approved by the State of California as a special elevator for installations in historic buildings, it moves at approximately 40 feet/minute instead of the 30 feet/minute for most hydraulic elevators.

The Committee thanks each of you for your financial and spiritual support of these important projects. Although we still face the challenge of fully funding these improvements, we have passed the important milestone of commemorating their completion. We hope that you will consider additional contributions toward St. Mark's capital campaign in 2018.

We would also like to take this opportunity to thank the many professionals who have helped make these projects possible, especially: Debbie Cooper and Mike Lovato and staff of Architectural Resources Group; Nathan Dunn, James Elliott, Scott Oakes and the workers and subcontractors of Plant Construction Company; and Tom Rigdon and fellow artisans at The Hyland Studio. We deeply appreciate their commitment and passion to these projects and St. Mark's Lutheran Church!

The FEW Committee



First to ride the elevator!

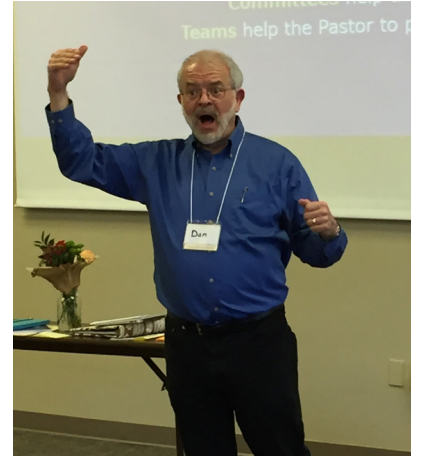


Stewardship Potluck and Talent Show, Fall 2017

JOINT LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

"For everything there is a season, and a time for every purpose under heaven." (Ecclesiastes 3:1)

The Board of Martin Luther Tower, Inc. and the Church Council of St. Mark's decided last year that our time for re-examining our governance structure of St. Mark's Square is now, and that we would meet jointly at a conference in early February at the Mercy Center in Burlingame for this purpose. While the Board of MLT and St. Mark's Council have been functioning together in tandem for decades, the management of all of our facilities and the anticipated development of our property has prompted us to move toward a more collaborative effort in realizing a common mission, our goals, and our objectives as St. Mark's Square. During the conference, we hope to come to a consensus about how we can appropriate our responsibilities most effectively and efficiently in dealing with St. Mark's Church, Martin Lutheran Tower, the Urban Life Center, and the future of St. Mark's Square. In order to best and most thoughtfully engage in this discernment, we have hired Dan Hotchkiss, author of *Governance and Ministry*, to help us create a framework for this endeavor, guide us toward some measurable goals, and generate some energy for our ministry together. We will keep the congregation and MLT residents updated on our discussions and decisions as we continue to engage God's ministry together.



**Dan Hotchkiss, Author of
Governance and Ministry**

FEBRUARY 2018 SENIOR LUNCHEON

St. Mark's Seniors, Thursday, February 22 is the next MLT monthly luncheon in Heritage Hall from 12:00-1:30pm! Please join us for a delicious meal prepared by MLT's very own Delvone Anderson. MLT resident, Tom Berg, will grace us with his talents on the piano. Entrée options are Chicken Enchiladas, Vegetarian Enchiladas, and Tacos with ground beef. All entrees come with Nachos, Taco Salad, Corn Succotash, Refried Beans & Rice. Desserts will include Flan and Dulce de Leche. Non-alcoholic Margaritas will also be served! The cost is \$5. Please pay in the MLT Office by Friday, February 16. Come be among friends. See you there!



MLT and St. Mark's Staff



ANNUAL MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

St. Mark's held its annual congregational meeting on Sunday, January 28 following the 11 am service. Some of the meeting highlights were:

- Election of 4 incumbent council members to three-year terms: Greg Jahnke, Cristin Owens, Mark Semonian, Kate Knickerbocker
- A report from Treasurer Steve Ernst about our 2017 income and expenses, and a presentation of the 2018 budget as recommended by the Church Council. 2017 came in on budget (income planned at \$789,396 and came in at \$791,268). Contingency reserves withdrawal for 2017: \$31,634.
- The 2018 budget includes 3% COLA increase for staff in the St. Mark's office. The budget includes a couple of key differences: plans to hire a full-time Assistant Operations Manager who will report to the Director of Operations, Winnie Heslin. This salary will be reimbursed by Martin Luther Tower (MLT). Second, the hiring of a part-time bookkeeper (expenses will be split with MLT).
 - 2018 budget also includes withdrawal from the contingency reserves (\$9,747) unless additional income and financial commitments are received.
- The 2018 budget was approved by the congregation as presented.
- Governance Task Force Report by Randy Schieber. Discussed the development of the task force: to analyze the needs of the entire St. Mark's Square and to define how decisions are made that impact the Square. Consultant Dan Hotchkiss will be present to facilitate the upcoming Leadership Retreat which includes MLT Board, Council and the Task Force.
- Elevator Installation Update and F.E.W. report: Floors, Windows and Elevator all completed. Tim Bohan held up the Certificate of Occupancy and Final Completion. A few members of the congregation took an inaugural ride in the elevator immediately following the meeting.
- Report from the Development Committee by Barbara Engmann and Jon Moeller: Lack of funds (from city) for low-income housing so the Committee is in exploration and open to other projects. There is strong interest in our sites from several developers.
- Reports from Pastor Elizabeth Ekdale and Pastor Ron Moe-Lobeda which included a challenge for members of the congregation to continue to get to know each other, attend a worship service other than their regular service, create more fellowship opportunities and for all to regularly attend worship at St. Mark's.
- Report from St. Mark's Council President Mark Semonian, which included a thank you to past President Matt Helland and a willingness to continue to serve as Council President for 2018.
- Report from Martin Luther Tower by Omer Voss: MLT celebrates 50 plus years of service to the community through affordable senior housing. Board looks for bigger strategic purpose – looks toward future: Voss asks, "What do we want to do for the next 50 years?" and encourages conversation. Voss seeks 2 more trustees to serve on MLT board.

SPRING 2018 CONCERTS AT ST. MARK'S

American Bach Soloists

Sun, Feb 25 • 4:00 PM
Bach's SAINT JOHN PASSION
americanbach.org

California Bach Society Concert

Fri, Mar 2 • 8:00 PM
German Romantics: music by Fanny Mendelssohn Hensel, Gustav Jenner, and Joseph Rheinberger, in addition to works by the best-loved German Romantic composers.
www.calbach.org

Voices of Music Concert

Sat, Mar 3 • 8:00 PM
Leonardo da Vinci: A Musical Odyssey
<https://www.voicesofmusic.org/>

Bay Choral Guild Concert

Sat, Mar 17 • 7:30 PM
J.S. Bach: St. John Passion
Bach's masterwork recounting the story of Christ's final days. We will perform with the period instruments of Jubilate Orchestra and the Bay Area's finest vocal soloists.
baychoralguild.org

SF Civic Symphony Mozart to Mendelssohn Orchestra Concert

Sun, Mar 18 • 3:00 PM

- Schubert – Overture to Rosamunde
- Schubert – Rosamunde excerpts
- Schumann – Symphony No. 3, "Rhenish"

www.sfcivicmusic.org

Junior Bach Festival Concert

Sun, Mar 18 • 7:30 PM
<http://www.juniorbach.org/>

Omni Foundation for the Performing Arts Concert:

Shin-ichi Fukuda
Sat, Apr 7 • 7:30 PM
<http://omniconcerts.com>

American Bach Soloists

Sun, Apr 8 • 4:00 PM
Monteverdi's Vespers of 1610
americanbach.org

Pacific Edge Voices Concert

Thu, Apr 12 • 7:30 PM
Let Me Hear Your Heart Sing: Program includes Arvo Pärt's I Am the True Vine, Durufle's Four Motets, works by both Felix and Fanny Mendelssohn and Michael Roberts and Jennifer Higden.
pacifiedgevoices.org

New Esterhazy Quartet

Sat, Apr 14 • 4:00 PM
www.sffcm.org/www.newesterhazy.org

Omni Foundation for the Performing Arts and SF Performances present: Paul O'Dette, Lute

Sat, Apr 28 • 7:30 PM
<http://omniconcerts.com>

Janis Lee Piano Recital

Sun, Apr 29 • 3:00 PM

SF Early Music Society Concert

Fri, May 4 • 8:00 PM
HANA BLAŽÍKOVÁ AND BRUCE DICKEY: BREATHTAKING—A Cornetto and a Voice Entwined
Hana Blažiková, soprano; Bruce Dickey, cornetto; Ingrid Matthews and Tekla Cunningham, violin; Joanna Blendulf, viol; Michael Sponseller, organ & harpsichord; Stephen Stubbs, theorbo & guitar
<http://sfems.org>

Musae Concert

Sat, May 5 • 4:00 PM
Prophetic Voices: This concert will explore how the female voice, both in text and in music, has helped to shape our world. Eric Tuan, featuring prophetic voices of women of different faith traditions throughout history: Emily Dickinson, Libby Larsen, Sojourner Truth.
<http://www.musae.org>

SF Composers Chamber Orchestra Concert

Sat, May 5 • 7:30 PM

Young Women's Choral Project Concert

Sun, May 6 • 4:00 PM
Liberty for All: Music of Resistance & Revolution
<http://www.ywcp.org>

Fog City Singers Concert

Fri, May 11 • 8:00 PM
www.fogcitysingers.com

Sunset Youth Orchestra Concert

Sat, May 12 • 2:00 PM
<http://www.sunsetyouthorchestra.com>

American Bach Soloists

Sun, May 13 • 4:00 PM
Bach's Orchestral Suites
<http://americanbach.org>

Deutscher Musikverein Concert

Sat, May 19 • 2:00 PM
www.sfgermanband.org

SF Civic Symphony Concert Mozart to Mendelssohn Orchestra

Sat, May 19 • 8:00 PM
Mozart to Mendelssohn: Turkish Delight

- Mozart – Overture to The Abduction from the Seraglio
- Beethoven – Turkish March from The Ruins of Athens
- Mozart – Rondo alla turca
- Joseph Haydn - Symphony No. 100 "Military"

www.sfcivicmusic.org

Wagner Society of Northern California Concert

Sun, May 27 • 6:00 PM
www.wagnersf.org

Center for New Music/SF Choral Artists

Sun, Jun 10 • 4:00 PM
More Pianos Than Bathtubs: America's Music
American music specialists Brian Thorsett, tenor, and Teresa McColough, piano. Music by Foster, Billings, MacDowell, Parker, spirituals and shapenote hymns, folk songs, work songs, and play songs.
www.sfca.org

International Orange Chorale Concert

Sat, Jun 16 • 7:30 PM
www.iocsf.org

Contact the Music Groups directly for ticket and performance information



SACRED ACTS AT ST. MARK'S

Baptism of:

Genevieve Dioli
Emma Grace Seefeldt
Ward Strauss Carlson

Memorial Service of:

Evelyn Landahl

VOICE DEADLINE

The deadline for the Summer edition of the Voice newsletter will be May 15.
Please send all submissions to Stefani Lawrence at lawrence@stmarks-sf.org.

LUTHER LECTURE: LUTHER AGAINST LUTHER AT PACIFIC LUTHERAN THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

Wednesday, Mar. 7, 2018 at 9:00 am

Scripture and Christian anti-Semitism: Past Realities and Future Remedies

Luther's specific type of early modern anti-Semitism was deeply rooted in his interpretation of the Christian Bible and especially in his attempt to defend the Old Testament as an exclusively Christian book. The lecture invites a close look at key elements of Luther's overall biblical hermeneutics and the ways in which his approach set him on an unavoidable collision course with Jewish ways of reading scripture, which in turn led him to make inflammatory and demeaning claims against the Jewish people. In the spirit of critical understanding, the lecture moves beyond necessary repudiation of such claims and suggests pathways forward that offer opportunities for building new hermeneutical friendships.

Cost and Registration: PLTS.edu/events



ST. MARK'S WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Sundays

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

Check our weekly Parish Announcements and our Facebook page

www.stmarks-sf.org/blog

www.facebook.com/stmarkssf

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

Church Office Hours

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

415-928-7770

Staff

Extension

Email

The Rev. Elizabeth E. Ekdale, Lead Pastor	2300	ekdale@stmarks-sf.org
The Rev. Ron Moe-Lobeda, Associate Pastor	2460	moe-lobeda@stmarks-sf.org
Dr. Timothy Zerlang, Director of Music	2330	zerlang@stmarks-sf.org
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Carl Storey, Security

Chanelda Daniels, Nursery Attendant

Jenny Hart, Sunday School Coordinator

The Rev. Chuck Lewis, Visitation Pastor

Reconciling in Christ

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

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

Other Important Numbers

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