



# Loyals Resurrection



# VOICE

St Mark's  
LUTHERAN CHURCH

QUARTERLY JOURNAL OF REFLECTION & NEWS



**Spring 2019**  
**FEBRUARY-APRIL**

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## WHAT'S INSIDE

Lent, Holy Week, and Easter Worship  
Schedule

Pr. Elizabeth's Devotion

Upcoming Adult Education Opportunit

# HOLYWEEK



## **PALM SUNDAY**

**APRIL 14**

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

## **MAUNDY THURSDAY**

**APRIL 18**

7:00PM  
Holy Communion  
Stripping of the Altar

## **GOOD FRIDAY**

**APRIL 19**

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

## **EASTER VIGIL**

**APRIL 20**

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

# EASTER DAY

The poster features a vibrant, colorful background with floral patterns, musical notes, and a large cross. The top section has a white background with the text 'EASTER DAY' in large, bold, white letters with a black outline. Below this, the date 'APRIL 21, 2019' is centered. The event schedule is listed on the left and right sides. The bottom half of the poster is decorated with a large, colorful cross and musical notes.

APRIL 21, 2019

**9:00AM**

Holy Communion and Children's Time

**10:30AM**

**EASTER MUSIC**

Dietrich Buxtehude's joyous Easter Cantata  
"Today God's Son Triumphs",  
with trumpets, strings, soloists, and chorus.

Also Heinrich Schütz's  
double motet "I am the Resurrection" and  
works by Händel and others.

**11:00AM**

Festival Eucharist with  
trumpets, strings, and choir

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

Easter Egg Hunt  
for All Children on the Square



## THE GIFT OF SHOWING UP

I want to share with you what I experienced on Christmas Eve this past year. I had my "to-do" list ready in preparation for our three Christmas Eve services. There were only 3 hours before the Christmas Pageant service would begin and I had two pastoral visits to complete. These visits were with members who would not be able to be in worship for Christmas and were grieving this loss in their lives. The first visit was to a homebound member. We shared Holy Communion together and read the beloved Christmas story from the Gospel of Luke. She commented, "This is enough – I can now celebrate Christmas". We exchanged Christmas greetings and the peace of Christ before I left. She asked that I pass on greetings from her to all who would be in worship that evening.

**REV. ELIZABETH EKDALE  
LEAD PASTOR**

My next visit was to a convalescent hospital to visit another member. He too would not be worshipping at St. Mark's. He received Holy Communion and he shared how good God has been to him in his life. Again, he asked that I pass on Christmas greetings to members of the congregation that he had known. After these two visits, I felt that my Christmas celebration had already begun. The depth of faith and the honest sharing of feelings were a powerful witness to me of God's incarnation and hope in the midst of difficult circumstances. Each member cherished the gift of being able to worship in community.

Later that evening, I received an e-mail from a former member of St. Mark's who had lost her home in the Paradise wildfire. She wrote, *"Thank you for reaching out and for your continued prayers. My little family is doing well. Paradise Lutheran Church has been taken in by Faith Lutheran Church in Chico. It's been lovely to be so welcomed there. Both pastors have been officiating and it's been a perfect meeting spot for those of us who are scattered about the area.*

*We made it to our property last week. It was so sad to see our home reduced to a heap of twisted metal and gummy ash. We were able to find a few treasures – ceramics made by our daughter, a necklace, and quite a few pieces of our ceramic nativity! The new green grass is already growing on what was black scorched earth just weeks ago. . . . Merry Christmas to all our friends there at St. Mark's!!!"*

Each of these individuals value their connection to St. Mark's – especially the worshipping community. In worship, we experience incarnation and resurrection in the meaningful encounters we have with one another. We receive hope from one another. We hear forgiveness and grace in our conversations with each other. We find connection in our humanity as we touch one another in the passing of the peace.

As we anticipate the Season of Lent, Holy Week and Easter, I invite you to worship with your community of faith – St. Mark's. Not everyone who yearns to be here on Sundays is able to. We may take worship for granted until we are no longer able to be present at worship. These stories remind us that it is a gift to be able to worship in community. Take this message to heart from these two members and former member. Come and worship during the Season of Lent both on Sundays and on Wednesdays at the Mid-Week services, during Holy Week and throughout the Season of Easter. Let us remember who is not able to be with us. May their witness inspire us to realize the true gift of what it means to show up for one another.

See you Sunday,

Pastor Elizabeth

# ASH WEDNESDAY

worship

**MARCH 6, 2019**

**SERVICES AT 12:00PM AND 7:00PM**

**IMPOSITION OF ASHES AND HOLY COMMUNION**

*This traditional day of worship in the Church is the start of the Lenten season when we prepare our hearts and minds for the events leading up to Holy Week and Easter. Come to worship at 12:00 Noon or 7:00 p.m. on this day, receive the sign of the cross with ashes on your forehead, share in Holy Communion, and hear a word of invitation into this time of reflection.*

## WEDNESDAYS IN LENT

### MIDWEEK LENTEN SERVICES

“Perfect Love Casts Out Fear” is the theme of our Midweek Lenten Services on Wednesday evenings as we reflect upon several readings from Scripture about the love of God and the love that we are called to share with others. We gather for a simple supper that will be served in Heritage Hall from 6:00 – 6:45 p.m. The 30-minute service beginning at 7:00 p.m. will focus on the following themes:

<b>March 13</b>	<b>Romans 13:8-10</b>	<b>Love does no wrong to a neighbor.</b>
<b>March 20</b>	<b>Romans 8:35-39</b>	<b>Who will separate us from the love of Christ?</b>
<b>March 27</b>	<b>Luke 6:27-28</b>	<b>Love your enemies.</b>
<b>April 3</b>	<b>John 14:15-31</b>	<b>If you love me, keep my commandments.</b>
<b>April 10</b>	<b>I John 4:7-21</b>	<b>Perfect love casts out fear.</b>

Wrapped in a liturgy of contemplative song and silent prayer, these words of Scripture will help us to dwell in the Spirit of love and embrace the power of this love in our daily lives. These services are a great opportunity for you to invite a friend to share in our fellowship and catch a glimpse of our life together in the body of Jesus Christ. We will be joined by members and staff of Calvary Presbyterian Church for the dinner, service and Bible study.

### LENTEN BIBLE STUDY

After each Midweek Lent worship, Pastoral Intern Sonja Pilman will lead a Bible study on the lessons for the upcoming Sunday. The Bible study will meet in Heritage Hall from 7:30PM to 8:30PM.

### EASTER FLOWERS

You can help us beautify St. Mark's Sanctuary by making a donation of \$15.00 each 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 14. 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

Delores 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 of 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 21, 2019

Dietrich Buxtehude-*Heut triumphieret Gottes Sohn*, BuxWV 43

George Frederich Händel - *Organ Concerto in B-flat Major, Op. 4, n. 2*

Scholars dispute both the year and country of Dietrich Buxtehude's birth, although most now accept that he was born in 1637 in [Helsingborg, Skåne](#), which at the time, was a part of [Denmark](#) (but now part of [Sweden](#)). His obituary stated that "he recognized Denmark as his native country, whence he came to our region; he lived about 70 years". Dietrich was employed as an organist, first in Helsingborg (1657-1658), and then at Helsingør (1660-1668). St. Mary's in Helsingør is the only church where Buxtehude was employed that still has the organ in its original location. Buxtehude's last post, from 1668, was at the [Marienkirche, Lübeck](#) which had two organs, a large one for big services and a small one for devotionals and funerals. There he succeeded [Franz Tunder](#) and followed in many of the footsteps of his predecessor. He married Tunder's daughter Anna Margarethe in 1668 – it was not uncommon practice that a man marry the daughter of his predecessor in his occupation. Buxtehude and Anna Margarethe had seven daughters who were baptized at the Marienkirche.

His post in the free Imperial city of Lübeck afforded him considerable latitude in his musical career, and his autonomy was a model for the careers of later Baroque masters such as [George Frideric Handel](#), [Johann Mattheson](#), [Georg Philipp Telemann](#) and [Johann Sebastian Bach](#). In 1673 he reorganized a series of evening musical performances, initiated by Tunder, known as [Abendmusik](#), which attracted musicians from diverse places and remained a feature of the church until



1810. Buxtehude also enjoyed great fame as an organ virtuoso. In 1703, Handel and Mattheson both traveled to meet Buxtehude, who was by then elderly and ready to retire. He offered his position in Lübeck to Handel and Mattheson but stipulated that the organist who ascended to it must marry his eldest daughter, Anna Margareta. Both Handel and Mattheson turned the offer down and left the day after their arrival. In 1705, J.S. Bach, then a young man of twenty, walked from [Arnstadt](#) to Lübeck, a distance of more than 400 kilometres (250 mi), and stayed nearly three months to hear the Abendmusik, meet the pre-eminent Lübeck organist, hear him play, and, as Bach explained, "to comprehend one thing and another about his art".

His surviving church music (of which there are more than 100 vocal pieces) is praised for its high musical qualities rather than its progressive elements. The Marienkirche's grand gothic space was the scene of the first performances of Buxtehude's Easter Cantata, *Heut triumphieret Gottes Sohn*. After a brief opening movement featuring the strings of the ensemble, the piece features dueling trumpets in an opening fanfare, which are heard again in the choruses. This piece, with its exuberant exclamations of "Victoria! Victoria!" is a thrilling celebration of Christ's Joyous Resurrection.

### **I. Symphonia**

### **II. Fanfare**

### **III. Chor**

Today is the triumph of the Son of God,  
already arisen from the dead,  
with great might and splendor, Alleluia.  
For this we thank God eternally. Alleluia!

### **IV. Aria/ V. Chor**

Now hell and death lie defeated.  
Death, where is its grim might?  
None, none shall despair. Hell, your scorn is laughable.  
The Son of God has been victorious, death and hell are defeated.

Victoria calls out with might! Hell is conquered, the battle secured.

### **VI. Aria/ VII. Chor**

Devil, cease your fury,  
your strength is driven away.  
God knows how to protect his people; through God, the world is moved.  
He who has shaken the world now lies quivering with fear.

Victoria, Victoria. The arrow has been blunted; the Savior has triumphed over it.

### **VIII. Terzett/ IX. Chor**

And so it must be the fate of all enemies of the Cross of Christ,  
who stubbornly stand against God's honor.  
Those who know to battle with Christ on their side  
can also squelch Christ's foes.

Victoria, Victoria, vanquished is (the Devil's) courage. Thus Christ fights and achieves victory for our good.

### **X. Duett/ XI. Chor**

Jesus, Jesus, highly acclaimed for the amazing grace  
that succeeded against the one who has mocked you.  
Furthermore, protect your honor;  
increase your name's renown.

Victoria, Victoria, God's renown blooms. Sin, Devil and hell are overshadowed.

### **XII. Aria/ XIII. Chor**

Steer against; also steer against the great dragon  
and the malicious evil world.  
Also stop up those throats that ally themselves with Satan;  
for this we will praise you, Jesus, here and above.

Victoria, Victoria, we sing freely and offer you, Jesus, shouts of joy.

### **XIV. Chor**

Alleluia!  
(Translation by Tom Benson)



**SONJA PILMAN**  
**PASTORAL INTERN**

The third one is that I want to become an effective worship leader which will come with practice and observing how the pastors handle unforeseen incidents. Lastly, I want to get better at actively listening and responding to criticism. I want to practice and learn and I am looking forward to your constructive feedback to the different things I am going to do this year.

The beginning of my pastoral internship at St. Mark's has been wonderful for me. I want to extend a thank you to everyone who has welcomed me so warmly and given me many insights into the life of St. Mark's. I have visited parishioners which I greatly enjoyed and gave Holy Communion to a nursing home resident. I was impressed with the winter shelter for which I volunteered to do breakfast one morning.

When writing this I am still looking forward to preaching for the first time at St. Mark's. Also concerning future plans: as part of this internship, I have to plan and do a project. I am going to focus on adult education as my project and part of that is going to be a series in the summer. More information will follow in the next Voice.

Together with the synod council, Pastor Elizabeth, Pastor Connie from San Mateo, and I came up with four goals for my internship. One is that I have to learn about church administration like budget handling and all the different roles and jobs of council members. I attended a council meeting and was at the annual meeting to see what these roles and their job are about. Another goal is to learn about ELCA polity which I am going to get a good impression of at the synod assembly.

# MINISTRIES

## **HOSPITALITY TEAM MEETING ON SUNDAY MARCH 3 AT 12:30 WITH PR. ELIZABETH**

*"Hospitality involves food, love, empathy, warmth and caring. It means helping people to feel that they belong, they matter, they are noticed and heard. It is the most reliable source of social capital within congregations and beyond for better lives and a better world. It also happens to be the way of Jesus" Source: ELCA website*

Join Pr. Elizabeth if you would like to join this new ministry team. We will meet in Heritage Hall at 12:30. This team will coordinate the hospitality events at St. Mark's: Oktoberfest, receptions, potlucks and other ways we can expand our Hospitality Ministries. If you are unable to attend but would like to participate on the Hospitality Team, please send Pr. Elizabeth an e-mail at [ekdale@stmarks-sf.org](mailto:ekdale@stmarks-sf.org) or leave a message at 415 928-7770 ext 2300. All gifts are welcome on this team!

## **NOW IS A GREAT TIME TO JOIN THE CHOIR!**

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 rehearsals will end at 9:30 pm. Please contact Timothy Zerlang if you have any questions ([zerlang@stmarks-sf.org](mailto:zerlang@stmarks-sf.org)).

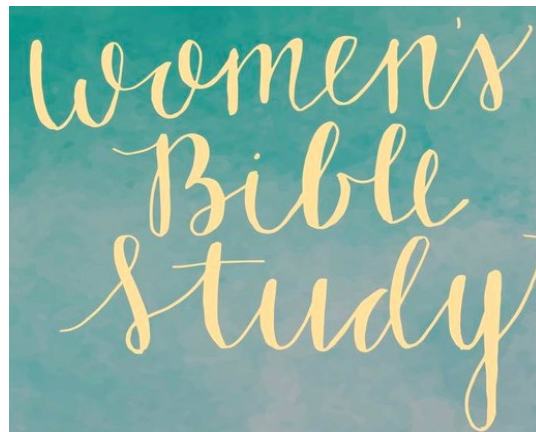


## WOMEN'S MONTHLY STUDY GATHERINGS

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

**Women's Book Group on the First Tuesday from 6:30pm to 8:30pm in the Conference Room or alternately on Saturday from 10:00am to noon in the Conference Room.** Refreshments will be served. We will meet to discuss on:

Sat. March 9 at 10:00am – *Kingdom of the Blind* by Louise Penny  
Tues. April 2 at 6:30pm – *Educated: A Memoir* by Tara Westover  
Sat. May 11 at 10:00am – *Why Religion* by Elaine Pagels



### **Second Tuesdays from 11:00am to 1:00pm in the Fireside Room**

All women are invited to come for study at 11:00 and at noon to bring their sandwich or salad and share fellowship. Drinks and dessert will be provided. Our study will center on The Gospel of John

March 12 – *"Friends for Life in Christ"*  
April 9 – *"Seeing the Risen Christ"*  
May 14 – *A Devotional* by Christian von Zychlin

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

## Senior Ministries at St. Mark's and Martin Luther Tower

### **Aging and Spirituality Group on Mondays in Brockie Lounge located in Martin Luther Tower 11:00 – 12:00**

All Seniors are welcome to this group in which we share our reflections, questions, and hopes about aging and spirituality. We are reading the book, "Rich in Years – Finding Peace and Purpose in a Long Life". Come and join the conversation in a warm and safe environment. Pastor Elizabeth generally facilitates the group but occasionally Pr. Ron, Pr. Hans and our Pastoral Intern, Sonja Pilman attend.

### **Senior Lunches**

Bring yourself and a friend to a monthly lunch in Heritage Hall. The cost is reasonable – only \$2.00 for a warm lunch, friendly conversation, and entertainment. You must sign up by calling the Martin Luther Tower office in advance: 415 885-1084 The dates of the upcoming lunches are as follows: Thursday, Feb. 28, Thursday, March 23 and Thursday, May 25. All lunches begin at noon in Heritage Hall in the church building

### **Senior Field Trips**

On Thursday, March 14, we will take a drive through the beautiful countryside in San Mateo County, meander through the Stanford University campus, enjoy window shopping at Stanford Shopping center and eat lunch at the Peninsula Creamery in Palo Alto. Please bring money for your lunch and any shopping you might do. Sign up by calling the Martin Luther Tower office: 415 885-1084

# ADULT FORUM

10:00AM IN HERITAGE HALL

## LET'S GO TO SEMINARY

The "Let's Go to Seminary" series features four of the core faculty and one senior adjunct faculty at Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary. Their teaching reflects cutting edge developments in their respective disciplines, a passion for teaching and theological education, and the innovative new curriculum being launched at PLTS. That curriculum prepares future leaders of the church for transformative ways of doing and being church that are centered in the Gospel of Jesus Christ, generate life-giving relationships and spirituality, and advance social justice and environmental well-being.

### Feb 24

Dr. Cynthia Moe-Lobeda, Professor of Theological and Social Ethics  
"Christian Ethics as Radical Love Embodied"

Location: Heritage Hall

### March 3

Dr. Carol Jacobson, Associate Professor of Practical Theology and Constructive Theology, "What Neuroscience Teaches us about Faith Formation"

Location: Heritage Hall

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## RELENTLESS HOPE - EXPLORING OUR BIBLICAL WITNESS IN A TIME OF DESPAIR.

We will be utilizing the book, "The Prophetic Imagination" by Dr. Walter Brueggemann, in our biblical and theological reflection during this 5-week study. This book, though written over 40 years ago, remains "one of the most perceptive uncoverings of the prophetic voice in contemporary Old Testament study."

### March 10

This first session will be an introduction to the book and the overall themes we will be exploring. We encourage participants to read the book prior to the forum series.

### March 17

In this session, we will explore the importance of grief and lament in our public worship and witness as Christians.

### March 24

What does it mean to have a "prophetic consciousness"? How do we as Christians envision the world as the way God wants our world to be? Why is the message of the prophets so often threatening to the status quo? Come and explore these evocative questions and bring your questions to the conversation.

### March 31

What, if anything, does Martin Luther have to add to our contemplations about the role of the prophetic imagination in the church? Does the theology of the cross speak to us today and help us be faithful to the gospel of Jesus in these challenging times? How do we nurture relentless hope in our own lives and in the community of St. Mark's? Come and discuss these questions and others that we raise together.

### April 7

The contemporary church must ask itself: How are we to navigate our current social climate in the way of Jesus? Is social justice an integral part of our faith and practice? Why or why not? Come and explore these questions and bring your own.

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### April 14

Holy Week - A journey with Jesus with Dr. Kyle Schiefelbein-Guerrero

### April 28

St. Mark's teaching parish students and pastoral intern share their faith stories and their call to seminary

# Youth

## HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH

A few of St. Mark's high-school youth will be attending the Sierra Pacific Synod High School Retreat over the weekend of February 22-24. This retreat is an opportunity to gather with youth from throughout our Synod, build new relationships and friendships with youth from local congregations, and plan for ways of getting together throughout the year.

The high-school youth meet on a monthly basis on Sunday mornings to be in conversation with one another about various topics and to stay in touch with what's happening in each other's lives. Erin Scheller is the Youth Sponsor who convenes this group. Any suggestions for other activities are welcome.

## MT. CROSS MINISTRIES SUMMER CAMP

From June 23 to August 2, there are so many opportunities for many age groups to experience the outdoors and have fun at Mt. Cross Camp, our Lutheran site for outdoor ministry in the region.

You can learn all about these opportunities by going to [www.mtcross.org](http://www.mtcross.org). Here is a sample of some of the individual camps:



## MT. CROSS MINISTRIES

<b>June 23 – 28</b>	<b>Adventures on the Coast for Youth, Grades 6 – 12</b>
<b>July 7 – 12</b>	<b>Pathfinders for Youth, Grades 3 – 5</b>
	<b>Trailblazers for Youth, Grades 6 – 8</b>
	<b>Voyagers for Youth, Grades 9 – 12</b>
<b>July 14 - 19</b>	<b>Explorers for Youth, Grades 1 – 3</b>
<b>July 28 – Aug. 2</b>	<b>Surf 'n Turf for Youth, Grades 6 – 8</b>

If you would have any interest in becoming a staff member at Mt. Cross in the future, there are 2-week and 3-week Staff-in-Training programs for youth, grades 10 – 12 starting July 14. You do not have to go to camp all alone. Invite a friend, a neighbor, or your cousin, and have a great time this summer at this secluded spot in the Santa Cruz Mountains.

## CONFIRMATION

We have 5 youth who will be reaffirming their baptisms on Sunday, June 2 in the rite of Confirmation at the 11:00 a.m. worship service. These young people have been getting an overview of the Bible and delving into the parts of the catechism for 2 or 3 years, while also exploring other topics like worship, the church year, the purpose of the church, the meaning of discipleship, and the pressing social issues of today. As we affirm these youth for their diligence in this education, we also rejoice with them in their decision to continue in the call of their baptism to live among God's faithful people, to hear the word of God and share regularly in Holy Communion, to proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed, to serve all people in the way of Jesus, and to strive for justice and peace in all the earth.



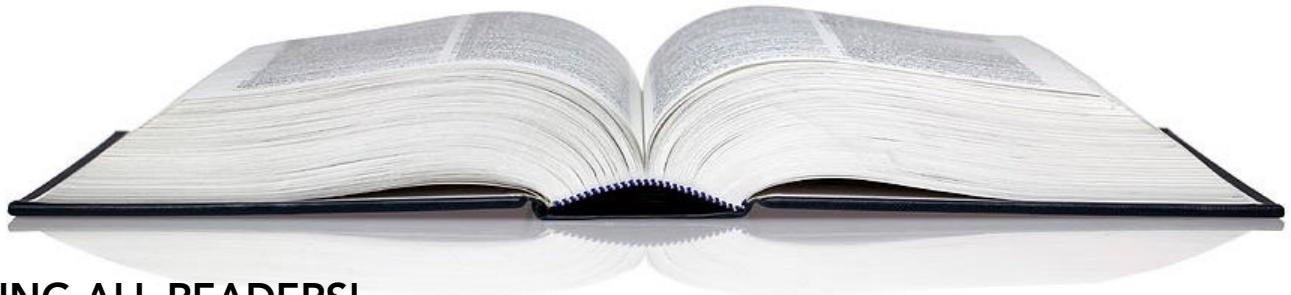
# PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT

## PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT TEAM EXPLORING IDEAS FOR ULC SPACE

A team was formed in October to ascertain how our congregation can utilize the Urban Life Center (ULC) more fully, including the auditorium space. The Program Development Team members are Elise Semonian, Gerald Lundblad, Jeremy McClain, Nadine Robinson and Robert Rathmell, assisted by Pastor Ron. The team is meeting monthly to discuss potential uses and tenants that have programs consistent with our mission.

The Team began by reviewing the results of a 2015 survey regarding the future use of ULC and the "Guiding Principles" developed by the Church Council last spring regarding any future development of St. Mark's Square. We also reviewed the regular users of the ULC in order to see how the space is currently being used, and with what frequency. We considered conversations the pastors have had over the summer, primarily with service providers in the community. We have been brainstorming ideas and potential partnerships, while considering limitations of the spaces. In between our meetings, we gather information for the Team's consideration and discernment. Some promising uses include day services for seniors or the homeless, in partnership with organizations that have existing programs in San Francisco.

We encourage you to "think outside of the box" and send the Program Development Team your ideas and leads for use of the ULC spaces. Please feel free to contact any of us, or send an email to the Team, care of Elise Semonian [elisehs@att.net](mailto:elisehs@att.net).



## CALLING ALL READERS!

Just like your local library system, the St. Mark's church library is now set up for patron accounts and borrowing. You can get your account by asking church library volunteers Marisa Lee or Cora Rose to set you up as a library patron. It's fast, it's easy, and it opens up lots of great reading!

In December you may have seen the "pop up" library in Heritage Hall, showcasing Advent- and Christmas-themed books. Library volunteers set up patron accounts and lent titles out after services. Another themed library table is coming this spring - watch for announcements.

Have you checked out the St. Mark's Library catalog online yet?

Head over to <https://www.librarycat.org/lib/smlclibrary> to see which titles are ready for lending. If you find something on the shelves you'd like to check out, let Cora or Marisa know by emailing [library@stmarks-sf.org](mailto:library@stmarks-sf.org) (or talk to either of them in person). More titles will be added to the online catalog soon!

- Have an "overdue" book to return? Please pass it to Cora or Marisa, or place on the piano with a note, so we can scan and appropriately shelve. No late fines will be assessed - there's abundant grace!
- Want to donate a title? We appreciate your desire to share a book or resource. Before bringing items to church, we ask that you please check in with Marisa and Cora about the item. We'll cross-check the catalog and confer with other library volunteers about whether there's a place for it in the St. Mark's library, or suggest other faith-based collections that may be able to provide a home for it.

# RESOLUTION FOR ST. MARK'S LUTHERAN CHURCH IN SAN FRANCISCO TO BECOME A SANCTUARY CONGREGATION

Whereas we are told in Scripture, "Do not mistreat the foreigners who reside in your land. The foreigner who lives among you must be treated like one of your own. Love them as you love yourself, for you too were a foreigner in the land of Egypt. I am YHWH." (Leviticus 19: 33-34, The Inclusive Bible), and

Whereas we are also told, "Thus says YHWH Omnipotent: Administer true justice; show kindness and mercy to one another; do not oppress the widowed or the orphaned, the resident alien or the poor, and do not plot evil against one other." (Zechariah 7:9-10, The Inclusive Bible), and

Whereas we as Lutherans in the United States have been welcoming, protecting, and providing for immigrants for many years, including a partnership with Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Services, and

Whereas we as members of St. Mark's voted in January 2017 to be an ELCA AMMPARO Welcoming Congregation - Accompanying **M**igrant **M**inors with **P**rotection, **A**dvocacy, **R**epresentation and **O**pportunities, and

Whereas we as the congregation of St. Mark's recognize the current understanding of Sanctuary as extending activities of accompaniment, advocacy, protection, representation and opportunities to all migrants, including:

- Welcoming, praying for, and ministering to immigrants in our congregation and community;
- Identifying a contact person and team in the congregation who can communicate with and accompany immigrants and families;
- Accompanying -
  - Immigrants and their families as they regularly check in with Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) and immigration court;
  - Families affected by immigration, here in the San Francisco, and in our sister parish Cordero de Dios in El Salvador, and around the world.
- Advocating -
  - In protective ways for immigrants as they attempt to live and work while awaiting a decision on asylum;
  - For public policy that will positively impact the current immigration crisis, partnering with Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Services and ELCA Advocacy and addressing root causes of immigration;

Be it

Resolved that St. Mark's Lutheran Church in San Francisco become a Sanctuary congregation; and be it further

Resolved that St. Mark's will join other congregations and organizations in San Francisco and the Sierra Pacific Synod in accompanying immigrants and their families, and be it further

Resolved that as a Sanctuary congregation, the current AMMPARO budget, lay leadership, and activities will be transferred to the Sanctuary ministry for accompaniment and advocacy for migrant children and adults. **Passed (Yes - 70; No - 11).**

JANUARY 20, 2019

## SANCTUARY TASK FORCE

Laura Evenson, Kimberly Hamilton-Lam, Jason Jennings, Pastor Ron Moe-Lobeda, Cora Rose  
Mary Ritter, Chair



## LENTEN OFFERING BOXES TO SUPPORT WILDFIRE VICTIMS IN NORTHERN CALIFORNIA

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 through Lutheran Social Services of Northern California to the community of Paradise Lutheran Church in order to assist their members who were victims of the wildfire in 2018.

During the season of Lent, we are invited to care for the hurting and vulnerable through our giving. Fill your box – decorated by St. Mark's Sunday School children – with bills and coins, or write a check to St. Mark's with "Lenten box" or "Wildfire Victims" in the memo line. Thank you!

## THANK YOU TO OUR INTERFAITH WINTER HOMELESS SHELTER VOLUNTEERS!

We thank you, our faithful volunteers, for providing hospitality, tasty and healthy breakfasts, kindness, and welcome to our homeless guests between January 13 - February 2. Your willingness to show up and serve enables St. Mark's to provide shelter and warm meals for over 60 men. St Mark's hosted many Interfaith Groups who provided the evening meals. We heard from several groups about how much they appreciated our hospitality and support for this meaningful ministry. We are very grateful for St. Mark's Shelter Coordinator, John Elford, who shows up almost every single day. Thank you John, for your leadership and warm presence throughout these three weeks. Thank you all!

### Winter Shelter Volunteers

John Elford  
Jonathan Ocker  
Jerry Lundblad  
Diana & Greg Gomez  
Cal Culp  
Suzanne Smith  
Fred Blickle  
Jesse Peirce  
Barbara McCormick  
Harry & Dianne Velleno  
Pr. Hans Hoch & Pr. Elizabeth Ekdale

Phil Krikau  
Jane Borg  
Mark, Elise, Nate & Peter Semonian  
Lisa, Todd & Emma Gray  
Sonja Pilman  
The Foster Family  
Stephen Hart  
David, Kimberly & Katherine Lam  
Ardelle Knudsen  
Pr. Ron Moe-Lobeda  
Cristin Owens & Eric Angella  
Geri Bailey  
Steve Ernst

Tim & Elaine Bohan  
Jon & Vanessa Moeller  
Liv Beck, Aaron Greig & Ryan  
Mary Ritter  
Mary Birkel & Owen Lee  
Gil, Marisa, Vivian & Catherine  
Lee  
Roger Ostrem  
Linda Krauskopf  
Gary Schilling  
Tapio Boles  
Brian Richards & Greg Jahnke

## WINTERFAITH SHELTER WALK

The San Francisco Interfaith Council is sponsoring the annual Winterfaith Shelter Walk to raise funds to support the Interfaith Winter Shelter. The Walk is on Sunday, April 7, at 1:30 p.m. at Lake Merced in SF (meet at the Parking Circle at the intersection of Lake Merced and Sunset Blvd.). To register, donate and/or obtain more information, you may visit: <http://winterfaithshelterwalk.dojiggy.com>. It would be great to get a team from St. Mark's to join in this interfaith event.



## San Francisco Interfaith Council

*Celebrating our diverse faiths & spiritual traditions  
Bringing people together to build understanding  
Serving our community*

MICHAEL G. PAPPAS, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR • [MGPAPPAS@SFINTERFAITHCOUNCIL.ORG](mailto:MGPAPPAS@SFINTERFAITHCOUNCIL.ORG)  
P.O. BOX 29055 • SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94129 • 415.474.1321  
[WWW.SFINTERFAITHCOUNCIL.ORG](http://WWW.SFINTERFAITHCOUNCIL.ORG)

## SOUTHWEST SF NEIGHBORHOOD GATHERING

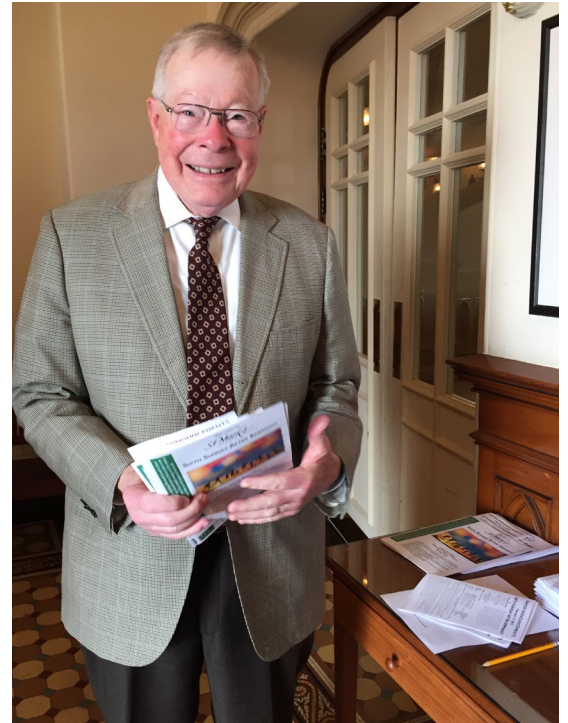
There were 17 members who met for dinner at Tower Burger and then enjoyed dessert at Pastors Ekdale's and Hans' home.



## THANK YOU LARRY!

Thank you to Larry DeSpain for serving as a St. Mark's usher for 42 years! Larry has welcomed worshippers, handed out worship leaflets, received offerings, and has been the face of cheerful hospitality to thousands of worshippers. We thank you Larry for your years of service as an usher and are grateful for your faithful and humble spirit in serving. God bless you as you "sit in the pews" during worship – well deserved!

If anyone would like to volunteer to serve as an usher, please contact Tapio Boles who will train you. We always need additional ushers to provide hospitality and to carry out the important ushering duties on Sundays and during our Festival Services. Tapio can be reached at: [tapio@hotmail.com](mailto:tapio@hotmail.com)



## SAVE THE DATE FOR PRIDE 2019!

You are cordially invited to walk with St. Mark's Lutheran Church in the 2019 San Francisco Pride Parade. This will be our 41st year in the parade! Mark down Sunday, **June 30, 2019** and plan to worship and receive a blessing at the 9:00 service before we walk down to the ReconcilingWorks (Lutheran) contingent assembly area together. Strollers and wagons welcome!



# ANNUAL MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

St. Mark's held its annual congregational meeting on Sunday, January 27. Some of the meeting highlights were:



- **The congregation approved the 2019 budget.** The budget includes a 3% cost of living increase for all of St. Mark's staff and a 1% merit increase for Pastoral staff in keeping with synod guidelines. Income from building use as well as general envelope giving has increased in 2019; all ministry teams have been fully funded as requested.
- A report from Treasurer Steve Ernst about our 2018 income and expenses: 2018 came in on budget. General envelope giving was as estimated at \$460,000 and was realized and income from building use increased in 2018. 2018 income was \$739, 241. Total expenditures were \$765, 757. The shortfall was anticipated and covered by the Contingency Reserves.
- Mary Ritter, Sanctuary Task Force chair led an in-depth discussion with the congregation about what it means for St. Mark's Lutheran Church to become a Sanctuary Congregation and addressed concerns. These efforts will include AMMPARO with a broader scope. Members of the Sanctuary Task Force supported the discussion points: Laura Evenson, Kimberly Hamilton-Lam, Jason Jennings, Pastor Ron Moe-Lobeda and Cora Rose.
- **The congregation approved the resolution for St. Mark's Lutheran Church in San Francisco to become a Sanctuary Congregation. (Yes - 70; No - 11).**
- In addition to his printed report, Pastor Moe-Lobeda spoke of his work on the Outreach Team as well as on The Program Development Team established to determine the best use of the Urban Life Center - to utilize the ULC to provide services for seniors, children or the homeless. He urges the congregation to invite a friend to service and also invite someone to return to St. Mark's who has not attended lately and let them know they are missed.
- In addition to her printed report, Pastor Ekdale spoke of her continued Governance work, with the Task Force to improve and define the working relationship of St. Mark's Lutheran Church (SMLC) with Martin Luther Tower (MLT). She also highlighted the many opportunities to strengthen our faith and invites the congregation to attend one of the many 10:00 am adult forums. She spoke of the 3 Goals and 3 Open Questions established by Council during their fall retreat and welcomes more conversation with the congregation throughout the year. Appreciation was also expressed for the diligent work of the Sanctuary Task Force throughout this year.
- Report from St. Mark's Council President Mark Semonian included a thank you to all St. Mark's staff and special thank you to Steve Ernst and Omer Voss for their many hours of dedication as they complete their current terms. A special thank you was also expressed to the co-chairs of the successful 3-year Capital Campaign: Greg Jahnke and Roger Ostrem.
- Report from MLT by Voss, Board President provided an update on the many upgrades to the tower this year: renovations of both elevators, plans for new windows and improved senior programming. MLT also plans for re-syndication, "a new mortgage" Voss states that will help provide funding to continue affordable housing, programming for seniors and support to SMLC. MLT also provided a \$250,000 grant to SMLC for the Capital Campaign in 2018.
- Report on St. Mark's Square development by Jeff Kohler: efforts continue and are on a positive path. All development plans support the mission and ministries of SMLC. Development will include mixed use spaces, some examples provided: local retail, community health offices, non-profit offices, St. Mark's offices and ministry partners, day care and some portion affordable housing.
- **Election of incumbent Council Members: Nadine Robinson and Matthias Will for 3-year terms, and new member, Emma Gray, youth Council Member for a 3-year term.**

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





## COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS: FALL/WINTER 2018

- Please visit the council bulletin board (across from the nursery) to read the approved Council minutes. New postings added toward the end of each month.
- We look forward to welcoming Emma Grey, youth member, to council in 2019.
- Council recommends a balanced 2019 budget to the Congregation for the Annual meeting as well as a recommendation to become a Sanctuary Congregation.
- Council continues work on a Guiding Principles document and provides support to and conversation with the St. Mark's Square Development Committee.
- Council approved a 2018 fall Audit Review committee to review St. Mark's financial processes that has been completed. Council sincerely thanks Tapio Boles, Rick Seefeldt and Shelly Taylor for their talented work on the audit review committee. Our Finance Committee will address the recommendations from this review.
- Council welcomes Sonja Pilman, our new intern, and supports her during her shared internship experience with St. Andrews Lutheran Church.
- Council diligently prepares for our 2019 Annual meeting and looks forward to conversation throughout 2019 about our mission goals and open questions.
- Respectfully Submitted, Cristin Owens, Church Council Secretary

## YOU ARE ALL MINISTERS OF WELCOME

Any time that we who are members of St. Mark's are at church on Sunday mornings, we all have the opportunity to greet and welcome the guests and visitors who come through our doors. Whether you are in the narthex, sitting in the pew, or downstairs in Heritage Hall, the Outreach Team encourages you to be mindful of those persons whom you think might be new to St. Mark's and to extend a hand of welcome to them. If you can encourage them to fill out a Welcome Card, or learn something about them to pass on to the pastors, that would be great! That way, we have some information that we can use to reach out to these guests and visitors, thank them for coming to our church, and extend an invitation to them to return. Thank you for your attention and effort in this regard. Our ministry of welcome is a community endeavor and everyone can take a role and responsibility in this vital ministry.





## SACRED ACTS AT ST. MARK'S

### Baptism of:

Catherine Pershing Lee

### Memorial Service of:

Debby Halladay

### Marriage of:

Emily and Vicente Gomez

## 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](mailto:lawrence@stmarks-sf.org).

## FAREWELL AND GODSPEED OF DEBBIE AND JOHN VARIAN ON FEB. 10, 2019

## PREPARING FOR EXTREME WEATHER CONDITIONS

With the latest storms, the SF Interfaith Council has put out a brief description about how best to prepare for extreme weather conditions and safety tips. Here is a summary of their suggestions:

- Check your supplies to have on hand: <http://www.sf72.org/supplies>;
- Check with friends and family who may need assistance, especially older adults and physically challenged;
- Remove debris and sweep up any leaves from sidewalks and storm drains;
- Call 311 for non-life threatening storm issues and 911 for all other emergencies
- Sign up for AlertSF by texting your Zip Code to 888-777 for emergency alerts
- If power goes out, unplug and turn off appliances. Leave one light on to signal when power is restored;
- Avoid using candles because they are a fire hazard;
- Have extra flashlights and extra batteries on hand;
- Stay away from flooded areas and downed power lines in car or on foot;
- Do not touch electrical equipment if you are wet or standing in water;
- Tune to KCBS (740 AM or 106.9 FM) and other media for advisories and instructions, and visit [www.sf72.org/em/home](http://www.sf72.org/em/home) for additional weather information.



## JACK HARMON CELEBRATING HIS BIRTHDAY

Jack lives at the Sheffield Manor Convalescent Hospital. Cards can be sent to him at: 1133 S. Van Ness Ave. San Francisco, CA 94110.



## SPRING 2018 CONCERTS AT ST. MARK'S

### **California Bach Society**

#### **Rachmaninoff: *The All-Night Vigil***

Fri, Mar 1, 2019 • 8:00pm

[www.calbach.org](http://www.calbach.org)

### **SF Renaissance Dancers**

Sat, Mar 2, 2019 • 7:30pm

[www.sfrenaissancedancers.org](http://www.sfrenaissancedancers.org)

### **San Francisco Choral Artists**

[Out of the Garden, Into the Woods: from Paradise to Scary](#)

Sat, Mar 9, 2019 • 8:00pm

[www.sfca.org](http://www.sfca.org)

### **Omni Concerts:**

#### **Solo Classical Guitar Recital**

##### **Kyuhee Park**

Sat, Mar 16, 2019 • 7:30pm

[omniconcerts.com](http://omniconcerts.com)

### **American Bach Soloists**

#### **Bach's St. Matthew Passion**

Sun, Mar 24, 2019 • 4:00pm

[americanbach.org](http://americanbach.org)

### **Voices of Music**

#### **IV. As Steals the Morn: Bach & Handel**

Fri, Mar 29, 2019 • 8:00pm

[www.voicesofmusic.org](http://www.voicesofmusic.org)

### **New Esterhazy Quartet**

#### ***The Hunt For B Flat***

Haydn op 1/1

Mozart K 458

Brahms op 67

Sat, Mar 30, 2019 • 4:00pm

[www.newesterhazy.org](http://www.newesterhazy.org)

### **Junior Bach Festival**

Sun, Mar 31, 2019 5:30pm - 10:30pm [juniorbach.org](http://juniorbach.org)

### **Omni Concerts: Solo Classical Guitar Recital**

50 Oak Street: Judicael Perroy, David Tanenbaum,  
Lawrence Ferrara, Marc Teicholz, Richard Savino

Sat, Apr 13, 2019 • 7:30pm

[omniconcerts.com](http://omniconcerts.com)

### **SF Early Music Society**

#### **ENSEMBLE CAPRICE: *Lovestories: Great composers and their loved ones***

Sun, Apr 14, 2019 • 4:00pm

[sfems.org](http://sfems.org)

### **California Bach Society**

#### **I Maestri Italiani a Vienna: *Giovanni Valentini and Antonio Bertali***

Fri, Apr 26, 2019 • 8:00pm

[www.calbach.org](http://www.calbach.org)

### **Omni Concerts: Solo Classical Guitar Recital**

Aloha España featuring Pepe Romero and Daniel Ho

Sat, Apr 27, 2019 • 7:30pm

[omniconcerts.com](http://omniconcerts.com)

### **Janis Lee Student Piano Recital**

Sun, Apr 28, 2019 • 2:30pm

### **American Bach Soloists**

#### **Four Brandenburg Concertos**

Sun, May 5, 2019 • 4:00pm

[americanbach.org](http://americanbach.org)

### **Sunset Youth Orchestra Concert**

Sat, May 11, 2019 • 3:00pm

[sunsetyouthorchestra.com](http://sunsetyouthorchestra.com)

### **SF Early Music Society**

#### **ANTIC FACES *Joyne Hands: Elizabethan entertainments for mixed consort***

Sun, May 12, 2019 • 4:00pm

[sfems.org](http://sfems.org)

### **International High School Concert**

Fri, May 17, 2019 • 7:00pm

Contact the Music Groups directly for ticket and performance information

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

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

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

## Church Office Hours

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

415-928-7770

## Staff

## Extension

## Email

The Rev. Elizabeth E. Ekdale, Lead Pastor	2300	<a href="mailto:ekdale@stmarks-sf.org">ekdale@stmarks-sf.org</a>
The Rev. Ron Moe-Lobeda, Associate Pastor	2460	<a href="mailto:moe-lobeda@stmarks-sf.org">moe-lobeda@stmarks-sf.org</a>
Dr. Timothy Zerlang, Director of Music	2330	<a href="mailto:zerlang@stmarks-sf.org">zerlang@stmarks-sf.org</a>
Winnie Heslin, Director of Operations	2250	<a href="mailto:heslin@stmarks-sf.org">heslin@stmarks-sf.org</a>
Bob Martinez, Property Manager	2270	<a href="mailto:martinez@stmarks-sf.org">martinez@stmarks-sf.org</a>
Stefani Lawrence, Communications & Media Coordinator	2260	<a href="mailto:lawrence@stmarks-sf.org">lawrence@stmarks-sf.org</a>
Deidre Rettenmaier, Events Administrator	2290	<a href="mailto:events@stmarks-sf.org">events@stmarks-sf.org</a>
Bookkeeper/Accountant	2320	<a href="mailto:accounting@stmarks-sf.org">accounting@stmarks-sf.org</a>
Mark Semonian, Council President		<a href="mailto:semonian@stmarks-sf.org">semonian@stmarks-sf.org</a>
Edda Mai Johnson, Nursery Coordinator		<a href="mailto:nursery@stmarks-sf.org">nursery@stmarks-sf.org</a>
Delia Whitfield, Nursery Attendant		
Sonja Pilman, Pastoral Intern		<a href="mailto:pilman@stmarks-sf.org">pilman@stmarks-sf.org</a>

Carl Storey, Security

Jenny Hart, Sunday School Coordinator

The Rev. Chuck Lewis, Visitation Pastor

## Reconciling in Christ

St. Mark's Lutheran Church is a Reconciling in Christ congregation. We are one of over 800 worshipping communities, 29 synods, and nine organizations across the ELCA and ELCIC (Canada) which have declared that people of all sexual orientations and gender identities are equally welcome to join fully in the worship and life of this Christ-centered community.

## Other Important Numbers

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