

Spring 2020

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



Lenten Worship

Ash Wednesday // February 26

**SERVICES AT 12 NOON AND 7 P.M.
IMPOSITION OF ASHES & 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.



Wednesday Evening Supper, Worship, and Bible Study

Throughout this season of Lent, we will be gathering on Wednesday evenings to eat together, worship together, and delve into the Book of Job together. We will begin serving a simple supper of soup and bread at **6:00 p.m.** in Heritage Hall. *If anyone would be willing to contribute to this meal on any given week, please sign up with Pastor Ron.* At **7:00 p.m.**, we will gather in the sanctuary for a vespers service that will be designed each week based upon the topic from the Book of Job for that evening. At **7:30 p.m.**, while the members of Journeys in Faith meet and the Choir practices, those who would like to study the Book of Job are invited to join the discussion in Heritage Hall. The themes for each week are:

March 4

Job 1 – 11: Job's Suffering and Initial Conversation with Friends

March 11

Job 12 – 20: Job's Second Conversation with Friends

March 18

Job 21 – 28: Job's Third Conversation with Friends

March 25

Job 29 – 37: Job's Conclusions and Elihu's Response

April 1

Job 38 – 42: Job's Dialogue with God Yahweh

Come and take time this Lenten season to be in fellowship with other folks from St. Mark's and to reflect upon the challenges that we all face in being faithful and obedient to the will of God.

Lenten Offering Boxes to Support Mt. Cross

Each year we hand out an "offering box" beautifully designed by our Sunday School children. The box is for you to take home and fill with your loose change and dollar bills as an act of devotion during the Season of Lent. This year, the recipient of these offerings will be Mt. Cross Ministries, a Lutheran church camp in the Santa Cruz mountains. St. Mark's has sent many children, youth, and confirmation students to Mt. Cross Camp. In addition, we have members of St. Mark's serve on staff at Mt. Cross. You can go on the website (mtcross.org) to find out more about Mt. Cross Ministries. **Please fill your offering box to the brim and return to St. Mark's during Holy Week.**

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 stmarks-sf.org/give-a-gift to make a donation. Please send all donations by **April 5**. Thank you!

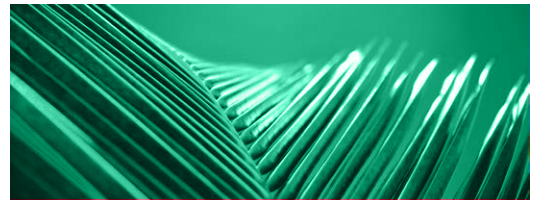
ALLELUIA!

EASTER AT ST. MARK'S

Holy Week

Palm Sunday // April 5

9:00 A.M. & 11:00 A.M. -
PROCESSION AROUND THE SQUARE



Maundy Thursday // April 9

7:00 P.M. - HOLY COMMUNION
& STRIPPING OF THE ALTAR



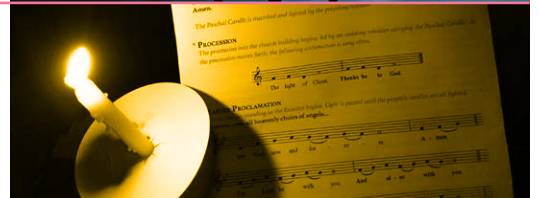
Good Friday // April 10

12:00 P.M. - STATIONS OF THE CROSS
7:00 P.M. - THE PASSION ACCORDING TO ST. JOHN



Easter Vigil // April 11

8:00 P.M. - SERVICE OF LIGHT, SCRIPTURE READINGS,
BAPTISM, AFFIRMATION OF BAPTISM, HOLY COMMUNION



Easter Sunday

April 12

9:00 A.M. - HOLY COMMUNION & CHILDREN'S TIME

10:15 AM - EGG HUNT

Easter Egg Hunt for all children on the Square

10:30 A.M. - EASTER MUSIC

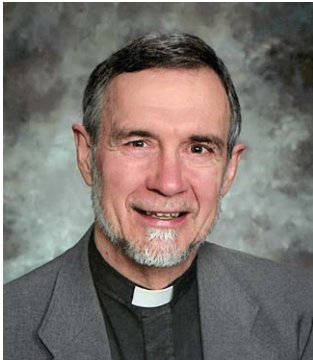
J. S. Bach's *Christ lag in Todesbanden*, BWV 4, for Choir and orchestra
Christ lag in Todesbanden for organ by Bach and Johann Pachelbel

11:00 A.M. - FESTIVAL EUCHARIST

WITH TRUMPETS, STRINGS, & CHOIR



PASTORAL DEVOTION



Pastor Ron Moe-Lobeda

During this church year, we are concentrating on the Gospel of Matthew—a gospel that includes the most extensive narrative about what transpired in Jerusalem once Jesus rode into that holy city on a donkey. About 20 years ago, I realized that we generally pay very little attention to the earlier part of what we call “Holy Week,” and we move directly from Jesus’ entry into Jerusalem to the reading of the Passion Story that begins with the disciples’ preparation for the Passover meal. If you read through Matthew 21 – 25, you begin to realize that everything that happened on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday of that week set the stage for all that Jesus had to suffer and endure on Thursday and Friday.

What Jesus chose to do once he entered Jerusalem took tremendous faith and courage as Jesus proved to be a “whistle blower” in his own right by repeatedly and publicly challenging the religious leaders for their hypocrisy as well as their oppressive, corrupt, and evil ways. These religious leaders who had been spying on Jesus and plotting to get rid of him for almost three years could no longer tolerate Jesus’ accusations and confrontations. His exposure of their abuse of their authority and power over their people was the “final straw that broke the camel’s back,” and led to their decision to arrest Jesus regardless of how the people might react.

We won’t get to delve into these chapters in Matthew until much later in this church year (beginning September 27). By then, Jesus will have been arrested, tried, tortured, and crucified without having the full picture about what led these religious leaders in collaboration with the Roman authorities to take this decisive action against Jesus. For each week of this Lenten season, I would invite you to read a chapter from Matthew 21 – 25 before we get to Palm/Passion Sunday, and mediate on how we, as a congregation, might want to be more public in how we give testimony and witness to addressing the racism that permeates every facet of our society.

Given our goal for this year to “create educational opportunities to study racism in our society and in the church in order to support our mission of being a welcoming congregation to all people,” we will be focusing on this very challenging issue at our Adult Forum for five Sundays in Lent. The conversation around this issue is never easy, but it is a conversation that we have a responsibility to have for no other reason than to challenge ourselves in being ever so mindful about our own complicity in this dynamic in our society as well as in our church. As you read through Matthew 21 – 25 this Lenten season, hopefully you will be able to draw upon the faith and courage of Jesus to inspire and motivate you to participate in this conversation and find specific ways to address this issue of racism in our lives and in the communities in which we live. It would be great to have everyone present on Sunday mornings to participate in this conversation as a part of your Lenten discipline as we all anticipate Easter morning when we will be raised up to a new life in Christ and walk together in the newness of life!

Peace,

Pastor Ron

Adult Forum

■ Sundays at 10:00 a.m. in Heritage Hall

February

February 23 - An Introduction to the Book of Job, with Pastor Elizabeth Ekdale. We will be studying and reflecting on the Book of Job on Wednesday evenings during the Season of Lent. If you can't make the bible study on Wednesday evenings at 7:30, Pr. Elizabeth will give an "Introduction to the Book of Job" primer for the adult forum.

Lent

The ELCA has been working hard to help educate and inspire Christians to promote fairness and racial equity in

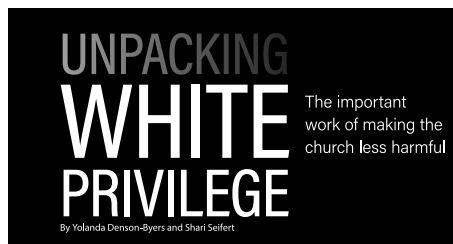
our churches, our communities and our country. But it has become more apparent how much work remains to be done. With 96% of the membership of the ELCA Caucasian, we remain the least integrated of the nation's major Christian denominations.

One of St. Mark's annual goals is as follows: *Create educational opportunities to study racism in our society and the church in order to support our mission of being welcoming to all people.*

Each adult forum during Lent, we will gather to reflect on and practice how we can unpack white privilege. These forums will be facilitated by Pr. Elizabeth, Pr. Ron, and Pam Coxson.

A study guide will be available to assist us in our reflections and conversations.

- **March 1 - White Privilege and Me (and Us)**
- **March 8 - Unpacking White Privilege**
- **March 15 - Wide Disparities, led by Pam Coxson**
- **March 22 - Take the White Privilege Test**
- **March 29 - Responding to Racism and Listening to Others**



April 5 - Introduction to Holy Week with Pr. Elizabeth. Why is Holy Week important to Christians? How come there are "extra" worship services during Holy Week? What is the worship about during Holy Week? Come and find out why you will want to participate in all of the Holy Week services at this Adult Forum.

Easter



**We Are Church,
We Are Called**

50•40•10

With gratitude for those who have gone before and hope for the future, the ELCA gives thanks to God for the ministry of women. In 2019 and 2020 we celebrate 50 years of Lutheran women being ordained in the United States, 40 years of women of color being ordained, and 10 years of LGBTQIA+ individuals being able to serve freely. As part of this anniversary year, we lament that women have been barred from serving and have been bullied, dismissed and excluded. We also celebrate the gifts and service that women have brought to our church and our world as pastors. Join Pr. Elizabeth for reflection and a deeper understanding of how the church has changed in the past 50 years due to the gifts of women in ministry.

■ **April 19 - We Are Church, We are Called: The History of Women's Ordination in the ELCA**

■ **April 26 - A visit with Rev. Janelle Neubauer, pastor and country coordinator for YAGM in Rwanda.**

■ **May 3 - The Movement of the Spirit: Noticing the shift from "What would prevent us?" to "Why we must!"**

■ **May 10 - Struggles of Women in Ministry**

■ **May 17 - Celebrations: Envisioning the Whole People of God Through Women's Leadership in the Church**

Adult Ministries

Young Professionals Fellowship

With the influx of a number of people who identify with this age group, these (young) adults have been meeting on a regular basis since last fall. The next gathering will be at the home of Sonja and Markus Pilman, 1625 Cottage Grove Ave. in San Mateo (street parking is available) on **Saturday, March 7 at 1:00 p.m.** The main dish will be Markus' bbq specialty. Please bring an appetizer, side dish, or dessert to share. You may contact Sonja at sonja@pilman.ch to indicate your attendance and choice of dish.

Parents' Group

This reconvened fellowship group has been gathering about every six weeks on Sunday mornings to check in with each other and engage in a topic pertinent to the interest of parents. As we enter the seasons of Lent, Holy Week, and Easter, there are many images and details of this time in Jesus' life that are a challenge to explain to children—certainly a topic worthy of ongoing discussion. Let's plan to get together on **Sunday, March 15 at 10:00 a.m.** in the Fireside Room for our next conversation.

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.

BOOK GROUP

When? Second Saturdays, from 10:00 a.m. to noon

Where? Conference Room

Info: Refreshments are served.

- **Mar. 14** – *Barracoon* by Zora Neale Hurston
- **Apr. 18** – *The Weight of Ink* by Rachel Kadish
- **May 9** – TBD

BIBLE STUDY GROUP

When? Second Tuesdays from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Where? Heritage Hall

Info: Bring a sandwich or salad for lunch/fellowship at noon. Drinks and dessert are provided. Our study is on "We Are Called!" by Kathryn A. Kleinhans

- **Mar. 10** – "Called to Serve"
- **Apr. 14** – "Calling Networks"
- **May 12** – Intergenerational Devotional

If you have any questions, please contact Suzanne Smith at (415) 285.7438 or suzathome@comcast.net.

Senior Ministries

Aging & Spirituality Group Senior Lunches

All Seniors are welcome to this supportive gathering in which we can safely share our thoughts about aging, spirituality, our hopes, and our fears. We will be utilizing the book, "The Art of Dying Well" by Katy Butler as a way to focus our discussions. Pr. Elizabeth generally facilitates the group. Come and join the conversation in a warm and safe environment. You do not need to purchase or read the book ahead of time in order to participate! All Seniors are welcome

- **Date & Time:** Mondays, 11:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon
- **Location:** Brockie Lounge (MLT)

Bring yourself and a friend to a delicious monthly lunch in Heritage Hall. The cost is reasonable: only \$2.00 for a warm lunch, friendly conversation, and entertainment. Please sign up by calling the Martin Luther Tower office in advance: (415) 885-1084. The dates of the upcoming lunches are as follows: Thursday February 27, Thursday March 26, Thursday April 23, and Thursday, May 28. All lunches begin at noon in Heritage Hall in the church building.

- **Date & Time:** Thursdays at 12:00 noon
- **Location:** Heritage Hall
- **Cost:** \$2.00

Child/Youth Ministries

Youth Ministry

The youth of St. Mark's have been gathering regularly on Sunday mornings to check in with each other and discuss various topics of interest. We will continue to do so based upon the availability of the youth. The youth also will be planning for an activity in SF in the next few weeks. There also will be opportunities for service during Sunday morning worship, at the food pantry, and during the Easter vigil. As we engage in the Open Questions this year, the youth certainly will have something to contribute to the question, "To what ministry with youth and children is St. Mark's being called in years to come?"

Sunday School Transition

This spring, we are facing another transition with the Sunday School as their current space is being made available for permanent use by other not-for-profit organization(s). St. Mark's office space has been undergoing remodeling for the past two months in order to accommodate the Sunday School classes on Sunday mornings. This transition is anticipated to be complete by the end of March so that there will be no interruption with our Sunday School ministry for the remainder of the school year.

The spring schedule for Sunday School teachers still has some openings for anyone who would like to teach or assist in teaching a class on Sunday mornings. You may sign up for one, two, or three Sundays as your time permits. If you are interested in this vital ministry, please contact Adrienne Brown, Sunday School Coordinator, at adriennenelson@yahoo.com. Given our Safe Congregation Policy, if you have not taken the online program for this ministry, you will need to do so before teaching a class. You may arrange this two-hour session with Ben Dinglasan, our new Director of Operations, at dinglasan@stmarks-sf.org.

Mt. Cross Summer Camp

Registration for Mt. Cross summer camps is now open! If you have a child in elementary school, middle school, or high school, there is a week of camping experience just waiting for your child at Mt. Cross. There is half-week camp for Explorers (completed grades 1 – 3), three different weeks for Pathfinders (grades 3 – 5), a couple of weeks for Trailblazers (grades 6 – 8), a couple of weeks of Surf 'n' Turf (grades 6 – 8), and a week for Voyagers (grades 9 – 12), along with specialized camps throughout the summer. The theme for the summer is "From Generation to Generation." The cost for a full week runs \$450 – 550. **For an early-bird discount, register prior to May 1, 2020.** For more information or to register, go to mtcross.org.

Community Ministries

Food Pantry

Once every six weeks or so, members and friends of St. Mark's get together at Old First Presbyterian Church on a Saturday morning to distribute food to some 300 at-risk residents of the neighborhood. There are three shifts to the morning routine:

- **7:30** – unloading the truck that delivers the food;
- **9:00** – passing out the food to people in groups of 50 people at a time;
- **10:30** – cleaning up and putting everything away.

Participants can volunteer for one, two or all three shifts. During this next quarter, we will have three Saturday opportunities to participate in this ministry:

March 7, April 18, and May 23. If you are interested in learning more about this ministry or would like to sign up, you may contact Diana Gomez at dianamrgomez@mindspring.com or (415) 533-5205.

San Francisco Interfaith Walk

The San Francisco Interfaith Council is sponsoring the annual "Winterfaith Shelter Walk 2020" to raise money in support of the Winter Shelter Program of the SFIC. The walk will be held on **Sunday, March 29, at 1:30 p.m.** People will gather in the parking circle at Lake Merced (corner of Sunset Blvd. and Lake Merced Blvd.). To register

for the walk and/or donate to the walk, visit winerfaithshelterwalk.dojiggy.com. For more information, contact Cynthia at cynthiaz@sinterfaithcouncil.org or (415) 474-1321.

Lutheran Lobby Day In Sacramento

On **Wednesday, May 20**, Lutherans throughout the State of California will be gathering in Sacramento to meet with their legislators regarding issues that are pertinent to people of faith. People will gather at 9:00 a.m. for breakfast (free), followed by a worship service and a few workshops before heading to the Capitol for meetings with legislators. Lunch will be on your own. Everything should be wrapped up by 4:00 p.m. **Anyone interested in participating in this second annual Lutheran Lobby Day, please let Pastor Ron know.** More details will be forthcoming as the Lutheran Office of Public Policy completes its planning for this vital and lively day of community advocacy.

Visit to Cordero de Dios in El Salvador

During the week of **November 26 – December 1**, 13 members of St. Mark's went to Soyapango in El Salvador to visit the members of our sister parish, Cordero de Dios. We had a wonderful time renewing our relationships with our friends there and meeting new congregants. We learned about the ongoing impact that gang violence has on people in this country—intimidating people as they attempt to go to church and being responsible for the disappearance of others who will not join their gangs. Poverty and medical care continue to be a big challenge for the people of this country. We were able to visit the new worshipping community, Santa Fe, in their community space. We saw how Cordero de Dios was being used during the week as a site for an accredited baking class, and we were able to celebrate with the most recent class as they graduated from this program. Of course, we were glad to be able to worship with the members of Cordero de Dios on Sunday morning, and celebrate our time at Pastor Rafael's home that afternoon before returning to San Francisco. We continue to hold Cordero de Dios in our prayers. **You are invited to consider joining the delegation this year at the end of November, and be a part of our accompanying relationship with our friends of these congregations.**

Rwanda Meeting

You are invited to attend the annual meeting of the Sierra Pacific Synod Rwanda Connections Committee, coordinated by Cindy Tuisku and Pastor Todd Wallace.

- **Date & Time:** Saturday, April 25, 2020, 1:00 – 4:00 p.m.
- **Location:** Good Shepherd Lutheran Church
1615 Morse Ave, Sacramento, CA 95864

AGENDA

- Welcome and Introductions - Pr. Todd Wallace, Emcee
- Lutheran Church of Rwanda and Rwanda YAGM Reports - Pr. Janelle Neubauer, YAGM Coordinator
- Rwamagana Leaders' School Report - Debbi Holmerud, RLS Board Member
- SPS / LCR Companion Synod Relationship - Bishop Mark Holmerud
- PICO Rwanda Report - Mary Ritter, Global Missions Advocacy Team Co-chair
- Sister Parish Reports - Cindy Tuisku, Global Missions Advocacy Team Member
- Wrap up and Adjourn meeting - Pr. Todd Wallace

Please address inquiries to: Cindy Tuisku
cindytuisku@yahoo.com

Sanctuary Congregation Update

St. Mark's continues to work to advocate for immigrants and refugees. Here is an update of Sanctuary actions in early 2020.

In January, several congregation members donated warm clothing to be taken by Unitarian Universalist SF partners to people on the Mexico side of the US border waiting for admission for asylum hearings. Many wait in cold weather for weeks after the arduous journey through Mexico from Central America. Thanks for those donations!

Sanctuary Team was approved to hang a sign outside the ULC on St. Mark's Square. It will declare that immigrants and refugees are welcomed at St. Mark's. We will use the attached sign, the same design hanging at two of our Sanctuary partners, Calvary Presbyterian in Pacific Heights and Unitarian Universalist across the street from St. Mark's on Franklin Street. Watch for the sign. We want to get the word out that we are eager to help!

The Sanctuary Team was awarded a \$2,000 grant from St. Mark's Endowment to reimburse Spanish translators as needed by St. Mark's staff and church members when accompanying Spanish speaking immigrants. Watch for more information soon.

A "Sanctuary Kit" is being assembled by the Sanctuary Team, containing resources for accompanying immigrants. The Kit will be both digital and in paper format. It will be available later this spring.

Members of St. Mark's continue to protest the treatment of thousands of children separated from parents and held in detention centers in the US. Watch for opportunities to participate in actions with partners at UUSF and from Interfaith Movement for Human Integrity and other San Francisco Sanctuary partners.

Questions about Sanctuary at St. Mark's? Contact Mary Ritter at mlrpeds@aol.com or Pastor Ron Moe-Lobeda.

Property Report

We had three successful Property Team Days last year: April 6, October 5, and December 14 (Christmas tree installations). We de-decorated the trees after Sunday service on January 5, 2020. The two Property Days last year addressing minor maintenance needs and special requests of our Church ministries saw significant accomplishments:

- The entrance doors to the Sanctuary were painted restoring the luster of this inviting entrance.
- The broken concrete on the ramp at the Church entrance was patched removing a trip hazard.
- The steps and sidewalks at the front of the Church were pressure washed restoring the welcoming feeling to all who appreciate this amazing building.
- The Heritage Hall walls were patched and painted where they were damaged by people hanging objects with tape.
- The Heritage Hall carpet was spot-cleaned again to restore its cared-for appearance.
- The many cans of various paint colors in the Property Room were organized and a brush-out chart made to help identify where the colors are used. (this will be ongoing).

There were many other smaller tasks completed that add to the feeling that this space is safe and well cared for: replacing a broken plug wall plate, stopping a toilet leak, finding the cause of hot water in the cold and cold water in the hot, checking the altar and lectern slide pads to protect the Church floor, cleaning the marks off the altar making it look freshly painted (Evangeline did this with loving effort).

I attended meetings with the Signage Task Force to discuss the longer goals for updating and changing the Saint Mark's Square signs to better describe the Church's mission. I started work on the Gough Street sign, then stopped when the Church decided to go in another direction. I also was involved in discussing Church lighting upgrade plans.

In November, I addressed the congregation with the Property Team perspective of stewardship of our remarkable Church building and its importance in the community. I shared how caring for this building is like caring for my home and family in many ways.

Tasks pending for 2020:

- Replace light bulb behind Jesus stained glass on alter COMPLETED
- Fix Heritage Hall middle door panic bar bracket URGENT REPAIR NEEDED
- Mount current permit in Elevator; schedule annual inspection, if not already done.
- Glue and repair the loose wood dowels on the chairs in the Vestry.
- Evaluate and improve the Church exterior lighting and controls.
- Provide video recording of the Sunday services to be available for our homebound members and the congregation to view later. The Church already has equipment for recording.
- Assist the Signage Task force with improving Saint Mark's signs for visibility and direction.

– Tim Bohan, Property Team Ministry Chairperson

Spring Concerts at St. Mark's

SOLO CLASSICAL GUITAR: BANDINI-CHIACCHIARETTA

Experience the tango through the charm and magic of Bandini-Chiacchiaretta, an exuberant duo masterfully wielding Argentina's most representative instruments, guitar and bandoneon.

Sat., Mar. 7, 7:30 p.m.
omniconcerts.com

BAY CHORAL GUILD // MENDELSSOHN'S ELIJAH

Mendelssohn's powerful oratorio *Elijah* is a masterpiece of the Romantic period inspired by the passions and oratorios of Bach and Handel. Choristers and attendees of our 1986 and 1999 performances of *Elijah* still cite them as among our most memorable concerts, and those who attend this 2020 performance will be similarly rewarded.

Sun., Mar. 8, 4:30 p.m.
baychoralguild.org

NEW ESTERHAZY QUARTET

Sat., Apr. 4, 4:00 p.m.
newesterhazy.org

SACRED & PROFANE // LUMINOUS RESONANCE: MUSIC FOR CHORUS AND STRINGS

Our March 2020 concerts will feature music for choir and string orchestra, in collaboration with the Bay Area-based Circadian String Quartet and additional local string players. This ambitious program will include Beethoven's *Elegiac Hymn*; local composer David Conte's reverent *September Sun*, composed in memory of those who died in the September 11th attacks; and the popular American composer Eric Whitacre's *Five Hebrew Love Songs* for choir and string quartet. We are also delighted to present the US premiere of Karin Rehnqvist's exuberant *Day is here!* for choir, soloists, and strings. Recently premiered in Stockholm, *Day is here!* is the companion piece to *Songs from the North*, the four-movement setting of poetry from the Arctic that we commissioned for our fortieth-anniversary concert in May 2018.

Sat., Mar. 14, 8:00 p.m.
sacredprofane.org

MACALESTER COLLEGE CONCERT CHOIR

Fri., Mar. 20, 7:00 p.m.
macalester.edu

JUNIOR BACH FESTIVAL

Sun., Mar. 22, 7:00 p.m.
juniorbach.org

AMERICAN BACH SOLOISTS: FAIRE IS THE HEAVEN

The Elizabethan poet Edmund Spenser began one of his most cherished verses, "Faith is the heaven where happy souls have place in full enjoyment of felicitie." Writers, painters, and composers would often evoke glimpses of the Paradise that could be found in the life beyond, an antidote to the troubled times that were experienced by so many in periods past.

Heinrich Schütz's serenely beautiful *Musikalische Exequien* draws upon texts from the Psalms, the Cantic of Simeon, Revelations, and the Book of Wisdom to illuminate the recognition of new life, including a dramatic effect of three spirits moving throughout the concert space.

The exuberance of the vocal works by Bruhns and Weckmann, and Bach's peaceful and uplifting *Gottes Zeit ist die allerbeste Zeit* combine to make this a concert program of heavenly beauty.

Nola Richardson & Clara Rottsohlk, sopranos
Nicholas Burns, countertenor

James Reese (debut) & Steven Brennfleck, tenors

Jesse Blumberg & Jared Daniel Jones, baritones

Jeffrey Thomas, conductor

Sun., Mar. 29, 4:00 p.m.
americanbach.org

VOICES OF MUSIC // BACH AND BUXTEHUDE: MASS IN G MINOR

Soloists: Jennifer Kampani, Meg Bragle, Brian Thorsett, Jesse Blumberg

This program will feature the sacred German baroque music of Bach's rarely performed

Mass in G minor BWV 235 as well as the Buxtehude Cantata, *Jesu, meines Lebens Leben*.

Fri., Apr. 3, 8:00 p.m.
voicesofmusic.org

NEW ESTERHAZY QUARTET

Sat., Apr. 4, 4:00 p.m.
newesterhazy.org

IMPROMPTUSF: INTO THE EXPANSE

Explores new territory with an all-brass program including *Ironcore Fanfare* by Casey Martin, *Canzon Septimi Toni No. 2* by Gabrieli, *Fanfare for Greta* by Jonathan Ring, *Tango for Jam-Jam* by Zack Smith, *A Little Russian Circus* by Anthony deLorenzo and much more!

Sat., Apr. 4, 8:00 p.m.
impromptusf.org

CHANTICLEER LAB CHOIR 20TH ANNIVERSARY REUNION

Sun., Apr. 5, 7:30 p.m.
chanticleer.org

CLERESTORY // INTO THE WEST

Composers of all kinds have been drawn to the big sky, crashing surf, and boundless opportunity of our Pacific coast. Our season finale, *Into the West*, includes works by artists who have been drawn to the energy and majesty of America's furthest frontier. This reprise of one of our favorite programs will also include some new surprises.

Sun., Apr. 19, 4:00 p.m.
clerestory.org

SOLO CLASSICAL GUITAR: IRINA KULIKOVA & GRISHA GORYACHEV

Russian Contrasts: Classical guitarist Irina Kulikova, winner of multiple international competitions, combines virtuoso technique with a rare beauty of tone. Grisha Goryachev performs the great repertoire of the flamenco guitar from Sabicas to Paco de Lucia and he is brilliant!

Sat., Apr. 25, 7:30 p.m.
omniconcerts.com

**SF CIVIC SYMPHONY
ASSOCIATION //**
**MOZART TO MENDELSSOHN:
A WEBER CELEBRATION**

Weber - *Overture to Euryanthe*

Weber - *Concerto for Clarinet No. 2 in E-Flat Major, Op. 74* with Brenden Guy, clarinet

Berlioz/Weber - *Invitation to the Dance, Op. 65*

Hindemith - *Symphonic Metamorphosis of Themes by Carl Maria von Weber*

John Kendall Bailey – Music Director

Free Concert; Suggested Donation \$10 – 20

Sun., Apr. 26, 3:00 p.m.
sfcivicmusic.org

CALIFORNIA BACH SOCIETY //
VENETIAN SPLENDORS

Croce, Monteverdi, and Rovetta

For our season finale we recreate the splendors of Venice's Basilica di San Marco, featuring jewels by three of its maestri di capella: Croce (maestro from 1603 to 1609), Monteverdi (1613 to 1643), and Rovetta (1644 to 1668). Croce's *Missa percussit Saul mille*—one of Paul Flight's discoveries during his doctoral work at Indiana University—beautifully showcases cori spezzati, the double-choir style that became a trademark of choral compositions written for San Marco. We also perform Monteverdi's lively *Beatus Vir* and a grand *Vespers* by Rovetta, composed on the occasion of the birth of King Louis XIV, in 1638.

Fri., May 1, 8:00 p.m.
calbach.org

**JANIS LEE STUDENT
PIANO RECITAL**

Sun., May 3, 3:00 p.m.

**DEUTSCHER MUSIKVEREIN
ANNUAL CONCERT**

Sat., May 9, 2:00 p.m.
sfgermanband.org

**AMERICAN BACH SOLOISTS:
SWEET HARMONY**

Bach greatly admired the music of his forebears and was often criticized for his traditionalist approach to composition. Nevertheless, we find in Bach's music many works that were forward-looking and innovative, favoring the Rococo and galant styles that were taking hold throughout Europe.

Missa in A Major is a curious amalgam of the traditional and contemporary, featuring a pair of a relatively "new" instruments on the scene, the flauto traverso.

The Pythagorean theory of Harmonia Mundi, built on the premise that music was a central force in the creation of Earth, is given rapturous credence in Handel's setting of the *Ode for Saint Cecilia's Day*, an exquisite Restoration period verse by John Dryden, England's first Poet Laureate.

Acclaimed tenor, Aaron Sheehan, will perform Handel's melifluous setting of *Look Down, Harmonious Saint*, a paean to harmony by the 18th-century Irish author and poet, Newburgh Hamilton, that praises its ability to charm the soul, delight the ear, give us hope, and conquer fear.

Yulia Van Doren, soprano

Gabrielle Timofeeva López, alto (debut)

Aaron Sheehan, tenor • Mischa Bouvier, baritone

Jeffrey Thomas, conductor

Sun., May 10, 4:00 p.m.
americanbach.org

EXPLORING MUSIC RECITAL

Sat., May 16, 1:00 p.m.

SACRED & PROFANE //
**LOCAL VOCAL: CELEBRATING
OUR MUSICAL BAY AREA**

Join us in celebrating our own artistically vibrant Bay Area, with a program featuring music by both well-known and up-and-coming local composers. We are excited to present *Winging Wildly*, a three-movement setting of poems about birds by the Bay Area's best-known composer of choral music, Kirke Mechem. Our concert will also include selections from Mark Winges' mystical *Missa Diapente* and Gabriela Lena Frank's striking *Ccollanan Maria*—a work based on a traditional religious tune from Cuzco, Perú, the original capital of the Inca empire in the 15th century (with both Spanish and Quechuan text). We are also proud to sing several works exploring Californian history, culture, and natural wonders; including David Conte's *Facing West*, third in his Whitman Triptych cycle, commissioned in celebration of the 75th anniversary of the Golden Gate Bridge; and Frank's *San Joaquin*, a setting of San Francisco poet Bill Everson's text about Yosemite. Other Bay Area-centric works on the program include Martha Steward's *A Fragment*, San Francisco Conservatory of Music composer Joseph Stillwell's lovely *O nata lux*, and Oakland-based Sanford Dole's humorous *Dance Steps*.

**Sat., May 16, 7:15 pre-concert panel
discussion, 8:00 p.m. concert**
sacredprofane.org

**SUNSET YOUTH
ORCHESTRA CONCERT**

Sun., May 17, 3:00 p.m.
sunsetyouthorchestra.org

ANA MIRANDA PIANO RECITAL

Sat., May 23, 2:00 p.m.

Check the church calendar for additional listings.
For tickets, visit the groups' websites.



Sunday Schedule

- 9:00 a.m.** Holy Communion with Children's Time Sanctuary
- 9:50 a.m.** Sunday School ULC Auditorium
- 10:00 a.m.** Refreshments and Fellowship Hour Heritage Hall
- 10:00 a.m.** Education Heritage Hall
- 11:00 a.m.** Choral Eucharist Sanctuary
- 12:15 pm** Refreshments and Fellowship Hour Heritage Hall

Church Office Hours

MONDAY – FRIDAY, 9:00 A.M. – 5:00 P.M.

Staff 1.415.928.7770 Email

- The Rev. Elizabeth E. Ekdale, Lead Pastor x2300 ekdale@stmarks-sf.org
- The Rev. Ron Moe-Lobeda, Associate Pastor. x2460 moe-lobeda@stmarks-sf.org
- Dr. Timothy Zerlang, Director of Music x2330 zerlang@stmarks-sf.org
- Benjamin Dinglasan, Director of Operations x2250 dinglasan@stmarks-sf.org
- Deidre Rettenmaier, Events Administrator x2290 events@stmarks-sf.org
- Accountant/Bookkeeper x2320 accounting@stmarks-sf.org
- Mark Semonian, Council President. semonian@stmarks-sf.org
- Edda Mai Johnson, Nursery Coordinator. nursery@stmarks-sf.org
- Delia Whitfield, Nursery Attendant
- Adrienne Brown, Sunday School Coordinator
- Carl Storey, Security
- The Rev. Chuck Lewis, Visitation Pastor

Other Important Numbers

- Martin Luther Tower (415) 885-1084 mltninc.org
- Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary (800) 235-7587 plts.edu
- ELCA (national office in Chicago). (800) 638-3522 elca.org
- SF Interfaith Council. (415) 474-1321 sfinterfaithcouncil.org

To stay informed about events and activities at St. Mark's, sign up for our weekly Parish Announcements email, or follow our Facebook page:

- stmarks-sf.org
- facebook.com/stmarkssf

Reconciling in Christ



St. Mark's Lutheran Church is a "Reconciling in Christ" congregation. We are one of over 900 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. Learn more at reconcilingworks.org.

Sanctuary Congregation

St. Mark's is a sanctuary congregation. We are committed to a ministry of continuing education about the plight of immigrants in this country, to serve as people who will accompany those in the process of seeking asylum, and to advocate for those whose lives are oppressed or endangered by this process.

The ELCA is a sanctuary denomination. Learn more at elca.org/sanctuarychurch.



1111 O'Farrell St. | San Francisco, CA | 94109
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