



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



**Summer 2016**  
**JUNE - AUGUST**

**WHAT'S INSIDE**

*Devotion - "Ordinary Days for extraordinary People of God" - Page 1*

*Update from The Call Committee - Page 2*

*Restoring St. Mark's Art Glass - Page 5*

*St. Mark's Square  
Development Update - Page 11*





**The Rev. Tita Valeriano**

## ORDINARY DAYS FOR EXTRAORDINARY PEOPLE OF GOD

Acts 2:42-47

They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. Awe came upon everyone, because many wonders and signs were being done by the apostles. All who believed were together and had all things in common; they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need. Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home, and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having the goodwill of all people. And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.

After Pentecost Sunday, which we celebrated on May 15th, there will be 23 Sundays after Pentecost before we commemorate Reformation Sunday. This is the longest season of the Church Calendar. It goes through the whole summer, the "quiet times" not only in the church but perhaps even in our lives. It seems like Sabbath is real during this time – people are intentional about renewal, rest

and reflection. This season is also called the second Ordinary Time (the first period is after the Baptism of our Lord to Ash Wednesday) referring to the ordinary form of the Roman Rite of the Catholic Church. The United Methodist Church also refers to it is 'Kingdomtide.' Though quieter, we, as a church, should pay attention to this period even amidst the distraction of vacations, retreats, and rests. Ordinary times are not really ordinary times after all. We will be reminded about the powerful movement of the Holy Spirit in and through the church and the world.

Some say that Lutherans do not lift up the work of the Holy Spirit much, which sometimes nowadays only referring to the Charismatic movement. This movement is a global phenomenon and even us, Lutheran Christians, are a part of it. But the movement of the Spirit is not just about how we worship – singing loud, energetic and passionate music, moving our body, allowing oneself to spontaneous prayer or praise. This the reason why the book of Acts is not about these things; though it started in this simple post-Pentecost Day gathering (Acts 2:42-47) that showed the work of the Holy Spirit's work among the first church – their struggles, joy and passion. It seemed to be a simple gathering – but the power of the Holy Spirit cannot be contained neither expressed with our action alone. Deborah Butler Bass centered her book "Christianity after Religion" on the emerging spiritual awakening happening all around us. She said, "This awakening, however, is rather different than those in the past. Not an evangelical event, not based in traditional revivalism, this Great Awakening can be discovered in all faith communities in a new quest for experiential faith. In order to understand what is happening in American religion, we need to see in new ways."

The book of Acts is still being written and we, the St. Mark's community, is included among those writing its continuation. So how could we catch on the fire of the Spirit even in our intentional renewal, rest and reflection? What do we need to do to be able to "see in new ways"? Remember, the Holy Spirit dwells and moves in and through us. May we respond in awe of her power so that we can be instruments for love and service, and see things in new ways. Amen.



## UPDATE FROM THE CALL COMMITTEE

The 2015 indie film “Meet the Patels” follows Ravi’s search for a life partner, as chronicled by his sister (and co-director) Geeta Patel. Geeta turns the lens toward Ravi at inconvenient times to probe his thoughts on his place in the world, his inherited culture, and his future hopes, often gaining poignant (and irritated) footage as only a sibling cinematographer can. After Ravi’s individual attempts at dating flop, Ravi’s parents convince him to allow them to assume matchmaker duty through their extensive global network. They set immediately to work, holding a family meeting about their shared values and hopes, and produce a document called a “bio-data” (summarizing Ravi as a marriage prospect) that can be faxed to near and far-flung connections.

In essence, this is the stage that your Call Committee has reached toward calling an associate pastor.

Our first task was to get to know each other and our history with St. Mark’s. Then we turned to discerning, together, who God wants us to be, and what type of leader can help us become everything we are called to be. We now have completed the first tangible step in the call process: developing a Ministry Site Profile.

Like Ravi’s bio-data, this document will be published for candidates all over the country to view. Unlike Ravi’s one-pager, the ministry site profile is eleven pages long, plus attachments. The MSP is St. Mark’s chance to explain who are and who we hope to become, including congregation and community demographics, our giftedness, and the challenges we perceive in living out our vision for the future.

After many meetings, prayerful consideration, and focused exercises, we submitted the MSP to the congregational council. The council provided feedback, and approved the profile at their April meeting.

Now the MSP goes out from the congregation to the Sierra Pacific Synod, where the office of the Bishop will review it before publishing it for candidates open to call.

We are grateful to have the Synod as a partner as we move forward in calling our next associate pastor. We are “church together” and will benefit from the Synod staffs’ wisdom, experience, and objective view during this Spirit-led matchmaking process.

We are also grateful for the prayers and support of you, the congregation! We are your Call Committee. Please talk to us about your vision for the congregation and the associate pastor’s ministry among us and on our behalf. We are: Gretchen Armstrong, Pr. Elizabeth Ekdale, Laura Evenson, Philip Krikau, Margaret McLean, Lew Randall, Cora Rose, and Andrew Sallach.



## OUR MISSIONARY PASTOR KATE WARN

Missionary Pastor Kate Warn visited St. Mark's May 19-22, 2016. She brought stories of her work with the Young Adults in Global Mission (YAGMs) as they work and establish relationship with Rwandans of the Lutheran Church of Rwanda. She shared her experiences with the congregation in various ways, including conversation with the St. Mark's Council, breakfast with WELCA, and preached and led Adult Forum on Sunday May 22nd. She told of conversation with the YAGMs as they considered their time in Rwanda. "Pilgrimage was a theme as we considered the difference between being a tourist and a pilgrim. A tourist has new experience, but remains the same person. A pilgrim experiences new places and is transformed by them."

We at St. Mark's walk with Pastor Kate as her missionary sponsor and as she leads and guides the YAGMs in Rwanda. Keep them all in your prayers!



## SUMMER CONCERTS AT ST. MARK'S

**Sunday, June 7, 4:00 PM**

SF Choral Artists - <http://www.sfca.org/>  
21st Century Baroque

**Saturday, June 11, 7:30 PM**

International Orange Chorale - <http://www.iocsf.org/>

**Sunday, June 12, 3:00 PM**

San Francisco Night Ministry Concert - <http://www.sfnightministry.org/>

**Sunday, July 3, 3:00 PM**

Estonian National Opera Boys Choir - [www.ee/en/poistekoor](http://www.ee/en/poistekoor)  
Free admission, donations welcome

**Friday, August 5, 8:00 PM**

American Bach Soloists - <http://americanbach.org>  
ABS Summer Festival - Carmelite Vespers & Vivaldi's Gloria

**Saturday, August 6, 8:00 PM**

American Bach Soloists - <http://americanbach.org>  
ABS Summer Festival - Post Cards from The Grand Tour

**Sunday, August 7, 7:00 PM**

American Bach Soloists - <http://americanbach.org>  
ABS Summer Festival - Bach's Mass in B Minor



## PARENTS WITH KIDLETES CAMPING TRIP

Camping will be at Bothe National forest in Napa (Near Schramsburg) July 15 -17. All St. Marks Families welcome. This is our 5th annual camping trip. Kids love it and parents actually get to sit back and enjoy each other and their kids in nature. We cook, hike, and have a campfire sunday worship and songs.

The cost is just the shared cost of our group campsite.

For more info, contact [larajdickinson@gmail.com](mailto:larajdickinson@gmail.com)



## ADULT FORUM SCHEDULE

Location - auditorium unless otherwise noted

Sundays – 10:05 am – 10:55 am

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

**June 5 - The Rev. Dr. Karen Bloomquist, Ph.D -  
500 years of the Reformation: how can we see, remember and connect in new ways?**

**June 12 and June 19 – Confronting Racism**  
Mary Ritter will facilitate our reflection as we watch the webinar with ELCA Presiding Bishop and her guests who include: Judge Yolanda Tanner, an ELCA member who serves as an Associate Judge for the Baltimore City Circuit Court; Leonard Duncan, an ELCA member who will share his experience of incarceration, poverty and homelessness; and Charlene Guiliani, ELCA member and former police sergeant.

**June 16 - Report from Synod Assembly**

Adult Forum will be taking a break and resume Oct. 16, 2016

## Women's Monthly Study Gatherings

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

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

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

**June 7 – Lentil Underground: Renegade Farmers & the Future of Food in American by Liz Carlisle**

**July 5 – The Boys in the Boat: Nine Americans & Their Epic Quest for Gold at the 1936 Berlin Olympics by Daniel James Brown**

**August – NO MEETING**

**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 program topics are:  
**June 14 – “The Heart of the Matter: Seeking God”**

**July 12 – Summer Luncheon**

**August – NO MEETING**

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



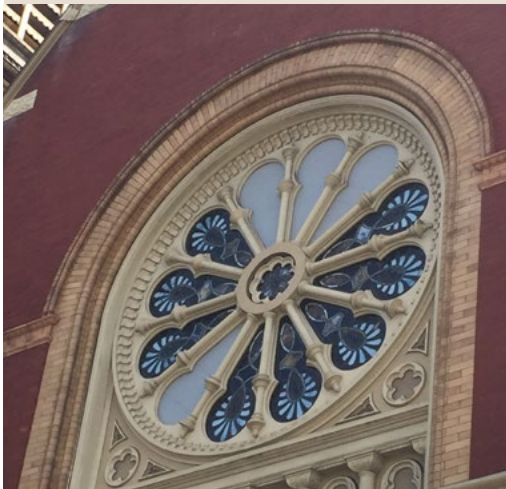
## RESTORING ST. MARK'S ART GLASS

We are already receiving the fruits of the 2016-2018 Capital Campaign. St. Mark's entered a contract with the Santa Clara company Hyland Studio to restore the art glass throughout the church building. Workers have already removed, restored and reinstalled the rosette window and the window at the back of the east side of the building, and removed the window at the backside of the west side.

While at the studio, workers:

- Take a rubbing of the window, get exact measurements and document its condition
- Disassemble the window and remove all lead
- Soak and clean all glass
- Determine if any glass must be replaced
- Rebuild the window using all new lead in the matrix and borders
- Add brace bars as needed
- Apply putty-resin to both sides to weather proof and secure glass in the lead
- Rub and brush the lead to remove shine
- Thoroughly clean both sides of the window
- Package the window for transport.

The planned schedule is for each window to take 5 weeks to restore and 1 week to reinstall. Following this schedule, we expect to complete the work in August 2017, which is well under the 2-year commitment to receive a 5% discount on the entire contract. The Floors, Elevator and Windows (FEW) Committee and our Congregational Council are tracking progress to assure the work will be completed in time to get the discount.



### Sacred Acts at St. Mark's

Baptism of Steve Ernst, March 28, 2016

Affirmation of Baptism of: Sarah Wentker  
D'Shane Barnet, Lisa Dahil, March 28, 2016

Confirmation of Katherine Lam, May 15, 2016







## Save The Date: Sept. 11 God's Work. Our Hands.

"God's work. Our hands." Sunday is an opportunity to celebrate who we are as the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) – one church, freed in Christ to serve and love our neighbor.

The date for the 2016 dedicated day of service is Sunday, Sept. 11.

This year's date also marks the 15-year anniversary of the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks on the United States. St. Mark's will provide opportunities on this day to serve our neighbors either on the square or in the community. Details forthcoming.

As you continue to share God's love with your neighbors, whether it's volunteering at a shelter or cleaning a park, consider thanking and praying for the emergency responders in your area.

## St. Mark's New Nursery Coordinator

St. Mark's has hired Edda Mai Johnson to serve in the role of nursery coordinator. Edda Mai will work with our current nursery attendants, Elvira Markov and Johanna Najera, to continue to ensure high quality child care in our nursery. Part of her work will focus on developing a curriculum to help St. Mark's youngest members learn about Christ's love. She has worked as a preschool teacher in Lutheran primary schools, has completed master's degree work in childhood development, and has over 30 years of experience working with infants and young children. We are thrilled to have Edda Mai as a member of our children's ministry team.

### Luke 10:30-35

When I was little perhaps one of my favorite books was the one of the Good Samaritan. It was in a small cardboard picture book teaching you to be kind to everyone. At the end there was a picture of a girl on the ground bleeding with a band aid on her knee and another girl helping her up.

There was one time in kindergarten when my friend was crying, I don't remember why, but I wanted to help her. So, I started to sing my friend My Favorite Things from the Sound of Music and invited her to join along. This, thankfully helped her as she began to think of her own favorite things.

I think in my life so far the story of the Good Samaritan and this memory has influenced me to not only be kind to everyone but to have empathy for all.

God is a friend who listens to me and helps me figure things out. Sometimes in bed when I pray, I pray about problems in the day and he helps me figure them out. I don't get a response but somehow he is there helping me. To me baptism means that I am part of this whole thing. That I am part of this ongoing story and that God will forever be there for me and that I have made a promise to try and always be there for him.

A Faith statement written by Katherine Lam, confirmed on May 15, 2016, The Festival of Pentecost

WHO IS MY  
NEIGHBOR?



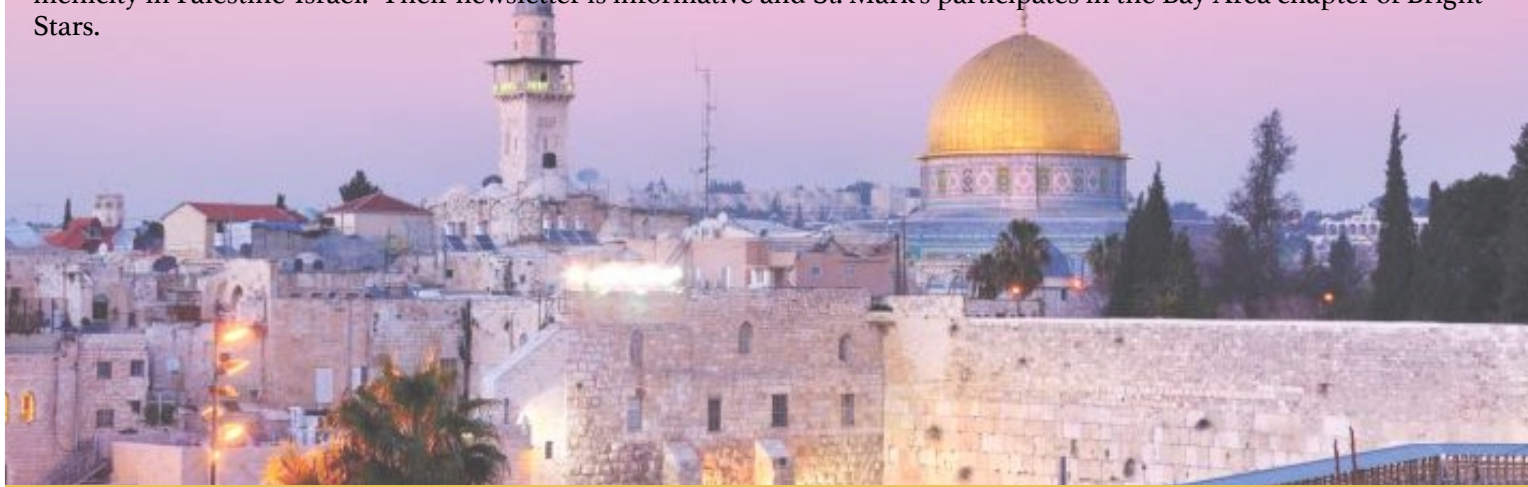
## CURIOUS about the HOLY LAND? Want to know more about Israel and Palestine?

Here are a couple of websites you can log onto and check out for well-informed facts and news about the HOLY LAND:

[www.ELCA.org/Our-Work/Publicly-Engaged-Church/Peace-Not-Walls](http://www.ELCA.org/Our-Work/Publicly-Engaged-Church/Peace-Not-Walls) - Our Evangelical Lutheran Church in America offers many varied educational materials, films, books, study guides, etc. dealing with Palestinian Christians in the Holy Land; "Peace Not Walls" focuses on efforts and education toward peace; and ELCA "Global Mission" also has a newsletter, advocacy programs and service opportunities, including in the Holy Land.

[www.CMEP.org](http://www.CMEP.org) - Churches for Middle East Peace is an ecumenical organization of dozens of Christian churches (including our ELCA) in Washington, D.C. , organized to lobby our U.S. government regarding Middle East policy. They publish a bi-weekly newsletter (to which you can easily subscribe) with latest news and analysis of events in the Holy Land, links to other related articles, and specific suggestions and guidelines for writing to our elected representatives in support of issues of peace, religion and human rights in the Holy Land. A dependable, accurate source of information.

[www.brightstarsbethlehem.org](http://www.brightstarsbethlehem.org) - Bright Stars of Bethlehem, based in Morris, Illinois, relates to the Lutheran church in Bethlehem, Palestine whose pastor is the Rev. Dr. Mitri Raheb. (Also google his name.) Pr. Raheb founded a college in Bethlehem following the construction of the Separation Wall surrounding Bethlehem. Bright Stars (BSB) in the U.S. raises money for the college and its many outreach programs for seniors and youth in Bethlehem. Pr. Raheb is a frequent speaker at U.S. churches and internationally famous for his visionary work for peace, non-violence, education and ecumenicity in Palestine-Israel. Their newsletter is informative and St. Mark's participates in the Bay Area chapter of Bright Stars.



**SIM**  
**EIF** ST. MARK'S  
ENDOWMENT FUND

Dream it. Make it Happen.  
Do you have an idea for a ministry project?  
Visit [www.stmarks-sf.org/endowment](http://www.stmarks-sf.org/endowment)  
to learn more and apply for a grant.

### APPLY FOR A GRANT TO BRING INNOVATIVE SERVICE IDEAS TO OUR COMMUNITY

Have you heard about our Endowment Fund? St. Mark's established an Endowment Fund in 2011 which distributes grants to further our ability to do God's work with our hands both locally and around the world.

Because the Endowment Fund supports projects specifically outside of the congregation's annual budget, these grants help

to pioneer and bring new ideas for how we serve our community. Do you have an idea for a special community service project, or are you part of a group doing service work with a similar vision to the core beliefs of St. Mark's? Apply for a grant to make your service idea a reality.

This year, \$4,000 in grant money will be distributed to winning proposals. Grant applications are accepted through July 31st. Apply online or learn more about the Endowment Fund here: [www.stmarks-sf.org/endowment](http://www.stmarks-sf.org/endowment)


Also, keep this fund in mind for your charitable giving. Our Endowment Fund gives donors the ability to create a long-lasting legacy to support creative, innovative, and new ideas to further the ministry and mission of St. Mark's.



# St. Mark's Property Work Day - May 14, 2016



## CAPITAL CAMPAIGN NEWS

We indeed are living our capital campaign, "Forward in Faith... lifted by love" as we can see progress begin in the sanctuary with the replacement of our stained glass windows. Many members and friends of the congregation have generously supported the capital campaign project with their financial pledges of support. The most recent accounting indicates that \$965,859 has been pledged to the capital campaign from 98 pledges received from 51% of the congregation households. A total of \$387,350 has been pledged to the general fund from 112 pledges received from 58% of the congregation. Friends and members of the congregation are encouraged to rejoice in our mission and ministry, grow in faith and generosity, and take time to reflect on the gifts St. Mark's has given and continues to give to our members, SF community and our global community. Pledges can always be made or updated on-line at St. Mark's website by clicking on  "Click to Pledge" or by contacting the church office.

It is with sincere gratitude that we thank all of you, our stewards, for your generous pledges and contributions to making our sanctuary improvements a reality. We are so appreciative of the time and talents you have given to this enormous effort; with your steadfastness, the community of St. Mark's will continue our strong commitment of welcome. Throughout the year, may we continue to reflect on the community here at St. Mark's and all we support; and feel the abundance in our hearts to continue to go "Forward in Faith...lifted by love".





# U.S. And Palestinian Religious Leaders Convene at Summit Meeting on Palestine : A Call to Action for All Faith Communities–April 2016

More than 100 top leaders of U.S. and Palestinian churches and religious communities met at the Carter Center in Atlanta, Georgia in April to urge a renewed and vigorous pursuit of peace, advocacy efforts in the U.S. and the strengthening of Christian presence in the Holy Land. This unprecedented “Atlanta Summit of American and Palestinian Churches” called attention to the urgency of the on-going lack of peace in the area, and the injustices toward Palestinians that have resulted in the continuing decline of the Christian population under the current Israeli military occupation of Palestine for more than five decades.



The “Atlanta Summit Document” produced at the meeting called for more effective advocacy in the U.S. for peace and justice in the Holy Land; and to that end, more education of our congregations regarding the peace process and the rights of all people in the region. The leaders acknowledged the dedicated work of some Christian, Jewish and Muslims involved in addressing humanitarian needs and working for peace; and designated a common day of prayer and reflections across U.S. churches and the Holy Land.

Top Lutherans took active roles in the Summit: ELCA Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton, Palestinian Bishop Munib Younan (President of the Lutheran World Federation and Bishop of the ELC of Jordan and the Holy Land ) and Rev. Dr. Mitri Raheb (Pastor of Christmas Lutheran Church, Bethlehem, Palestine) participated alongside Catholic, Orthodox, Eastern Orthodox, mainline Protestant and historic African American and Latino churches. Bishop Eaton praised the broad spectrum of participants, stating, “The freedom of Palestine, the security of the state of Israel and the preservation of Arab Christianity in the Holy Land are not political issues for a few but a faith issue for many.”

A conference delegation then delivered the Summit document to the White House, together with a letter to President Obama. The delegation (including Bishops Eaton and Younan; the Latin patriarch of Jerusalem; the Episcopalian archbishop of Jerusalem; and several other Palestinians) met with President Obama’s top level assistants for the area, stressing the importance of education in the Holy Land, the need to fight extremism and radicalism, and Jerusalem’s centrality to the peace process.

Our churches are now called to realize the goals set by our religious leaders in Atlanta, working together to achieve peace and justice in the Holy Land.

(This article by Linda Krauskopf is based on the report from “Peace Not Walls” at ELCA.org; the complete report, full text of the Atlanta Summit and other related materials are also available at that site.)

## Camp Noah Kids Kits

The Women of the ELCA of St. Mark’s gathered items for the 50 children who will attend the Camp Noah in Middletown, CA.

The Camp will be held on June 12-17, 2016 organized and sponsored by the Lutheran Social Services of Minnesota.





## MLT RETREAT

On Saturday, May 21, the St. Mark's Church Council and Martin Luther Tower Board joined in the spirit of collaboration for a half-day retreat, led by Jeff Kohler, joined by Paul Penninger, and supported by leaders of our two "St. Mark's" organizations.

Before the meeting, Shannon Cheng led several members on an interesting, early-morning tour of Martin Luther Tower (rooftop to basement), the ULC, and The Square.

Photo – Shannon Cheng, Matt Helland, Jerry Lundblad, Marisa Lee, and Andrew Sallach at the rooftop plaque of "St. Mark's MLT Founding Members"

At 9am, everyone began the retreat with spiritual centering time in the Sanctuary – inspirational hymns and prayers, Tim Zerling's wonderful music, and reflection led by Pastor Ekdale.

The group reassembled in Heritage Hall for Barbara Engmann's welcome and introduction to the day. Jeff set the tone for the day, reviewing written statements of the Missions and Ministries of St. Mark's and the MLT Corporation and reminding everyone of the history of The Square. He led the group as they shared thoughts about "Vision for The Square" and its current and future uses. Then, he and Paul taught the group in understandable terms about tax-credit financing, how it was applied to MLT to enable St. Mark's retrofit, and upcoming financing requirements.

Jon Moeller followed with an update on plans for development and led a detailed discussion of the potential opportunity for a new building. Continuing the agenda, the group learned about each organization's financial structures, resources, and challenges.

Before ending the retreat, the group thanked Jeff, Paul, and the planning team, along with Chiara and Stefani, for their work on this successful event. Everyone agreed on the value and importance of this gathering, decided enthusiastically to meet again for more details on several topics, and looked forward to future coordination of the two teams' activities and strategic initiatives.

We are fortunate to have such a collegial group of talented volunteers serving together for the betterment of St. Mark's, MLT, and our greater community.



On the roof of Martin Luther Tower



## ST. MARK'S SQUARE DEVELOPMENT UPDATE

About four years ago we formed our development committee to explore potentially adding affordable housing to St. Mark's Square to enhance Christ's mission to our fellow San Francisco residents and to update our own facilities and security. The development committee is comprised of members of both the St. Mark's Council and MLT board and the group, along with our advisors, selected prominent local development partners: The John Stewart Company (aka JSCo, which also manages MLT for us) and Chinatown Community Development Corporation ("CCDC"). Both groups have significant experience developing and managing affordable housing in San Francisco.

The typical financing route for affordable housing is through the City of San Francisco, however other priorities emerged about three years ago which left little funding for affordable housing. Some of that changed after the November, 2015 election and potential city funding is currently available, in a competitive process. Our development partners advised us there may not be another opportunity for quite some time and they are preparing a response.

We do expect the city to receive more responses than they can fund. The responses are due in July and we may know more later in the Summer. We will keep the congregation informed and if you have questions or comments in the meantime please contact development committee members Jon Moeller ([jon\\_moeller@hotmail.com](mailto:jon_moeller@hotmail.com)), Barbara Engmann ([barbarapac@aol.com](mailto:barbarapac@aol.com)), Jeremy McClain ([jermymcclain@me.com](mailto:jermymcclain@me.com)) or Andrew Sallach ([andrew.sallach@yahoo.com](mailto:andrew.sallach@yahoo.com)).

## St. Mark's Garden Party - May 1, 2016





# CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

## February 2016

- Elected Matt Helland as President, Mark Semonian as Vice President, Marisa Lee as Secretary, and Jane Borg as Executive Committee Member at Large
- Appointed Susan Sall to the Human Resources Committee. The Mutual Ministry Committee now consists of Marge Okuley (chair); Brian Richards, Jo Chadwick, Elise Semonian, and Fred Blicke.
- Per Council's annual practice, read and commented on the behavioral covenant
- Approved motion to buy down Pastor Ekdale's vacation bank using a portion of the budget surplus from 2015, as supported by the HR Committee and the Mutual Ministry Committee
- Approved the 2016 Endowment Fund disbursement amount of \$4,000

## March 2016

- Reviewed the Ministry Site Profile developed by the Call Committee and provided feedback to Call Committee member Andrew Sallach
- Approved motion to enter into a \$1500 contract with an intentional interim pastor to assist in preparing the Call Committee
- Formed Oktoberfest committee (Council members Cristin Owens, Marisa Lee, staff member Chiara Dejoy)
- Preview of MLT Board/Council retreat on Saturday, May 21

## April 2016

- Elected member Steve Ernst as Treasurer, and welcomed him as a newly baptized member
- Authorized Pastor Ekdale to sign and deliver a Statement of Intent to the ELCA to document St. Mark's commitment to tithe a portion of funds raised through the "Forward in Faith... Lifted in Love" capital campaign to the Campaign for the ELCA
- Re-appointed Marisa Lee as Council Liaison to the Endowment Committee for 2016
- Approved Ministry Site Profile presented by Andrew Sallach
- Provided feedback about Council retreat and formed retreat planning committee for 2017 (Matthias Will, Cristin Owens)
- Reviewed memo from Events Administrator regarding wedding fees for members and concurred with our current fee structure

## COUNCIL RETREAT REPORT

St. Mark's Council traveled to St. Dorothy's Rest, near Sebastopol, on the weekend of April 16-17, 2016 for its annual retreat. Pr. Tita Valeriano introduced the concept of becoming a church of "radical welcome", based on the book by Stephanie Spellers. We discussed this idea in the context of St. Mark's. We also looked at the organizational structure of our lay-led committees and ministry teams, and how these groups interact with Council leaders and vice versa. Council also enjoyed outdoor activities, games, reflection, worship, and meals together that weekend. We worshipped at Thanksgiving Lutheran Church in Santa Rosa where we were warmly welcomed by the community.



St. Mark's Council members at the retreat



# St. Mark's Worship Schedule

## Sundays

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

## Wednesdays

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

## Check our weekly Parish Announcements

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

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

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

## Staff

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

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

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

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

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

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

Carl Storey, Security

Edda Mai Johnson, Nursery Coordinator

Elvira Markov & Johanna Najera, Nursery Attendants

Jenny Hart, Sunday School Coordinator

The Rev. Chuck Lewis, Visitation Pastor

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

## Reconciling in Christ

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

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

## Other Important Numbers

Martin Luther Tower...(415) 885-1084

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

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

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