

MARCH-MAY 2014



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



## Lent Begins with Ash Wednesday March 5, 2014

On that day there will be an imposition of ashes and Holy Communion at each service at 12 noon and 7 pm. Note: There will be no supper that evening. There will be childcare for the evening service.

## Lenten Supper

March 12, 19 & 26 and April 2 & 9  
6:00 pm in Heritage Hall  
All are welcome to join us for this simple community dinner prior to worship.

## Lenten Midweek Worship

March 12, 19 & 26 and April 2 & 9  
6:45 to 7:15 pm  
Refocus your hearts with a lovely sung service of Holy Communion during the season of Lent  
There will be childcare for these midweek evening services.



## Special Music for the Wednesdays in Lent

Wednesday Evening Services will feature a new setting of the Communion service for evening time by Aaron David Miller. Utilizing a cantor and the voices of the assembled, this will be a lovely musical, contemplative addition to our Lenten journey. Before each service, we will hear music by C.P.E. Bach, the most famous of J.S. Bach's sons, becoming even more famous than his father among their contemporaries. C.P.E. Bach wrote some of the most personal, introspective, and beautiful keyboard music ever written, much of it for the clavichord, a very small, quiet instrument musicians of that time had in their homes for private use. C.P.E. Bach celebrates his 300th birthday March 8, 2014.



## Holy Week & Easter

- April 13.... Palm Sunday
- April 17.... Maundy Thursday
- April 18 ... Good Friday
- April 19 ... Easter Vigil
- April 20... Easter Sunday

See Inside cover for full details...





# Hold Us In Your Mercy



BY PR. ELIZABETH

The church invented Lent with Easter and baptism in mind. From its very beginnings, then, Lent was not about small stuff. Lent has aimed to place us in the center of it all: the crucified and risen Christ, our identity given in baptism. Lent is a yearly invitation deeper into the heart of Christianity, a return to our core identity of who we are and whose we are.

Our Lenten path leads through the wilderness and toward the cross, toward the font, and finally toward the new light of Easter. There are

guideposts for the journey that the St. Mark's community is blessed to share: purple linens enfold the sanctuary, flowers are absent, and for these weeks "alleluia" is not our song. We hear the prophet's call to return, we examine our hearts, and we trust God to deliver us safely on this Lenten journey.

We remember that God is ever merciful and abundantly compassionate. In all aspects of life, we are reassured that we are held in God's mercy. Let this prayer, "Hold us in your mercy", be our Lenten guide throughout these 40 days.

## Palm Sunday: The Beginning of Holy Week

APRIL

13

### Sunday of the Passion:

### Palm Sunday

9:00 am & 11:00 am

Procession with Palms & Holy Eucharist • Passion Narrative according to St. Matthew • There will be childcare for both services.

Palm branches in hand, we join a procession with children singing sweet hosannas. This procession, begun centuries ago in Jerusalem, encircles the earth with ceaseless praise and now winds around our church grounds and into our sanctuary. We at St. Mark's are part of a long line of people in need of God's saving grace who rejoice as Christ comes to open the gates of justice and bring heaven's peace.

The procession leads us to the cross of Christ and into the mystery of his passion. The one we praise as Savior is the servant who suffers betrayal, denial, cruelty, and fear. Through these mortal wounds flow streams of mercy, filling the death-bound world and bringing it to life. "Hosanna!" we sing again. Blessed is the One who comes in gifts of bread and wine. Blessed is Christ Jesus, the infinite love of God.

## The Triduum

APRIL

17

### Maundy Thursday

7:00 pm

Confession and Forgiveness • Holy Communion, Stripping of the Altar • Service Concludes with Silence • There will be childcare for both services.

#### Thursday

We begin the journey of the Three Days with a remembrance of Jesus at table with his friends. We eat together the bread and wine. Generosity and hospitality mark this meal as we follow where Jesus leads: to the cross, and to Easter. We disperse in silence - no sending song, no blessing or dismissal. We return the next day . . .

APRIL

18

### Good Friday

12:00 pm

Stations of the Cross • Scripture Readings, Meditations and Prayers.

7:00 pm

Liturgy of Good Friday • "Passion According to St. John" with St. Mark's Choir • Adoration of the Cross • There will be childcare for both services.

#### Friday

Now, as if awaiting our return, the silence receives us and invites us more deeply into the empty room, the unfolding story, the widening hour, the mystery of faith. We travel with Christ at the Stations of the Cross at noon. In the evening, the music and sung story of the Passion washes over us. We behold the life-giving cross at the center of our liturgy. We approach the cross upon which Christ is lifted, to pray not only for the church and those preparing for baptism, but also for those of other faiths, those who do not believe in God, and everyone, everywhere, in any kind of need. As promised, Jesus draws them - all people, named and unnamed, all things, seen and unseen - to himself and to the heart of God. There we rest, pondering the mystery and glory of the cross.

#### Saturday

We gather outside around a fire. There are scripture readings - our best stories, and more of them than usual. There are baptisms and affirmation of baptism: anticipated during Lent and celebrated on this night as an integral part of what "Easter" means. And there is a meal: an Easter feast of bread and wine resplendent with joyful Alleluia's, bells peeling, incense rising, and our hearts overflowing. Afterwards, the celebration continues with a festive reception complete with champagne, sparkling cider and Easter goodies. Let the rejoicing begin!

APRIL

19

### Easter Vigil

8:00 pm

Service of Light and Service of Readings • Holy Baptism and Affirmation of Baptism • First Eucharist of Easter • Festive Reception to Follow • There will be childcare for both services.

APRIL

20

# Easter Sunday

## 8:45 am Favorite Easter Hymns

Piano accompanied with flute and oboe.

## 9:00 am Festive Easter Worship

Joyful, traditional Easter music • St. Mark's Adult and Children's Choirs • Special Easter gifts for all children • There will be childcare for both services.

## 10:15 am Easter Egg Hunt

Children of all ages are welcome to this fun-filled, kid-friendly activity on the Square. Bring a basket for your child!

## 10:30 am Baroque Easter Celebration

Come and listen to glorious music by Pachelbel and Gabrieli celebrating Christ's Resurrection.

## 11:00 am Festive Easter Worship

Joyful choral and traditional Easter music • St. Mark's Adult and Children's Choirs • Organ, piano, strings and brass accompaniment • Special Easter gifts for all children • There will be childcare for both services.

## Festive Coffee Hours

Festive refreshments and fellowship after each service in Heritage Hall. Everyone welcome!

## Special Music for Holy Week and Easter

Maundy Thursday  
Ubi caritas - Maurice Duruflé  
Ave verum corpus - Franz Liszt

Good Friday  
O vos omnes - Giovanni Croce  
Adoramus te - Giovanni Pierluigi da Palestrina  
The Passion of Our Lord According to St. John - Richard Hillert  
O Sacred Head - J.S. Bach  
Adoramus te - Jordan Bennett

Easter Vigil  
Dem Bones - arr. Larry Nickel  
Easter Anthem - William Billings

Easter  
Christ lag in Todesbanden - Johann Pachelbel  
Easter Dialogue - Andreas Hammerschmidt  
Canzon duodecimi toni - Giovanni Gabrieli

This Is the Day - Lynn Trapp  
This Is the Day - Jacobus Gallus (Handl)

Alleluia: Christus surrexit - Felice Anerio  
Since By Man Came Death (from Messiah) - G.F. Händel

## A Baroque Easter Celebration

### Easter Morning @ 10:30

Christ lag in Todesbanden - Johann Pachelbel  
Easter Dialogue - Andreas Hammerschmidt  
Canzon duodecimi toni - Giovanni Gabrieli

When people hear the name Pachelbel they most often immediately think "Canon in D" and they are right; but there is so much more. Johann Pachelbel (1653 - 1706) was a German Baroque composer, organist and teacher, who brought the south German organ tradition to its peak. He composed a large body of sacred and secular music, and his contributions to the development of the organ chorale prelude and fugue have earned him a place among the most important composers of the middle Baroque era. He was acquainted with the Bach family in Eisenach, and probably met Johann Sebastian Bach when Bach was nine years old.

Pachelbel's music is less virtuosic and less adventurous harmonically than that of Dieterich Buxtehude, although, like Buxtehude, Pachelbel experimented with different ensembles and instrumental combinations in his chamber music and, most importantly, his vocal music, much of which features exceptionally rich

instrumentation. The cantata Christ lag in Todesbanden is scored for two violins, three violas (instead of the more typical one viola), cello, bass, four part choir, and organ. In the cantata Pachelbel sets seven verses of the beloved Easter hymn (Christ Lay in Death's Strong Bands) in seven short movements. Each verse's movement treats the chorale melody in a different way, so that, in effect, we are hearing a set of variations on the familiar (familiar certainly to Pachelbel's congregation) hymn.

Andreas Hammerschmidt (1612 - 1675), the "Orpheus of Zittau," was a German Bohemian composer and organist of the early to middle Baroque era. He was one of the most significant and popular composers of sacred music in Germany in the middle 17th century. His Easter Dialogue combines text taken from Gospel Easter accounts and combines it with a hymn text in a charming setting in which we hear the women ask "who has rolled away the stone" and the response from the stranger in the garden. The Dialogue is scored for two trumpets, three trombones, six-part chorus, and organ.

Our Baroque Easter Celebration will conclude with Giovanni Gabrieli's (1557-1612) Canzon for two, five-part instrumental choirs - we will hear our string and brass ensembles combined as we enter into our 11:00 am worship.





## Lenten Reflection

BY PASTOR BEKAH

*Faith is a living, bold trust in God's grace, so certain of God's favor that it would risk death a thousand times trusting in it. Such confidence and knowledge of God's grace makes you happy, joyful and bold in your relationship to God and all creatures. The Holy Spirit makes this happen through faith. Because of it, you freely, willingly and joyfully do good to everyone, serve everyone, suffer all kinds of things, love and praise the God who has shown you such grace.*

—Martin Luther, An Introduction to St. Paul's Letter to the Romans

As we enter Lent, we ourselves commence a journey. It is a journey full of stories, images and symbols. Ultimately, it is a journey through the darkness and the desert, through death to encounter an epiphany of what life really is about. It is a time we intentionally set aside to provide mental and emotional space, and allow the season's traditional images, stories, and words to play upon our imaginations. Of course, it is all to lead us to the "aha" moment of resurrection—when we recognize God's creative and re-creative moment. Each year the Lenten journey also offers us the space and images to discern more intimate creativity, to stumble upon "aha" moments about our own lives, about our own circumstances, about God and our relationship with God. I hope this may be your forty day journey, and that you may encounter God's creative presence in your life.

Blessed Lent to all,  
Pastor Bekah



## Training of St. Mark's Eucharistic Ministers in Lent

BY PASTOR ELIZABETH

We are developing a ministry of distributing communion to the sick and homebound. If you are interested in this training, please speak with Pr. Elizabeth or Pr. Bekah. The training sessions will be Sundays, March 23, 30, and April 6 from 12:30 to 2:00 pm in the vestry. Entrusting this special ministry to trained laity enhances the pastoral ministry of our congregation. Those involved will discover that this ministry will enrich your own spiritual life as you share God's love with the sick.

We are a sacramental church and believe in the real presence of Christ in Holy Communion. By bringing these elements to the sick and homebound, you are sharing with them the crucified and risen Christ in, with and under the bread and wine. Thank you for considering whether you are feeling called to this special ministry. Feel free to e-mail [ekdale@stmarks-sf.org](mailto:ekdale@stmarks-sf.org) or [davis@stmarks-sf.org](mailto:davis@stmarks-sf.org) with your questions.



## Sacred Acts

Join us in commemorating the recent sacred events in our parish.

### Baptism

December 29  
Imogen Tuulikki Boles

### Marriages

December 7  
Richard Boyle and Gerry Witherspoon

December 17  
Rachel Catt and Catherine Rubald

### Memorial

January 18  
Audrey Strand





# Mobile App Goes Live!

BY MARISA LOUIE

Stay connected to St. Mark's via our new mobile app, available for iOS (Apple) and Android portable devices. You'll be able to listen to sermons on the go, submit prayer requests to the Prayer Wall, and find out more about upcoming events at St. Mark's. The app is free to download.

Questions? Need tech support? Don't hesitate to contact us at [stmarkssfapp@gmail.com](mailto:stmarkssfapp@gmail.com).



## EVENTS CALENDAR

- See what is coming up at St. Mark's
- Get involved - God's Work, Our Hands
- Find out contact information, times, location
- Add to your own calendar

Have an event coming up? Email Ann Dayton ([dayton@stmarks-sf.org](mailto:dayton@stmarks-sf.org)) for inclusion on the App!



## PRAYER WALL

- Request a prayer from the St. Mark's community (first names only please)
- Commit to pray for requests posted
- See global prayer requests from other churches

Have a prayer request? Submit your request right in the app (plus sign in upper right)!



## SERMONS

- Stream or download sermons from St. Mark's

Out of town? Can't make it to worship? Stay in the know and catch up with the App!



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## St. Mark's and the American Guild of Organists, San Francisco Chapter Present

**Organist Charles Rus in Recital on the Taylor and Boody Organ  
Sunday, March 16, 7:30 pm**

**By Tim Zerlang**

All members of St. Mark's are invited to attend an organ recital on our very own Taylor and Boody organ given by Charles Rus on Sunday, March 16, at 7:30 pm. Charles Rus is Director of Music and Liturgical Arts at St. Thomas Episcopal Church in Medina, Washington. A native of Grand Rapids, Michigan, Charles received degrees from the Eastman School of Music, the University of Michigan, and, as a Fulbright Scholar, the Folkwang Hochschule für Musik in Essen, Germany. His teachers include Russell Saunders, Robert Glasgow, and Gisbert Schneider. Charles, formerly of San Francisco, has actually played at St. Mark's before, but is now back to help us celebrate the completion of the Taylor and Boody organ. During his 20 years in San Francisco, he was an organist for the San Francisco Symphony, organ teacher at the San Francisco Conservatory of Music, organist for Temple Emanu-El, and Music Director at St. John's Episcopal Church. A suggested donation of \$20 will be accepted at the door, however this recital is free for members of St. Mark's and SFAGO.



## Hymn Festival with David Cherwien Sunday, September 21, 4 pm

**By Tim Zerlang**

As part of our on-going celebration of the Taylor and Boody organ we will welcome David Cherwien onto the organ bench for what promises to be an exciting, and inspirational afternoon of Lutheran-music making. David is certainly one of the most gifted, infectious, and thrilling artists active in the Lutheran Church at present.

David Cherwien is currently serving as Director of Music at Mt. Olive Lutheran Church, Minneapolis, MN. and in 2002 was appointed Music Director for the National Lutheran Choir, also based in the Twin Cities. He has also held full time parish music positions in the Minneapolis/St. Paul area, Chicago, Seattle, and Berlin. He has served as Organist/Cantor of Christ Chapel and Visiting Instructor of Music at

Gustavus College, St. Peter, MN and a Teaching Associate in Service Playing and improvisation at Elmhurst College. He completed the Doctor of Musical Arts degree in organ performance, and the Master of Arts degree in Theory and composition, both from the University of Minnesota. His undergraduate work was in organ performance and music education at Augsburg College, where he was honored as distinguished alumni in the fall of 2000. Following his undergraduate work he studied for two years at the Berlin Church Music School in Berlin, Germany. There he studied improvisation with Renate Zimmermann, Organ Literature with Karl Hochreither, and composition with the late Ernst Pepping. He has also studied organ with Christian Baude in Aix-en-Provence, France, and with Paul Manz,

Heinrich Fleisher and Earl Barr in this country, and is a Fellow with Melodious Accord, studying composition with Alice Parker. He is composer of liturgical music for choir and organ, and author of the book Let the People Sing.

Dr. Cherwien has distinguished himself among American organists by his ability to play an entire church service: including prelude, postlude, liturgy, and hymns; with very little reference to printed music. He composes or improvises much of the music he plays in a worship service.

David is a founding member of the Association of Lutheran Church Musicians and is also active in the American Guild of Organists, and Chorister's Guild.



## SF Night Ministry "Spring Song"

March 23

By Pastor Lyle

Celebrate the arrival of Spring by letting beautiful music wash over you while you support the vital work of the Night Ministry at their spring concert, "Spring Song." Musicians will include exceptional singers of the San Francisco Opera Chorus who will come together to lift our spirits and celebrate the arrival of Spring. The concert will be followed by a chocolate and champagne reception.

The afternoon of music will take place Sunday, March 23 at 4 pm in the beautiful setting of St. Mark's Sanctuary.

Tickets are \$20 for adults and \$10 for seniors and students, and can be ordered through Brown Paper Tickets or purchased at the door.



**Spring Song**  
An Evening of Classic, Operetta-Style  
Music to Benefit the  
San Francisco Night Ministry

4:00 pm  
Sunday, March 23, 2014

Champagne & Chocolate Reception

St. Mark's Lutheran Church  
1111 O'Farrell Street  
San Francisco 94109

\$20 at [BrownPaperTickets.com](http://BrownPaperTickets.com)  
\$10 Seniors and Students  
\$25 at Door

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

## Spring Concerts at St. Mark's

For more info & tickets, visit the listed website

- Mar 2.....4:00 pm.....San Francisco Early Music Society  
Quicksilver Concert - Early Moderns: 17<sup>th</sup> Century Italy  
& Germany • [www.sfems.org](http://www.sfems.org)
- Mar 3.....7:30 pm.....SF Performances  
Quatuor Ebène • [www.performances.org](http://www.performances.org)
- Mar 7.....8:00 pm.....Volti  
War and Peace • [www.voltisf.org](http://www.voltisf.org)
- Mar 8.....6:00 pm.....SF Sinfonietta  
Explore the New World (Symphony)! •  
[www.sfsinfonietta.org](http://www.sfsinfonietta.org)
- Mar 9.....4:00 pm.....Noe Valley Chamber Music  
Kitka • [www.nvcm.org](http://www.nvcm.org)
- Mar 15.....7:30 pm.....Omni Foundation for the Performing  
Arts  
David Russell, Guitar • [www.omniconcerts.com](http://www.omniconcerts.com)
- Mar 16.....4:00 pm.....San Francisco Early Music Society  
Farallon Recorder Quartet • [www.sfems.org](http://www.sfems.org)
- Mar 22.....4:00 pm.....New Esterhazy Quartet  
Vienna in the 19th Century • [www.newesterhazy.org](http://www.newesterhazy.org)
- Mar 29.....8:00 pm.....Bay Area Rainbow Symphony  
[www.bars-sf.org](http://www.bars-sf.org)
- Mar 30.....4:00 pm.....Bay Area Rainbow Symphony  
[www.bars-sf.org](http://www.bars-sf.org)
- Mar 31.....7:30 pm.....SF Performances  
Pavel Haas Quartet • [www.performances.org](http://www.performances.org)
- Apr 6.....4:00 pm.....Noe Valley Chamber Music  
Del Sol String Quartet • [www.nvcm.org](http://www.nvcm.org)
- Apr 12.....8:00 pm.....Voices of Music  
Alessandro Scarlatti - the Lamentations of Jeremiah;  
Kirsten Blaise, Soprano • [www.voicesofmusic.org](http://www.voicesofmusic.org)
- Apr 25.....8:00 pm.....Omni Foundation for the Performing  
Arts  
Grisha Goryachev & Jerome Mouffe Concert  
[www.omniconcerts.com](http://www.omniconcerts.com)
- Apr 26.....7:00 pm.....San Francisco Lyric Chorus  
I Hear America Singing • [www.sflc.org](http://www.sflc.org)
- Apr 27.....4:00 pm.....American Bach Soloists  
Bach's Legacy • [www.americanbach.org](http://www.americanbach.org)
- May 2.....8:00 pm.....California Bach Society  
Haydn and Mozart Rediscovered • [www.calbach.org](http://www.calbach.org)
- May 3.....4:00 pm.....New Esterhazy Quartet  
Vienna in the 17th & 18th Centuries •  
[www.newesterhazy.org](http://www.newesterhazy.org)
- May 4.....4:00 pm.....Noe Valley Chamber Music  
The Lee Trio • [www.nvcm.org](http://www.nvcm.org)
- May 10.....8:00 pm.....Clerestory  
Prayer for A Child • [www.clerestory.org](http://www.clerestory.org)
- May 11.....3 pm.....Sunset Youth Orchestra  
Spring Concert • [www.sunsetyouthorchestra.com](http://www.sunsetyouthorchestra.com)
- May 17.....8:00 pm.....Volti  
We Can Sing That! • [www.voltisf.org](http://www.voltisf.org)





## Women's Monthly Study Gatherings

By Suzanne Smith

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

### First Tuesdays 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm Fireside Room

All women are invited to gather on the first Tuesday of the month from 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm 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 the spring are:

- March 4 *Women, Spirituality & Transformative Leadership: Where Grace Meets Power* by Kathe Schaaf et al
- April 1 *Nonviolent Atonement* by J. Denny Weaver
- May 6 *Dreaming about the Divine* by Bonnelle Strickling
- June 3 *Galileo's Daughter* by Dava Sobel

If you have any questions, please contact Suzanne Smith at 415.285.7438 or smith@stmarks-sf.org.

### Second Tuesdays 11:00 am to 1:00 pm Fireside Room

All women are invited to come for study at 11:00 and at noon to bring their sandwich or salad and share fellowship. Drinks and dessert will be provided. This year our Bible study will center on the Women of the ELCA's Guide, *In Good Company: Stories of Biblical Women* by Kay Ward, a bishop of the Moravian Church.

Our sessions will include:

- Mar. 11 - Daughter, an Honest Virgin
- April 8 - Rizpah, a Vigilant Mourner
- May 13 - Rahab, a Faithful Businesswoman



## Christians in the Holy Land Strive for "Peace Not Walls"

By Linda Krauskopf

St. Mark's invites you to three varied opportunities to deepen your knowledge of the Holy Land today and walk alongside our Palestinian Christian brothers and sisters. Learn how and why they must struggle to keep Christianity strong in the very land where Christianity was born two thousand years ago. Hear from the people themselves!

### Wednesday, March 12 from 7:30-9:00 pm in Heritage Hall (following our mid-week worship service)

Screening of "The Stones Cry Out", the newly released film directed by Yasmine Perni that tells the story of Palestinian Christians since the founding of Israel in 1948. You will recognize Pastor Mitri Raheb and Claire Anastas as participants in this moving documentary film.

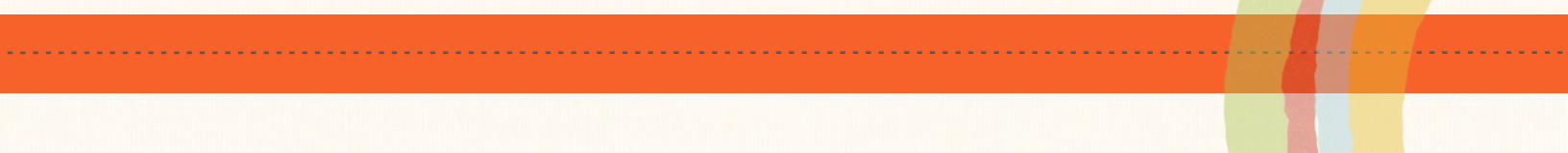
### Wednesday, March 19 from 7:30-9:00 pm in Heritage Hall (following our mid-week worship service)

Claire Anastas from Bethlehem, Palestine will be present, illustrating the realities of life for Christians in Palestine today with Power Point and discussing the making of the film "The Stones Cry Out". Beautiful Fair Trade handicrafts (olive wood and embroidery) from Palestinian artisans in Bethlehem will also be available for purchase.

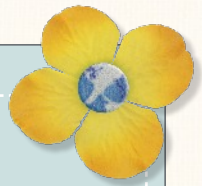
### Friday/Saturday, March 21-22: "Voices for Justice and Peace in the Holy Land"

A Sabeel Conference co-hosted by Nor Cal Friends of Sabeel and Christ the King Church in Pleasant Hill, California. This is an excellent opportunity to "Hear and talk with Christian, Muslim, Jewish and secular leaders, scholars and activists about the situation in Palestine/Israel." St. Mark's is among the more than 50 organizations co-sponsoring this event. For conference program information and registration visit [www.fosna.org/conference/pleasanthill](http://www.fosna.org/conference/pleasanthill)

Come! Learn! Let us accompany and pray for our fellow Christians in the Holy Land as they live and work with steadfast faith for peace and justice at this crucial time. God's Work - Our Hands!







## Upcoming Events with St. Mark's Confirmation Class!

- March 2 Confirmation class with Pastor Bekah
- March 9 Visit to Central Gardens nursing home at 12:30 pm  
(no class at 10:10 am)
- March 16 Confirmation with Brach Jennings, Teaching Parish Student
- March 23 Confirmation class with Pastor Bekah
- March 30 No confirmation class
  
- April 6 Confirmation class with Pastor Bekah
- April 13 Confirmation class with Pastor Bekah
- April 20 Easter Sunday (No confirmation class)
- April 27 Confirmation class with Pastor Bekah
  
- May 4 SFIC WinterFaith Shelter Walk at Lake Merced
- May 11 Confirmation class with Pastor Bekah
- May 18 No confirmation class
- May 25 Confirmation class with Pastor Bekah
  
- June 1 Confirmation luncheon at Mel's Diner

## News from Sunday School

By Jenny Hart

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

On the Sunday before Ash Wednesday, we always plan a "Big Group" activity, where all age levels meet together to celebrate. We start off with a "Carnival" like celebration with Carnival beads and decorations, sparkling cider and sweets. We make a big deal out of creating a party atmosphere. About half-way through class time we transition into Lent, the burning of ashes and the ripping of garments in preparation for the season of Lent.

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

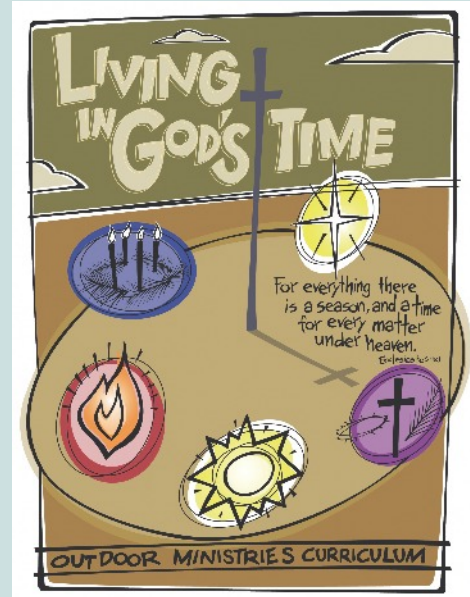
Students engage in their learning through seeing, feeling, tasting and talking, and celebrating Christian traditions. Children will remember participating in these events and will reflect on their active spiritual engagement. In this way Sunday School at St. Mark's brings student's Christian faith and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

## St. Mark's Summer Day Camp

June 30 - July 4, 2014

9:00 am to 3:00 pm (to 12 noon on July 4)

By Kimberly Hamilton-Lam



### Our 2014 Theme: "Living in God's Time"

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

As Christians, we mark time differently. In Jesus, we see God living among us and we learn of a different way of marking time. Each day, we will focus on a different season of the church year as we learn about the story of Jesus.

- Monday: Advent - John the Baptist
- Tuesday: Christmas - the Birth of Jesus
- Wednesday: Lent - the Death of Jesus
- Thursday: Easter - the Resurrection of Jesus
- Friday: Pentecost - the Holy Spirit

New for 2014!

Creation Stewardship: This year, in addition to our traditional Day Camp activities like Bible Encounters, worship, large and small group games, crafts and singing, campers will participate in hands on activities that allow them to learn about and care for God's creation.

### Who is Day Camp for?

Day Camp is for kids ages 5 - 12, who have completed Kindergarten through 6th grade.

Registration forms are available at church and can be found on our website at [www.stmarks-sf.org](http://www.stmarks-sf.org).

Contact Kimberly Hamilton at [hamilton-lam@stmarks-sf.org](mailto:hamilton-lam@stmarks-sf.org) or Pr Bekah at [davis@stmarks-sf.org](mailto:davis@stmarks-sf.org) for more details.



## Senior Activities

### Senior Center Luncheons

The monthly Senior Center Luncheons are a joint ministry of St. Mark's and Martin Luther Tower. The luncheons take place in Heritage Hall, generally every third Thursday of the month from 12 noon to approximately 1:00 pm. The cost of this gourmet lunch is an affordable \$4. Upcoming menus are included in the weekly announcements and are posted at Martin Luther Tower and on the Heritage Hall bulletin board. To RSVP for these lunches please call the MLT Office at 415.885.1084.

Lunch dates for the next 3 months are:

Thursday, March 20 • Thursday, April 24 • Thursday, May 15



### Senior Trips

#### Tuesday, March 11 - Senior Trip to De Young for O'Keeffe Exhibit

Join MLT and St. Mark's seniors to visit the de Young museum to view the *Modern Nature: Georgia O'Keeffe and Lake George* exhibit. Pastor Elizabeth will lead the group on Tuesday, March 11, leaving St. Mark's Ellis St. parking lot at 9:30 sharp in carpools.

We have a 10:00 am entry into the Georgia O'Keeffe and Lake George exhibit at the De Young. Lunch will be on our own in the de Young cafeteria which has delicious food and is very reasonable. The return to St. Mark's will be at approximately 2:00 pm. All Seniors are welcome - ticket cost is \$20. To reserve your spot please pay for your ticket in the Martin Luther Tower office with Sonia, the receptionist. Find out more about the exhibit at [www.deyoung.famsf.org](http://www.deyoung.famsf.org). Questions: Pastor Elizabeth at 415.928.7770 ext. 2300 or [ekdale@stmarks-sf.org](mailto:ekdale@stmarks-sf.org).



#### Friday, April 11 - Sonoma Road Trip with lunch at La Salette Restaurant

We'll take in the beautiful spring countryside on our drive up to the town of Sonoma, then walk around the quaint square taking in shops and perhaps some historical sites. For lunch we'll sample "Cozinha Nova Portuguesa" at La Salette Portuguese restaurant. To check out the menu, go to [www.lasalette-restaurant.com](http://www.lasalette-restaurant.com). Join us for a visual and culinary day out in April! Departure at 10 am. To RSVP for the trip, please contact Sonia in the MLT Office at 415.885.1084.



#### Tuesday, May 6 - Filoli Estate and Gardens

The Filoli Gardens were designed to include many of the elements you would expect on an English country estate. In addition to a formal garden, plenty of space was allocated for a large working kitchen garden with espaliered fruits, berry cages, vegetable garden, cutting garden and greenhouses. Join us on May 6 for a visit to these beautiful grounds. We will depart from the Ellis street parking lot at 9:30 am and return by 2:30 pm. We plan to have lunch at the Café at Filoli. For more information on the gardens and the café, visit their website at [www.filoli.org](http://www.filoli.org). Questions: Pastor Elizabeth at 415.928.7770 ext. 2300 or [ekdale@stmarks-sf.org](mailto:ekdale@stmarks-sf.org).



## St. Mark's Knitting Retreat

### May 10th from 10 am to 2 pm in Heritage Hall

#### By Marge Okuley

Our Knitting Ministry has been involved in many projects such as knitting & crocheting:

- Bandages for lepers
- Baby hats to go into the midwife kits
- Hats & Scarves for the homeless and Night Ministry
- Lap Blankets for Central Gardens
- Prayer Shawls

As we gather next time on MAY 10TH, we will continue working on hats & scarves. This time come join us to start a Prayer Shawl.

What is a Prayer Shawl? A Prayer Shawl is given to someone who we hope will find comfort and a place for strength when they wrap themselves in this shawl. It creates a sacred space in which to meditate and pray. As the person makes a Prayer Shawl, he or she is praying for the person who is to receive it.

There is always someone in need of the scarves, hats and Prayer Shawls that we make in this special St. Mark's Knitting Ministry. If you need help to get started, we're here! Come join us!!





# SF Interfaith Council News



## April 30: Save the Date!

The San Francisco Interfaith Council will present the 5th Bi-Annual Disaster Preparedness Workshop for Congregations. The workshop will take place on Wednesday, April 30 from 8 am to 12 noon at St. Mary's Cathedral (1111 Gough St, SF). Watch for registration details in the coming weeks.

## WinterFaith Shelter Walk

**May 4, 2014 at 2:00 pm • Lake Merced**

Come and walk with us to support the San Francisco Interfaith Winter Shelter and its efforts to end homelessness, an issue that grips our city. The WinterFaith Shelter Walk is an annual, family friendly walk-a-thon that involves faith traditions and backgrounds of all types, and is sponsored by the San Francisco Interfaith Council. Homelessness affects us all and this is a way how we can make a difference.

Meet at Lake Merced and Sunset Blvd. To register to walk, visit <http://winterfaithshelterwalk.dojiggy.com>.



## Interfaith Food Pantry Old First Presbyterian

**By Wendy Figliuolo**

Join your fellow St. Mark's parishioners in a Saturday morning of giving back to our San Francisco community by volunteering for the interfaith Food Pantry. On most Saturdays, over 200 people are provided with much needed food in a cooperative effort between the San Francisco Food Bank and five local churches. St. Mark's next two regular commitments are March 29<sup>th</sup> and May 17<sup>th</sup>. The All Faith's Day will be led by St. Mark's on April 12<sup>th</sup>. The Interfaith Food Pantry is a wonderful opportunity to be involved right here in our local community.

If you have questions, you need updated info, or you want to volunteer, please contact Wendy Figliuolo at [Northern.cal@gmail.com](mailto:Northern.cal@gmail.com).



Bread  
Bagels  
English Muffins

Rice  
Pears

Green Apples  
Tangerines

Carrots  
Yams  
Chicken  
Red Onions

**S.F. FOOD PANTRY**



## Three Steps to a More Abundant Life

By Dr. David Lose

If you're anything like me, your problem isn't that you don't want to be generous, it's that you don't think you can be. That is, most of us spend a fair amount of our time feeling tapped out, like we've given about as much as we can and worry about giving more lest there not be enough left over.

In other words, most of us live out of a world view of scarcity rather than abundance.

But wait, you may be tempted to protest. I know that all good things come from God and claim the gift of abundant life regularly. That may be true. But I think there's a big difference between believing in God's abundance and actually living it. If you find yourself wishing you had more money, more time or more energy, you're likely living out of a sense of scarcity.

How did we get into this bind of living from scarcity rather than abundance? Easy - our culture tells us relentlessly that we are not enough, do not have enough, and will not be happy unless we get more than enough... of everything.

Entering into a new year is a good time to take stock of our lives and consider some changes. So if you want to live less out of a fear of scarcity and more from a sense of abundance, here are three easy steps to follow.

**1 Count your blessings.** Seriously. Start counting. Begin a list of ways in which you have been blessed - with relationships or abilities or possessions or experiences or whatever else comes to mind. You don't have to finish it today. In fact, you won't be able to, because once you start naming your blessings more will come to mind. But start your list today and name at least ten. (Don't worry, it will be easy.) Each day for the next month, add a few more. You'll be surprised by the sense of abundance this creates, and you may want to continue counting well beyond the end of the month.

**2 Express your gratitude.** Once you're aware of your blessings, start thanking people for them. This can be a prayer to God, an email to a colleague, a

handwritten note to a neighbor or simply a word of thanks to a friend or family member, but make sure that at least once a day you find a way to express tangibly and concretely your gratitude to someone for a blessing in your life. There is perhaps no better way to make yourself - and others - feel better than to say "thank you."

**3 Practice Generosity.** To move from feeling more blessed to living more abundantly, you need to put your newfound sense of abundance into action by giving more of your time, talent and money to others. This might be spending more time with a family member or friend who needs you, volunteering at a local agency or giving more to your church or favorite charity. Generosity is a muscle: as we use it, it gets stronger, and as it gets stronger, we develop greater and greater ability and confidence to live more abundantly.

Developing a tangible sense of abundance takes time, but if you start working at these three steps, you'll likely experience a far more abundant 2014.

## Do you have any housing leads for members of St. Mark's?

By Pastor Elizabeth

Affordable housing is a concern for all residents in the Bay Area. We have a special interest at St. Mark's. Each year, beloved members of St. Mark's move out of the area due to lack of affordable housing in San Francisco. We'd like to utilize the power of the St. Mark's network to share possible leads with these families. Please contact Pr. Elizabeth if you are in need of an affordable rental unit or are hoping to buy something affordable in San Francisco.

Currently, we have the following affordable housing needs:

1. A long-time and active member of St. Mark's is hoping to purchase a condominium in San Francisco or nearby for approximately. \$200,000
2. An active couple at St. Mark's is looking to purchase a condominium in SF for approximately. \$600,000.
3. An active couple at St. Mark's is looking for affordable rent near transit or to buy; their buy budget is no greater than \$500,000.

All of these families have been active participants and volunteers at St. Mark's for many years. If you have a piece of property that you might be willing to sell or know of someone who has a piece of property or have any leads for these families, please e-mail Pr. Elizabeth at [Ekdale@stmarks-sf.org](mailto:Ekdale@stmarks-sf.org). She will connect the parties together.

In addition, we have families searching for affordable rental units in San Francisco. If you know of any possible rental leads, please share this information with Pr. Elizabeth and she will pass it on to these families. We are a community that cares for one another - especially during this current housing crisis. Thank you for getting the word out to anyone you know who might be able to help.

## Your Gifts at Work

### Annual Giving 2014

#### General Fund

# of pledges	117 out of
	199 possible
Pledged	\$ 404,092
Received thru 02/28/14	\$ 58,326

#### Income versus Expenses

<u>Jan-Feb '14</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budget</u>
Income	\$ 83,380	\$ 92,787
Expense	\$ 88,154	\$ 102,379
NET	- \$ 4,774	- \$ 9,592

S	M	<b>ST. MARK'S ENDOWMENT FUND</b>
E	F	

## 2013 Was a Very Good Year for the Endowment Fund!

By Margaret R. McLean

It wasn't until after my mother's death that I understood just how generous she was. Like many of us, she made monthly pledges to charitable groups-primarily Catholic charities and San Francisco arts organizations. When she died, it fell to me to contact the recipients of her generosity and tell them that her pledge could not be kept. Of course, everyone was quite understanding and I was able to complete one pledge in her memory. But, what if a few of those pledges could have continued on and on, fueled by her generous heart?

So, I ask all of you who fuel St. Mark's ministries-wouldn't it be wonderful if you could continue your generosity into the unforeseeable future? Well, you can by giving a gift to the Endowment Fund now or from your estate. Every dollar the Endowment Fund receives stays in the fund, earns interest, and the interest comes back to the congregation-it's the fund that keeps on giving and giving!

The Endowment Fund was established at the 2011 Annual Meeting with \$25,000. As of December 31, 2013, it had grown to over \$118,000 thanks to members who remembered St. Mark's in their Will or Trust and to those who have made a cash gift. \$118,000-remarkable I would say, and the congregation is indeed grateful.

The Endowment Committee and Council are very excited as some of the interest the Fund earns can now be used to support St. Mark's ministries. Just think of it, more opportunity for us to "reach out in service to the community and the world." We can think big and dream big because people remembered us as they uncomfortably sat with their attorney thinking about what should happen after their death, thinking about what commitments are worth keeping forever.

The Endowment Committee has work to do so that the first fruits of the Fund can be used in 2014. Current committee members are: Stacy Cullison, Brad Hubert, Greg Jahnke, Robert Rathmell, Shelly Taylor, and Debbie Varian. Please talk to one of us about how you can give a gift that keeps on giving to St. Mark's.

I wish that my mother had had the opportunity to continue her generosity far into the future. I have made the decision to keep my pledge to St. Mark's alive-even when I am not through my Trust. It is through the generous hearts who have supported the Endowment Fund that we can in 2014 go ever more boldly "forward in faith, celebrating community."

*This article is based on remarks made at the Congregational Meeting, January 26, 2013.*

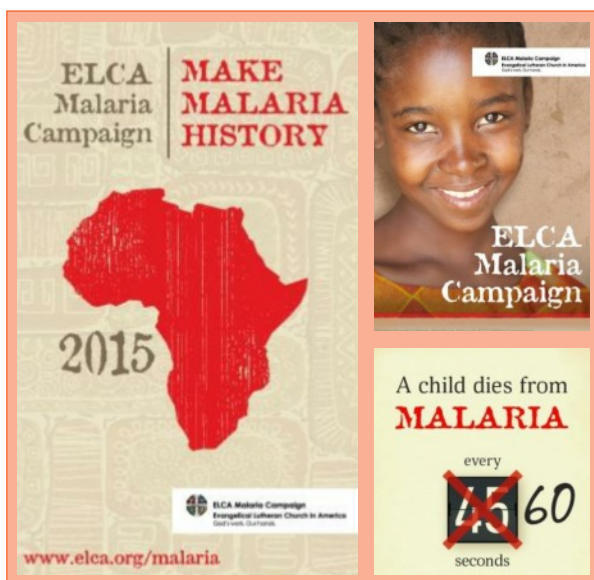
## Another \$10,000 Challenge Grant for the ELCA Malaria Campaign!

By Brandee Marckmann

An anonymous member of St. Mark's has offered a \$10,000 challenge grant for congregations in the Sierra Pacific Synod who are raising funds for the ELCA Malaria Campaign! The challenge provides a \$1-for-\$1 match. The donor was very moved by our congregation's response to last year's \$25,000 challenge grant. St. Mark's members gave \$12,000, and other congregations in the Sierra Pacific Synod gave \$13,000 to meet the \$25,000 goal. We are particularly grateful for the efforts of our Sunday school children who designed Lenten boxes and gave temple talks about malaria during worship services. Thanks be to our youth and to all of our members who inspired our challenge grant donor to offer another gift!

Please give to this important initiative of the ELCA, which calls us to walk in solidarity with our brothers and sisters in Africa who live under the threat of malaria. The ELCA's malaria program trains pastors, church volunteers and health care providers to diagnose and treat malaria. A grassroots, bottom-up approach is used to teach people how to protect themselves from the mosquitoes that spread malaria, recognize symptoms and seek treatment.

To have your gift doubled, please make your check out to St. Mark's and write "Malaria Campaign" in the memo line. Alternatively, you can click on the donate button on St. Mark's homepage and designate your gift to the Malaria Campaign. The challenge grant will be offered until the goal is met or until July 31.





## Church Council Meeting Minutes

BY MARISA LOUIE

November 2013

- Annual report by Margaret McLean and Greg Jahnke of the Endowment Committee. Council passed an amended Endowment Policy clarifying terms in the policy. Fund has surpassed the \$100,000 benchmark to enable us to begin making grants from disbursements.
- Eric Huseth shared points from his study of Adult Education at St. Mark's. A group of three members (Viknesh Silvalingnam, Deborah Halladay, Dale Loepp) will provide recommendations for moving forward with the Adult Forum format and other educational opportunities.
- Discussed a different format for Easter Breakfast in 2014; Council will follow up with coffee hour chairs and hospitality leaders.
- Expressed its support for St. Mark's serving as an internship site for Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary students in 2014-2015.
- Approved disbursement of the gift from the family of Pastor Paul Brenner as follows: \$4500 for organ and music ministries, \$4500 for discipleship and outreach, and \$1000 to the Endowment Fund.
- Approved extension of the strategic goal plan through the annual meeting in January 2015, with a written update informing the congregation of this extension and reporting on progress at the annual meeting in January 2014.
- Permitted solicitation for funds designated for Cynthia Espinoza Kindergarten in Paraguay in the "Voice" newsletter.
- Received report from the Oktoberfest Planning Team, with positive feedback about this year's celebration and suggestions for more outreach and a modified event in 2014

## January 2014

- Announced that mobile app is live; asked for feedback from Council members.
- Approved cosponsorship of the Sabeel Conference ("Voices for Justice & Peace in the Holy Land") from March 21-22 and donation of \$100 from the Social Ministry "Jordan - Holy Land Accompaniment" budget to support the conference.
- Received report regarding 2013 financials and 2014 budget. Approved funding bonuses for staff from a portion of the 2013 budget surplus; approved draft of 2014 budget to be passed at annual Congregational Meeting. Expressed appreciation of the Stewardship Committee, led by Roger Ostrem, for their hard work around securing pledges.
- St. Mark's Square Redevelopment Team continues to pursue potential leads for financing affordable housing via developers planning new market rate housing.

## Council Retreat Report

The Church Council met for a weekend of training, visioning, and fellowship from February 22-23 at the St. Columba Retreat House in Inverness.

Joaquin Sánchez, a community organizer affiliated with the Industrial Areas Foundation, led a workshop on relational meetings and the importance of building relationships. After studying the Gospel text on the Road to Emmaus (Luke 24:13-49), we paired off for conversation that made space for listening, being challenged, and asking "risky" questions. The Biblical example of Moses' delegation of leadership (Exodus 18) inspired us to identify talents and passions in our community.

We discussed having short relational meetings with St. Mark's members, and committed to scheduling one-on-one meetings throughout 2014. Dear Congregation: keep an ear/eye out for a phone call or email from one of your Council members! We want to listen and learn more about you and give you the opportunity to get to know a member of the Church Council. If you'd like to learn more about relational meetings or schedule one with a Council member, don't hesitate to contact us or one of the pastors. You'll also now see Council members identified with nametags on Sunday mornings.

Council members also teamed up to discuss strategic planning goals. We hope to conclude our strategic plan cycle in 2014 and will be working together to connect with ministry leaders.

Goal #1: Adult Education - Cora Rose, Liv Beck

Goal #2: Lay Ministry - Lisa Gray, Ana Hurley, Bill Mooney

Goal #4: Healthy Communications - Kimberly Hamilton-Lam, Marisa Louie

Goal #5: Local & Global Ministries - Matt Helland, Mark Semonian

Goal #6: Marketing and Outreach - Andrew Sallach, Jane Borg

During the Council meeting (highlights from the meeting will be published in the next "Voice" newsletter), Council elected its Executive Committee for 2014: Jeremy McClain, President; Matt Helland, Vice President; Marisa Louie, Secretary; Kimberly Hamilton-Lam, Member-at-Large. Separately, congregation member Shelly Taylor was appointed to be Budget and Finance Coordinator.

## Annual Congregational Meeting

The annual congregational meeting was held on Sunday, January 26 following the 11 am worship service. Meeting highlights included:

- Distribution of a communications-themed survey from Council
- Launch of our new mobile app
- Election of new and returning Council members. New to Council are Cora Rose, Bill Mooney, and Jane Borg; Andrew Sallach and Marisa Louie are returning for their second three-year terms.
- Treasurer's Report from Aron Bohlig, who presented the 2014 budget (then approved by the congregation) and was commended for his seven consecutive years serving as Treasurer. He also shared news of an anonymous donation to the Elevator Fund, which will enable us to begin design studies. Those interested in serving on a planning team are encouraged to contact Council or the pastors.
- Reports from Pastor Ekdale and Pastor Davis, and outgoing Council President Suzanne Smith. Smith was thanked for her six years on Council, two as President, with special appreciation for her wisdom and good humor.
- Report from Martin Luther Tower President Jon Moeller
- Update on the ELCA Malaria Campaign from co-chair Brandee Marckmann, who announced an additional anonymous challenge grant of \$10,000.



## Memorable Day with a Visitor from Lake Wobegon

By Marge Jencks

A famous visitor came to St. Mark's to give a benefit performance for the first fundraiser held for restoring our crumbling church building. Old-timers will remember that electrifying day when Garrison Keillor came for a visit. He allegedly hails from Lake Wobegon in Minnesota, is a story-teller, humorist, singer, musician, and radio personality, and hosts the Public Radio show "A Prairie Home Companion". One of his well-known quotes is, "Welcome to Lake Wobegon, where all the women are strong, all the men are good looking, and all the children are above average".

It was a sunny Sunday afternoon, June 4, 1995, the church was packed, and the audience impatient for Mr. Keillor's appearance. Folks in the pews stomped to rhythms of the musical combo Lutheran Lounge Lizards entertaining from the chancel while waiting for his arrival. He was already 15 minutes late-would he really come?-what would we do if he doesn't? Benefit organizers paced and fretted. Then, as if on a magic carpet he turned off Gough and drove up alone in a somewhat frayed old-model car-greeted by huge sighs of relief and great excitement. He proceeded to stroll down the center aisle gazing around, seemingly caught up in the reverie of the enthusiastic crowd that filled the church to capacity. For nearly 2 hours he entertained us all with an uproarious heartfelt program. Many St. Mark's members also participated that day. Before a rousing "Save St. Mark's" cheer, worried Pr. Schaper addressed the enthusiastic crowd urging those in the balcony to keep their cool, saying the structural engineers had warned that folks in the balcony should not pound their feet-but he added, "You may pray and clap your hands". The special welcome and festivities continued in the afternoon with a traditional Midwestern-style outdoor county fair, including Spam burgers, beer, Norwegian dancers, Jell-O recipe contest, dunk-the-clergy Jell-O dunk tank, and the world's largest Jell-O mold.

Mr. Keillor's performance raised about \$25,000 and launched an \$11 million fund-raising effort to restore our vulnerable church facing demolition. His visit was an extraordinary morale boost. One member said, "If we can get Garrison Keillor to help, perhaps anything's possible." When we sit in the pews nearly 19 years after that day in 1995 and look around at the serenity and beauty, we see with our own eyes the truth in saying "anything's possible".

Another often quoted saying from Garrison Keillor:  
"Thank you, dear God, for the good life and forgive us if we do not love it enough."

*This is the 23rd in a series of Tales from the Archives by Marge Jencks*

## A Visit from Lake Wobegon



*Garrison Keillor performing at St. Mark's June 4, 1995  
(San Francisco Chronicle photo)*



# St Mark's

LUTHERAN CHURCH

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SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94109-6601  
415.928.7770 • stmarks-sf.org

## STAFF

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**The Rev. Chuck Lewis**

Visitation Pastor

**Carl Storey**

Security

**Shirley Liu**

**Elvira Markov**

**Johanna Najera**  
Nursery Attendants

**Jenny Hart**

Sunday School Coordinator

**Brach Jennings**

Teaching Parish Student

**Jeremy McClain**

Church Council President

## WORSHIP SCHEDULE

### Sundays

9:00 am HOLY COMMUNION  
w/Children's Time  
10:00 am Refreshments  
11:00 am CHORAL EUCHARIST  
12:15 pm Refreshment & Fellowship Hour

### Wednesdays

6:00 pm Midweek Supper  
6:45 pm MIDWEEK HOLY COMMUNION

## CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

Monday-Friday, 9 am to 5 pm

### Church Office Closures

Friday, April 18, noon - Good Friday  
Monday, April 21 - Easter Monday  
Monday, May 25 - Memorial Day

### Church Office Summer Hours

(beginning May 26)  
Monday-Thursday, 9 am to 4 pm  
Friday, 9 am to 12 noon

## ST. MARK'S IS A "RECONCILING IN CHRIST" CONGREGATION

St. Mark's is one of over 315 congregations, 22 synods and 12 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 contact Steve Krefting at krefting@stmarks-sf.org or 415.826.3124 or speak to one of the pastors.

## ST. MARK'S IS A CONGREGATION OF THE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA

The Rev. Elizabeth Eaton, Presiding Bishop  
The Rev. Mark W. Holmerud, Bishop, Sierra Pacific Synod  
The Rev. Susan Strouse, Dean, San Francisco Conference  
Sister Parish: Cordero de Dios Lutheran Church in Soyapango, El Salvador