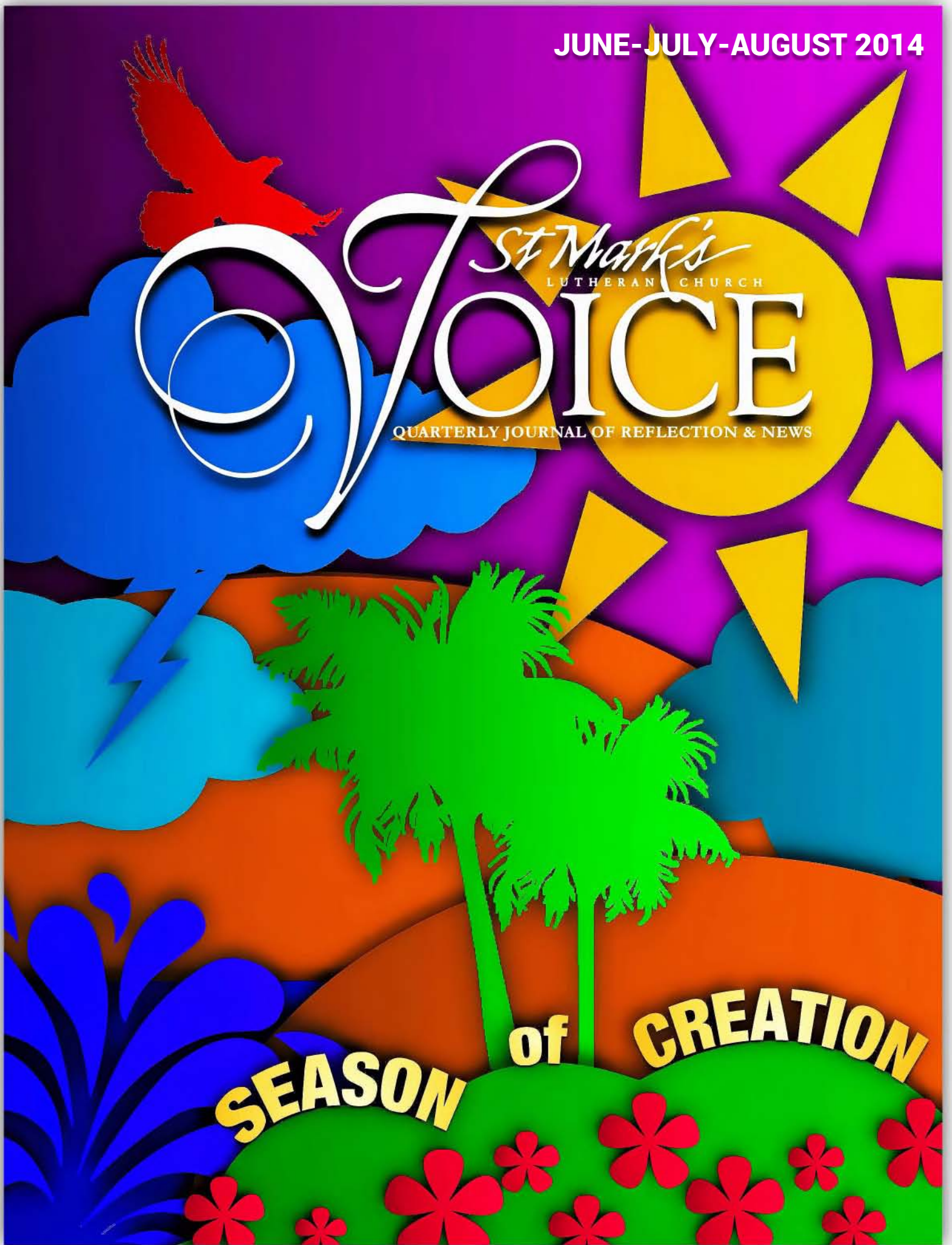


JUNE-JULY-AUGUST 2014

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

SEASON of CREATION



Season of Creation

July 13-August 3, 2014

This summer we will complete the 3 year cycle of the Season of Creation, focusing each Sunday on a particular theme:



Forest Sunday July 13

"Out of the ground the Lord God made to grow every tree that is pleasant to the sight..."
~ Genesis 2:9

This Sunday we worship with creation in a forest, remembering that God created humans from Earth and planted a forest garden to be a home with the rest of their kin in creation.



Land Sunday July 20

"...for three days and three nights the Son of Man will be in the heart of the earth."
~ Matthew 12:40

This Sunday gives us the opportunity to worship with the land, soil, and land creatures. Scripture proclaims Christ as the second Adam who came to overcome the sin and death caused by Adam, including the curse imposed on Earth.



Wilderness Sunday July 27

"We know that the whole creation has been groaning in labor pains until now..."
~ Romans 8:22

This Sunday we are invited to worship in the wilderness, with the creations and the creatures of the wild. Just as Jesus experienced life in the wilderness, we too have an opportunity to worship with all God's wild life.



River Sunday August 3

"Then the angel showed me the river of life... flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb..."
~ Revelation 22:1

We worship this Sunday beside a river with all the water life residing around it. We hear this week that when creation is restored, a river will flow directly from God with trees of life growing on either side to bring healing to all nations on Earth.

St. Mark's Summer Worship Schedule

Sundays

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

Wednesdays

Midweek Supper6:00 pm
Midweek Holy Communion.....6:45 pm

Wednesday Midweek Worship

If you are traveling during the weekend, please consider our **Summer Midweek Worship at St. Mark's!**

Revive your soul and your mind with midweek worship at 6:45 pm and a delicious soup and salad dinner beforehand at 6 pm. This soulful, contemplative communion service will continue during the summer months. Join us for this chance to feast in the word on Wednesdays.

Pastoral Reflection

By Pastor Elizabeth Ekdale

"Therefore we will not fear, though the earth should change" Psalm 46:2

Change and transitions are happening around us and to us. Congregations change due to beloved members leaving and new members arriving. The earth is changing (literally) due to climate change and tottering kingdoms (verse 6). Our lives are changing – children move up to the next grade, our parent's health declines, an eviction notice arrives in the mailbox.

One thing never changes – God's steadfast love for us. In the midst of constant and nerve-racking change, God invites us to "be still and know that I am God" (verse 10).

I hope that in the summer days ahead you set aside time for the gift of "stillness" and discover God's presence in the midst of it. Many of us lead busy, fast-paced lives. We don't "sit still" for a minute! I invite you to sit still and see what happens (or doesn't happen). Listen to God's words of refreshment in the stillness, take a few deep breaths and soak in the abundant gifts God offers to you. Enjoy!

Pastor Elizabeth Ekdale



Participating in this year's Winterfaith Shelter Walk on May 4 were Pastor Elizabeth, Pastor Bekah, some of St. Mark's youth and Buckie the dog



St. Mark's member, Dana Utz (front and center) participated in this year's Walk MS at Lake Merritt in Oakland and raised \$3,420 to help combat Multiple Sclerosis.



St. Mark's Summer Day Camp June 30-July 4, 2014

By Kimberly Hamilton-Lam

St. Mark's will host Day Camp this summer from June 30 to July 4. We will partner with Mt. Cross who will provide us with college-age Day Camp staff, curriculum and exciting activities for the week.

The theme is "Living in God's Time". Campers will explore how Jesus is among us in the different "seasons" of our lives by exploring the Church Year. Campers will learn how Jesus is revealed in Advent, Christmas, Lent, Easter, and Pentecost and what that means for daily life. Tying in holidays that they are already familiar with will give campers touch points as they learn about God's time, and how it is holy.

Day Camp will run from 9 am-3 pm Monday-Thursday and 9 am-noon on Friday. Cost for one child is \$90/week, additional siblings are \$75/week. Reduced fee and scholarships are available upon request.

How you can help make Day Camp great

Plan to attend - Mark the week on your calendar now. Registration forms are available on our web site www.stmarks-sf.org. We encourage you to invite neighbors, friends and families to participate.

Dinner for Counselors - Homes are needed to host the Day Camp staff for dinner each night. After the meal, the counselors will return to their overnight "host" homes. These meals do not need to be fancy (everybody loves pizza!).

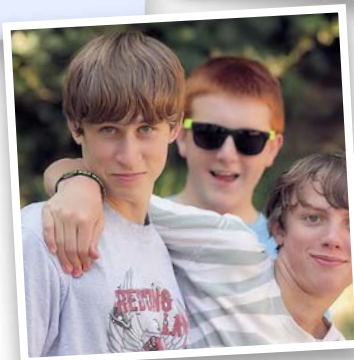
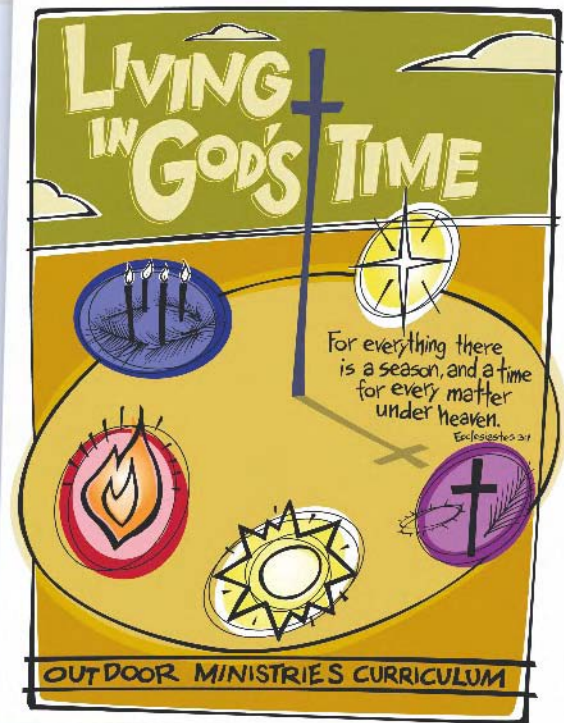
Morning Snack - Can you provide a simple morning snack for campers? St. Mark's will need to provide a healthy morning snack for each child. You do not need to be present to serve the snack - you are free to drop it off ahead of time and we will be happy to serve it!

Lunch Service for Counselors - Can you prepare and serve lunch? Sign up for one day or two. Campers will bring their own sack lunches, but St. Mark's will be providing lunch for the Mt. Cross counselors.

Help get the word out - Can you help publicize Day Camp to the community? Contact Kimberly Hamilton-Lam or Pastor Davis for flyers.

Opportunity for HS YOUTH - WE NEED YOU! Mt. Cross counselors would love high school youth (who have completed their sophomore year or older) to partner with them in running camp. Be a part of building memories for a new generation of campers! You get to work with cool college kids who are dedicated to helping build kids' faith! This is an exciting opportunity!

For more information and to volunteer, email Kimberly Hamilton-Lam at mjjkmom@yahoo.com or call (415) 668-8740.



Musical Thanks...

By Dr. Timothy Zerlang

As we reach the end of a program year, let's take a moment to acknowledge some of our wonderful musical volunteers.

For their faithful leadership of the Sunday School Chapel

Susan Sall

Jeff Sall

Ralph Loen

Charlene Loen

For her instrumental support at 9:00 am worship

Lin Cerles

For their instrumental support at 11:00 am & other liturgies

Diana Gomez

Greg Gomez

Greg Jahnke

Carla Lehman

Barbara McCormick

Gary Schilling

Colin Williams

For their leadership at 11:00 am worship & other liturgies

The St. Mark's Choir*

*This group of faithful volunteers rehearses Wednesdays, September-May, 7:30 - 9:00 pm (7:30-9:30 Advent and Lent). This past year they participated in approximately 51 liturgies, chanted approximately 54 psalms and sang approximately 70 anthems, major works at Christmas and Easter, and a passion setting.

The first choir rehearsal for next year will be on **Wednesday, September 10**. If you are interested in joining the choir, or any of the other musical ministries listed above, please contact Timothy Zerlang.

Organ Basics Sunday, June 22 10:00 am at the Balcony in the Sanctuary

By Dr. Timothy Zerlang

Why does our organ have two keyboards?

What is an organ stop?

What does 8', 4', 2 2/3' mean?

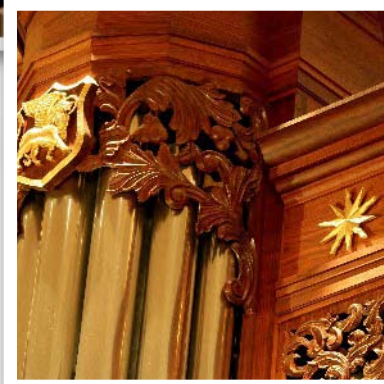
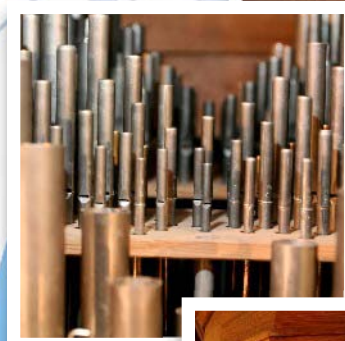
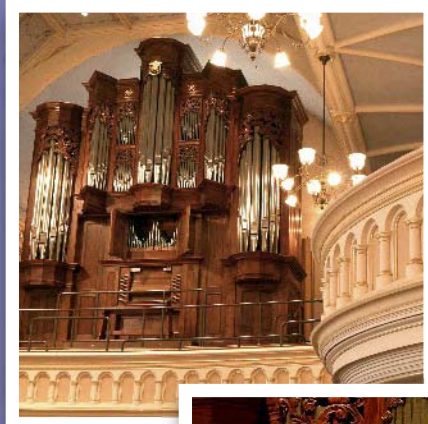
Do you really play the organ with your feet?

Why is mechanical key and stop action a good thing? What is it?

I thought the organ was fine before it was finished last Fall - What did they do to it then?

What makes our Taylor and Boody organ special?

Come to the balcony in the sanctuary Sunday, June 22 at 10:00 am and all of these questions and more will be answered. Get a tour of the organ, inside and out, become familiar with organ basics and learn a bit more about what an organist is actually doing at the organ during a worship service or concert.



What is a Hymnfest? Come and find out!

Sunday, September 21, 3:30 pm

By Dr. Timothy Zerlang

“As long as we live there is never enough singing.” – Martin Luther

On Sunday, September 21 at 3:30 pm St. Mark's will host a hymn festival, led by David Cherwien, one the most gifted and inspiring Lutheran Church musicians in the country today.

Next to the Word of God, music deserves the highest praise. The gift of language combined with the gift of song was given to man that he should proclaim the Word of God through Music.
- Martin Luther

Music and especially singing have been important parts of the Lutheran experience since even before Martin Luther wrote the words quoted above. The singing of hymns embeds texts and theological concepts deep in our memories. When much else is forgotten, often hearing just a few notes of a beloved tune will bring an entire hymn text back to us, one we may not have recalled for years.

You do not need to be a trained musician or have a beautiful singing voice to participate in a hymn festival. One need only have the desire to hear the word of God proclaimed through word and music, to sing the story of the Gospel. A Hymn Festival itself can be like a service of lessons and carols, an inspiring combination of words and music, but with an

emphasis on music. Under the direction of a thoughtful leader it can be a wonderfully uplifting and inspiring event. Often, favorite old hymns are interpreted in new and exciting ways, provoking us to think about old familiar texts in new ways. Sometimes new, unfamiliar hymns are performed in such beautiful ways that they immediately become old favorites.

We are truly fortunate to have David Cherwien, Cantor at Minneapolis' Mount Olive Lutheran Church leading our Hymn Festival. Not only is David Cherwien among the Twin Cities' most celebrated organists and choral directors, his service to the greater church is spread across the country through his frequent leadership at hymn festivals and workshops, guest appearances and published work. Dave became Mount Olive's third cantor in 2001 and artistic director of the National Lutheran Choir in 2002. His passion is for congregational singing, inspired by predecessor and mentor, Paul Manz. Dave's masterful improvisations and creative approach to hymns frequently elevate congregational singing to a transformational experience. Dave has held church music positions in Chicago, Seattle and Berlin, and faculty posts at Gustavus Adolphus and Elmhurst colleges and at Luther Seminary. He holds degrees in organ performance, music theory and composition, and choral music education and has studied in Germany and France. Dave is married to the noted hymnist Susan Palo Cherwien, and together they have

created many wonderful new works, more than a few of which have found their way into our own ELW.

Following the Hymn Festival, we will continue the celebration with a reception in Heritage Hall. This ticketed event, complete with food, drinks, and a silent auction, will benefit the Salvadoran Lutheran Pastoral Support Fund. St. Mark's has an active sister parish relationship with Cordero de Dios, a congregation in El Salvador. A commitment was made by The Salvadoran Lutheran Church to establish congregations in the poorest communities in El Salvador. These are communities where support, leadership, and service are desperately needed, especially for youth. These are not self-sustaining congregations, meaning offerings given by members are not enough to pay the pastors who serve. In times of crisis, pastors do not receive salaries for months, and these financial troubles have impacted Cordero de Dios. We seek to help the fund reach its \$2 million goal to support communities across El Salvador.

Come for the Hymn Fest and stay to support our brothers and sisters in El Salvador. This will be an afternoon 'not to be missed.' I cannot pass up the opportunity to use just one more quote about music from Martin Luther:

“A person who...does not regard music as a marvelous creation of God, must be a clodhopper indeed and does not deserve to be called a human being; he should be permitted to hear nothing but the braying of asses and the grunting of hogs.”

Summer Music at St. Mark's

Upcoming Performances

- June 1, 2014.....3:00 pm.....**Ragazzi Continuo**
Ex Corde: The Rhythm Of The Land
www.ragazzicintinuo.org
- June 8, 2014.....6:00 pm.....**San Francisco Sinfonietta**
Brahms: Ein Deutsches Requiem
www.sfsinfonietta.org
- June 14, 2014.....2:00 pm.....**Deutscher Musikverein of San Francisco**
www.sfgermanband.org
- June 14, 2014.....8:00 pm.....**San Francisco Choral Artists**
Midsummer Night's Singing
www.sfca.org
- June 28, 2014.....7:00 pm.....**Alex Keitel**
www.alexplayscello.com
- July 12, 2014.....8:00 pm.....**Midsummer Mozart Festival 2014**
40th Anniversary | Peter Serkin & Friends - Chamber Music Celebration
www.midsummermozart.org
- July 25, 2014.....7:30 pm.....**Midsummer Mozart Festival 2014**
40th Anniversary
www.midsummermozart.org
- July 27, 2014.....8:00 pm.....**International Orange Chorale**
www.iocsf.org
- August 2, 2014.....7:00 pm.....**Alex Keitel**
www.alexplayscello.com
- August 8, 2014.....7:30 pm.....**Chanticleer Summer Skills/Lab**



Alex Keitel Performances

Cellist, viola da gamba player, and composer, plays two concerts at St. Mark's

Saturday, June 28th, 7:00 pm

Viola da Gamba concert - 8 new works for inspired by moons of Jupiter and Saturn, by Alex Keitel, with Forqueray's Suite V in C Minor with Adaiha MacAdam-Somer, Continuo

Saturday August 2nd, 7:00 pm

French cello duos with Alex Keitel and Harm Garreyn

\$15, \$10 Students and Seniors
online tickets: keitel.brownpapertickets.com
more info: alexplayscello.com



Chanticleer Summer Skills / Lab Concert

Friday, August 8, 2014, 7:30 pm

Chanticleer presents its fourth annual Summer Skills/LAB concert on Friday, August 8, 2014 at 7:30 pm. The concert, a showcase of 50 high schoolers, caps the end of a week-long music camp where young singers participate in multiple vocal ensembles and music performance classes. The photo here is from the 2013 Skills/LAB concert at St. Mark's.

The performance is **free** and open to the St. Mark's congregation, Martin Luther Tower Residents, and the close family of the singers.

Adult Education

By Debby Halladay

Since October, congregation members have met to discuss and evaluate adult learning activities at St. Mark's. We have studied various resources concerning Christian education, have looked at other churches' education activities, and have held a number of informal conversations with congregation members. We have identified several challenges and shortcomings, but we have been pleased with the depth and breadth of adult educational opportunities at St. Mark's in the past, and very much want to see this continued. The committee will soon provide Church Council with its recommendations for organizing these ongoing efforts.

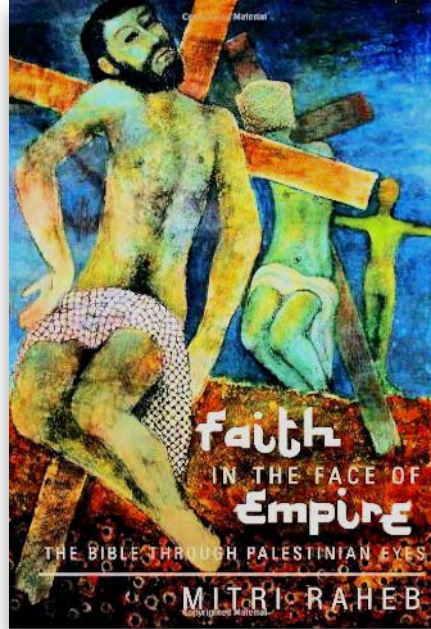
Anyone who would like to offer suggestions or comments, or especially who would like to participate in planning adult learning activities, please contact Liv Beck (beck@stmarks-sf.org) or Cora Rose (rose@stmarks-sf.org). Committee members include: Debby Halladay, Viknesh Silvalingam, Liv Beck, and Cora Rose

Summer Book Study

Sundays: July 6, 13, 20 and 27

10:05 am to 10:50 am

Fireside Room



Join Pastors Elizabeth and Bekah for a lively discussion on Rev. Mitri Raheb's newest book, "Faith in the Face of Empire."

Rev. Dr. Mitri Raheb's latest book is a "look at the Bible through Palestinian eyes." It is a challenging view of how the reality of empire shapes the context of the biblical story and the ongoing experience of the Middle East conflict. For Mitri, the Middle East context of the biblical story is crucial to its understanding and its relevance to his people today. A Palestinian reading of the Bible begins with an awareness of the role of empire—a constant feature of Palestine for thousands of years. For Mitri, faith in God is the hope that there is something greater than empire. Jesus embodied that hope, and Mitri spells out Jesus' political program in relation to the Roman Empire of his time, its relevance for his community, and the political values relevant for the Middle East, past and present.

Women's Monthly Study Gatherings

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

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

All women are invited to come for dessert and fellowship for the first half hour and then discussion until 8:30.

Our books for the summer are:

- June 3: *Dreaming about the Divine* by Bonnelle Strickling
July 1: *Still Life* by Louise Penny or any in the Inspector Gamache Series
August: NO MEETING

Second Tuesdays 11 am-1 pm Fireside Room

All women are invited to study at 11 am and to bring a sandwich or salad for fellowship at noon. Drinks and dessert are provided.

Our program includes:

- June 10: *The Story of Mary and Elizabeth* as found in our Magazine, Gather
July 8: Luncheon Out
August: NO MEETING

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



Educational and Worship Opportunities Working for Peace in The Holy Land

By Jeremy McClain

St. Mark's hosts a series of speakers addressing subjects like on-the-ground realities for Palestinians, working for justice and sustainability with Palestinian communities, and understanding the history and issues hindering peace and justice. In the coming months we will have two presentations **following the Wednesday midweek services.**



On June 18 at 7:15 pm, Philip Farah and Paul Noursi from Palestinian Christian Alliance for Peace (PCAP) will talk to us about the myths and impediments that stand in the way of a just peace and how American Christians can help overcome them. PCAP draws its inspiration from the Kairos Palestine document, and believes American churches and church-based organizations ought to play a leading role, advocating for a just peace among all people in the Holy Land.

On July 16 at 7:15 pm, Reverend Michael Yoshi, Senior Pastor at Buena Vista United Methodist Church in Alameda, and members of its congregation will present how they support Wadi Foquin, a Palestinian village near Bethlehem.

Wadi Foquin's existence is threatened by:

- Security walls and settlements separating them from other communities, labor markets and hospitals, and encroaching on 11 natural springs

- Confiscation of agricultural lands
- Pollution by sewage and wastewater drainage from settlements

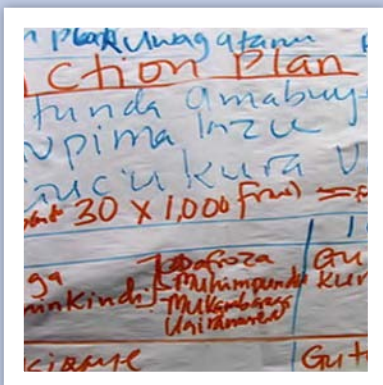
St. Mark's participates in an international monthly prayer vigil, praying for peace and justice in the Holy Land. Begun in Jerusalem on Christmas Eve 2013, the vigil today includes 49 churches, seminaries, organizations and individuals in the United States, Canada, Europe, Nigeria, Israel and Palestine.

Our prayer vigil is held on the **3rd Wednesday of each month** as part of the midweek service beginning at 6:45 pm in the Sanctuary. Presentations meet in Heritage Hall immediately following the service. We are also encouraged to pray privately or in self-organized groups on the 24th of each month to join the international community in prayer for peace.

Rwandan Pastor John Rutsindintwarane to visit June 22

By Mary Ritter

Pr. John R. will join St. Mark's in worship on Sunday June 22 and bring updated information about work with the poor in Mumeya, Kigali and Nyange in Rwanda. The clinic has been built – now the Mumeya community is working to get water and electricity. Women in Nyange are making and selling tiles for roofs, and women and youth in Kigali are learning about job skills. All this is happening through the work of PICO Rwanda, an organization which St. Mark's supports. Mary Ritter and Pr. Bekah will visit the projects in August 2014 on behalf of the congregation. Plan to listen to Pr. John's presentation in Heritage Hall at 12:15 pm on Sunday, June 22.



A Gracious “Thank You” from the Kindergarten Cynthia Espinoza, Paraguay

By Tom Benson

You may recall the article in the Winter edition of the “Voice”, describing the work of the Kindergarten Cynthia Espinoza in Asunción, Paraguay. This ministry is a Christian response to severe urban poverty by a dedicated group of German Lutheran women in Paraguay, and was the focus of a recent Adult Forum presentation by our own Dr. Renata Kiefer-Bridgman. An outpouring of donations from members of St. Mark’s and from WELCA was subsequently received by Kindergarten Cynthia Espinoza. Below are excerpts from a letter of gratitude to Pr. Ekdale, to the members of St. Mark’s and to WELCA, written by Anke Derpsch, president of the Kindergarten’s board.



Lunch at Cynthia Espinoza



Kindergarten Cynthia Espinoza Logo



The barrio after the floods

Dear Pastor Elizabeth Ekdale,
Dear Sisters and Brothers of St. Mark’s,

It was a great pleasure to receive your letter with the warm greetings on behalf of the congregation of St. Mark’s Lutheran Church in San Francisco. My all-volunteer coworkers and our staff at the Kindergarten Cynthia Espinoza join me in thanking you very much for your kind and encouraging words. Please also accept our heartfelt thanks for the financial donation we received from St. Mark’s just a few days ago. I understand that a contribution by the St. Mark’s Group of the Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America was also included; please extend our gratitude and special thanks to them as well.

It is wonderful for us to know that we have ‘neighbors in spirit’ in far-away San Francisco, who share with us in the sense of Matthew 25:40 and include our Kindergarten in their prayers and even support our work with a donation! To receive your love and help is truly uplifting and strengthens us in caring for our 100 children and their families, who live in one of the poorest sections of Asunción.

We also want to give special thanks to Dr. Renata Kiefer, who has been accompanying our work for many years already, and who reported about the Kindergarten in a presentation at your Church and in an article in St. Mark’s Voice.

Your donation arrived at a very critical time, when our dependence on such support becomes particularly acute. After two months of extreme drought with daily temperatures of 40° C, the hoped-for rain finally came in the night from February 25th to February 26th, 2014. However, as the rain came in torrential downpours, it brought new suffering: In Asunción, some 3000 people had to be evacuated from flooded areas - including areas where families of our children live and dwellings are under water.

The logo of our Kindergarten Cynthia Espinoza shows the ship with the three crosses. For us, this logo is a symbol that we put our faith and trust in Jesus Christ to help us navigate our Kindergarten with the precious children safely through all storms and problems.

We send warm greetings to you, dear Pastor Elizabeth, and to the congregation of St. Mark’s Lutheran Church in San Francisco, and we wish for all of you the Lord’s blessings in your daily lives and in your many activities. May you experience much joy in your endeavors.

Mother's Day Greetings from Cordero de Dios

Matt Helland

St. Mark's received a very special Mother's Day greeting from the women of Cordero de Dios, our sister parish in Soyapango, El Salvador. Pastor Norma, of Cordero de Dios, wrote:

"Greetings and hugs to all the mommies of St. Mark's. We send these pictures with love. May the love of God be upon each of you and your dear family."

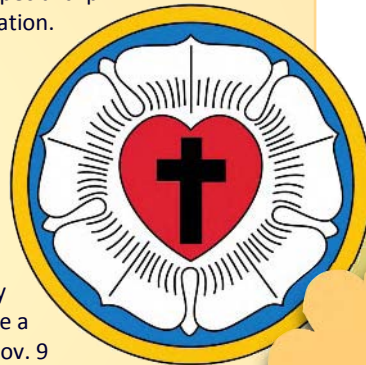


Visit Luther Sites in Germany with Pr Elizabeth October 2015

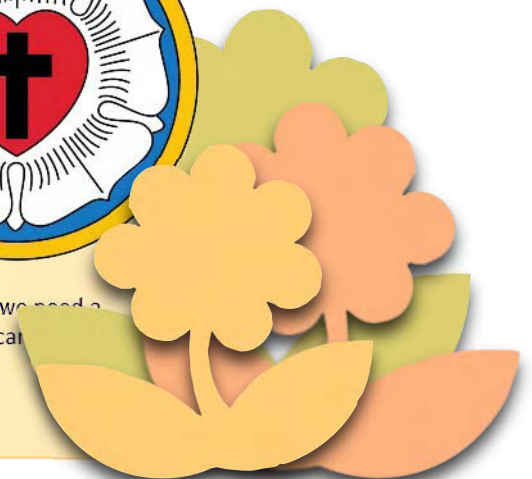
By Pastor Elizabeth Ekdale

Join Pastor Elizabeth and her spouse, Pastor Hans Hoch, on this special trip to Germany as we celebrate the 500th anniversary of the Reformation.

We will begin our 11 day pilgrimage in the Rhine Valley and end our travels in Munich. In between we will visit some of the most "famous" sites where Martin Luther lived, preached, nailed his 95 Theses, taught, was born and died. From the lovely town of Leipzig home to the 13th century Thomas Church immortalized by Bach to Augsburg where Luther defended his 95 Theses, we will travel together, dine on wonderful German cuisine, and explore our Reformation faith. There will be time for shopping, museums, reflection and exploring along the way as we travel together. The tentative dates for this trip are a departure on Oct. 30 and a return to San Francisco on Nov. 9



Please let Pr. Elizabeth know if you are interested. To make this trip work, we need a minimum of 21 participants. Friends are welcome. Pr. Elizabeth can be contacted at Ekdale@stmarks-sf.org and 415 928-7770 ext. 2300.



Farewell from Brach

Dear Members of St. Mark's

It's hard to believe I have been a part of this wonderful congregation for eight months! Time truly does fly when one is having fun and learning lots each week. I wanted to take a moment to sincerely thank all of you for welcoming me so warmly to St. Mark's, and giving me so many great leadership opportunities since September.

A highlight of my time with you was going to El Salvador over Thanksgiving with the El Salvador delegation. We are truly blessed to be networked with the vibrant and active Cordero de Dios Lutheran Church. I think of the members of this congregation often, and am honored to have visited, prayed, worked, worshipped, and laughed joyfully with them for a short time. All of you made this possible by generously funding me, and for that I am quite grateful. It will influence my ministry for years to come.

Each week there has been something to learn about worship leadership, and being a pastoral presence. And, honestly, sometimes it's great to just have an opportunity to worship on Sundays. Music and liturgy are always deeply filling in this parish. I have grown in my liturgical presence during the last school year, thanks to the many leadership opportunities that have been given to me.

My last official Sunday with you as the PLTS Teaching Parish Student is June 8. This is Pentecost Sunday, so I felt it would be the proper time to say goodbye. I will remain a worshiper in the congregation until August, when I leave for Internship in Astoria, Oregon. I warmly invite you to attend an informal conversation I will be giving on June 8 about Martin Luther's Theology of the Cross, and how this theology has influenced me throughout my time in seminary, and especially during my time at St. Mark's

Christ's blessings to all of you.

Brach Jennings



Meet New Intern Rebecca Swee

By Rebecca Swee

My name is Rebecca Swee and I am honored to be starting a six-month Pastoral internship with you on July 1. This quick paragraph is serving to introduce myself to you. Recently graduated from PLTS (Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary) in Berkeley, I have lived in the Bay Area a little more than 30 years, most of those years on the Peninsula. Grace Lutheran Church in Palo Alto has been my home church for most of that time - and yes, I have known Tim Zerlang since before he was a choir director. I am a native Californian, having grown up in the San Diego area, and have family up and down the state, as well as in Oregon. I am a widow and have one daughter who is now 24 years old and is also living in the Bay area. Having worshipped with St. Mark's several times while I've been in seminary I know it as an inviting, warm and active congregation engaged in the community which you serve. I feel blessed to spend time learning from and working with you.



In Christ's peace,

Rebecca Sweet

St. Marks Sunday School

By Jenny Hart

com·mu·ni·ty serv·ice

noun

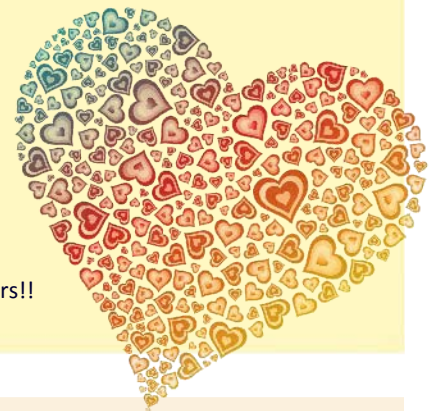
* *voluntary service that a person performs for the benefit of his or her local community.*

At St. Marks Sunday School we offer many opportunities for the Sunday School children to serve their community. When children attend Sunday School regularly they learn the value of community service and have a chance to give back throughout the year. We hope this will encourage a life long commitment to community service.

Here are some of the ways we help:

- Project Open Hand: we made 3-D birthday cards for Project Open Hand. The children created the cards from precut paper, and those old enough to write, wrote sweet, caring messages. These cards were part of our "Gods Work, Our Hands" Sunday. They were delivered to shut-ins in our community on their birthdays!
- Stockings for the Homeless: every year we stuff a pair of socks with toiletries for the men staying in our Homeless Shelter. These are delivered after their morning breakfast; all men get a small snack, an assortment of toiletries and a new pair of socks from the Sunday School children.
- For Valentine's Day we make Valentines that are delivered to residents at Martin Luther Tower. The children spend a Sunday School hour, lovingly making and composing messages of love.
- Every Sunday, during Chapel, we take an offering for our Sister Parish in El Salvador. We have done so for over 15 years, and we keep on giving.
- We also give to our Church community: at Christmas we perform in the Christmas pageant. Our Children's Choir practices special arrangements that they perform during the church services throughout the year!

In this way Sunday School at St. Mark's brings student's Christian faith and traditions to life! Tell others!!



Eucharistic Ministers at St. Mark's

By Pastor Elizabeth

On Sunday, May 4, we commissioned seven new Eucharistic Ministers at St. Mark's. Molly Hogan, Jeremy McClain, Mary Carlton Lull, Peter Lull, Diana Gomez, Linda Jackson and Jerrold Allen are trained to bring Holy Communion to members of St. Mark's who are unable to worship due to sickness. In addition, our Eucharistic Ministers will assist in worship at Central Gardens on the second Sunday of the month. If you would like a Eucharistic Minister to bring you Holy Communion (typically on the second Sunday of the month), please contact either Pr. Bekah or Pr. Elizabeth.

St. Marks Parents & Kidlettes Camping August 8-10, 2014

By Lara Dickinson

Mark your calendars for an August 8-10 camping trip with St. Marks. We have 3 campsites reserved at beautiful Butano State Park. Bring your books, games, kids' bikes, and hiking gear. We camped here when Audrey was just a few months old. It is a beautiful, family-friendly location. Give about 2 hours to reach it as there is a bit of a drive through the San Mateo Mountains.

Currently we have space reserved that will accommodate about 7 families but may be able to reserve another site closer to arrival if there is additional interest. There are also a couple of walk-in sites available if anyone would like to reserve those. We will create a waiting list if we have more than 7 families interested; after the first 7 RSVP's.



St. Mark's and MLT Senior Center Senior Center Luncheons

Join MLT and St. Mark's Seniors for lunch on the following dates this summer:

- Thursday, June 19
- Thursday, July 3 (4th of July BBQ!)
- Thursday, August 21

The lunch is held in St. Mark's Heritage Hall from 12 to 1 pm, and the cost is only \$4 per person. To reserve your spot, please contact (or stop in to) the MLT office at 415.885.1084.

Senior Center Trips

Senior Trips depart from Martin Luther Tower's Lobby. There is a \$3 per person transportation fee to help defray the cost of gas. To sign up for a trip, please contact (or stop in to) the MLT office at 415.885.1084.

June 5: Filoli House and Gardens

The Filoli Estate is recognized as one of the finest country estates of the early 20th century. The lawns and shrubs around the house, and the Crystal Springs Watershed lands surrounding the estate provide a magnificent backdrop to the formal gardens. We will have a light lunch at Filoli Café. Meet in the Ellis Street parking lot at 10 am. The cost of admission for seniors is \$15.

July 15: Big Basin State Park

We'll explore beautiful Big Basin Redwoods State Park, and enjoy a picnic lunch in the park. Big Basin is California's oldest State Park, established in 1902. The park is home to the largest continuous stand of ancient coast redwoods south of San Francisco. Come along in July and enjoy the wonderful scenery and cool shade of the amazing redwoods.

August 13: A Visit to Stanford

Join us for a road trip south for lunch at Peninsula Creamery in downtown Palo Alto, time to shop at Stanford Shopping Center, and a drive through the Stanford University campus. Stanford U. was listed by Travel + Leisure in September 2011 as one of the most beautiful campuses in the United States and by MSN as one of the most beautiful college campuses in the world.

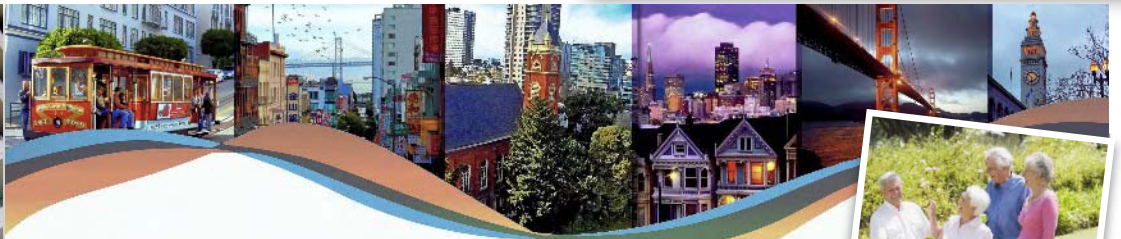
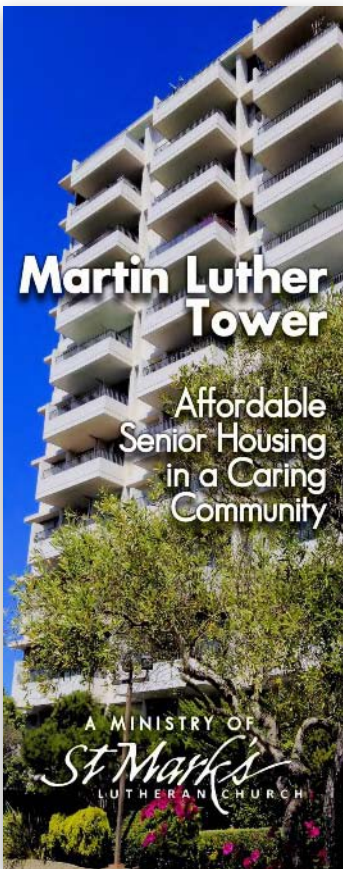


The staffs of Martin Luther Tower and St. Mark's recently had a farewell lunch to say goodbye to MLT Maintenance Supervisor John Hunter. We'll miss you, John!

Produce Market on the Square Wednesdays 11 am-12 noon

Support our community market! Please come and purchase fresh fruit, vegetables and herbs every Wednesday from 11 am-12 noon in the Urban Life Center Auditorium!





Martin Luther Tower

Martin Luther Tower (MLT) is an affordable 62+ senior housing community, located in the heart of San Francisco. The Tower offers studio and 1 bedroom units at both affordable (tax credit) rates and market rates. The team at MLT is passionate about the mission of serving residents with kindness and compassion, helping to identify needs and assisting residents in finding resources so they can live full and independent lives. For more information contact the MLT office at 415.885.1084, or visit www.mlt-sf.org.



Studio & 1 Bedroom Units

- ◆ One qualified person must be 62+ years
- ◆ Move-in costs: First month's rent plus security deposit equal to one month's rent
- ◆ Rent includes water, but not electricity

Affordable (Tax Credit) Units*

Studios: \$1,040 to \$1,256 / Month

1 Bedrooms: \$1,098 to \$1,329 / Month

- Minimum and maximum income limits apply for all Affordable Tax Credit Units
- Section 8 vouchers accepted

Market Rate Units*

Studios: \$1,500 to \$1,600 / Month

1 bedrooms: \$ 1,750 to \$2,200 / Month

Limited Availability

Parking: \$100 to \$150 / Month

Storage: \$80 / Month

Applications

Available at the MLT office at 1001 Franklin Street weekdays, 9:00 am-5:00 pm.

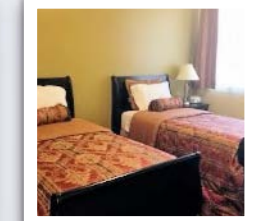
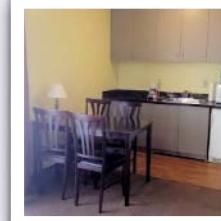
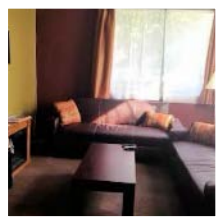
* Prices as of May 2014; may change without notice

Luella Pessner Guest Suite

Martin Luther Tower is fortunate to have the Luella Pessner Guest Suite for use by guests of MLT residents, and members of St. Mark's Church, and other church-related persons carrying out the ministry of St Mark's Lutheran church. The MLT Board of Directors together with Luella Pessner's son created this Suite in 1987. Mrs. Pessner was a long time Resident of MLT and a member of St. Mark's Lutheran church for many years.

Rates and Length of Stay:

- St. Mark's Church Guests: \$100.00/night (for first 7 nights, \$110.00 thereafter)
- MLT Guests: \$90.00/night (for first 7 nights, \$100.00 thereafter)
- Maximum Stay: 14 consecutive nights
- Reservations can be made by Residents or members of St. Mark's by contacting the MLT office.



Council Highlights

By Marisa Louie

February 2014

- Annual Council retreat held at St. Columba Retreat House in Inverness the weekend of Feb 22-23
- Elected Executive Committee: 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.
- Appointed Mark Semonian to serve the remainder of Nate McDonald's Council term
- Appointed Robert Rathmell, Greg Jahnke, and Debbie Varian for 3 year positions on Endowment Committee
- Approved motions designating housing allowances for Pastors Ekdale and Davis
- Approved the sponsorship of El Salvador Endowment Fund benefit event in conjunction with other St. Mark's fundraising and stewardship efforts. This event will be in cooperation with the Synod Global Missions and Advocacy Team (GMAT) and other area Lutheran churches with a connection to the Sister Parish Ministry.
- Discussed moving Oktoberfest to a Sunday afternoon in 2014
- Appointed Andrew Sallach as Martin Luther Tower Board liaison and redevelopment task force member. Discussed recent redevelopment opportunity involving construction on Urban Life Center site and Ellis Street parking lot simultaneously
- Discussed Thrivent Financial for Lutherans Neutrality Policy. Emphasized that St. Mark's does not have assets invested with Thrivent, though we receive Thrivent Choice Dollars. Pr. Ekdale noted that St. Mark's member and Thrivent employee Greg Jahnke has welcomed all to speak with him about their concerns.

March 2014

- Met jointly with the Martin Luther Tower Board for the annual Martin Luther Tower Corporation meeting
- Appointed Marisa Louie as Council liaison to the Endowment Committee for one year, and Randy Schieber for a 2 year position on Endowment Committee
- Planned Safe Congregations training required of all Council members
- Discussed a "transportation/commuter" ministry to provide rides to parishioners who need them on Sunday mornings; volunteers are needed here – please contact the pastors.
- Shared about relational meetings Council members are having with members. Those interested in meeting with a Council member are invited to reach out to schedule one.
- Received report about redevelopment update sessions convened on March 9 and March 16
- Discussed hospitality needs between Sunday worship services and visitor follow-up. Council will begin wearing nametags to identify ourselves on Sunday mornings.

April 2014

- Discussed Synod Assembly plans. Marisa Louie and Mark Semonian will attend as voting members. St. Mark's will have a table to advertise the El Salvador Endowment Fund benefit and other upcoming events. Volunteers are needed to help at Synod Assembly!
- Approved participation in the Bike to Worship Day on June 1st. This event is co-sponsored by the San Francisco Interfaith Council and the San Francisco Bicycle Coalition, to encourage "self-powered" forms of transportation to church.
- Approved motion to extend an internship to the candidate proposed by Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary, pending further discussion between the candidate, the Director of Contextual Education, and Pastor Ekdale.
- Shared about relational meetings Council members are having with members. Those interested in meeting with a Council member are invited to reach out to schedule one.



A Stewardship Message

By Roger Ostrem

As spring turns to summer, the Bay Area transforms into a lush garden. All gardens require good stewardship in order to flourish and grow. It is with this spirit of care that the Stewardship Committee at St. Mark's would like to extend our thanks to all of our good stewards who have taken on the task of helping to maintain our garden of faith and to help it to flourish and grow. Last fall's pledge drive turned out to be very successful, with over \$400,000 pledged from our members and friends. We encourage each of you to keep up the good work by maintaining your pledge commitments in order to properly tend to our garden.

Many of us utilize the Simply Giving program to make our periodic donations. Using Simply Giving is a no hassle method of fulfilling our pledge commitments with minimal effort. If you have not signed up for the Simply Giving method of payment and are interested in doing so, please contact the church office for additional details. It's easy and efficient.

Below is a recap of where your pledge gifts are to date. Thanks again for your good stewardship and happy gardening!

Your Gifts at Work Annual Giving

General Fund

Number of pledges:	119 out of 199 possible
Amount pledged:	\$404,092
Received through 04/30/14:	\$121,281

Income vs. Expenses:

	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budget</u>
Jan-May '14		
Income:	\$176,551	\$195,517
Expense:	\$177,046	\$206,802
Net:	-\$495	-\$11,285



Sierra Pacific Synod Surpasses ELCA Malaria Campaign \$10,000 Challenge Grant Goal!

By Brandee Marckmann

Good news! ELCA congregations in the Sierra Pacific Synod have raised over \$10,000 in response to the \$10,000 challenge grant for the ELCA Malaria Campaign. The grant, which was given anonymously by a member of St. Mark's, provided a dollar-for-dollar match.

Thanks be to God, and thanks be to all who gave of their time and talent to stand in solidarity with our sisters and brothers in Africa who live under the threat of malaria. ELCA companion churches are working on extending malaria programming into new countries because of the generosity of those who gave of their time and treasure to the Malaria Campaign.

Even though the challenge grant goal has been met, there is still an opportunity to make a difference by giving to the campaign. The sooner we can all help the ELCA reach the \$15 million campaign goal, the sooner we can help eliminate deaths from this disease -- for good.

Finally, please keep children and adults who live with malaria in your prayers.

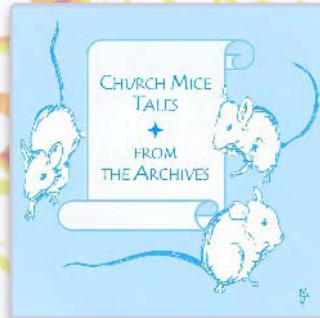
Interfaith Food Pantry Dates for 2014

The Interfaith Food Pantry is held every Saturday at the Old First Presbyterian Church.

St. Mark's Dates:	All Faiths Dates:
July 12	June 21
August 16	August 23
October 4	October 11
November 15	December 6



For more info, contact Wendy Figliuolo at Northern.cal@gmail.com.



Secrets in an Old Hymnal

By Marge Jencks

Secrets from our past are hidden in the archives, waiting to be discovered.

An old St. Mark's hymnal in German was found recently (photo 1), patiently sitting on a dusty shelf with other musty books. It's a treasured songbook from long ago—with title page "Gesangbuch der evangelisch lutherischen, St. Markus Kirche, in San Francisco, California, AD 1903" (photo 2). Another page shows one of the earliest known photos of St. Markus Kirche (photo 3), probably taken between 1895 (year of church's dedication) or slightly earlier, and 1903 (year of hymnal). There appears to be construction debris near the right hand corner, indicating it might have been taken soon after completion. Look closely and you'll notice steep stairs in front, with no plaza or ramp (added in the 1980s, including a new stairway), but otherwise it shows the church as we know it today. The hymnal even



Sacred Acts at St. Mark's

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

Baptisms

Baptized March 2, 2014
Sydney Mei-Ong Brendel

New Members

Received April 19, 2014
Kimberly & Nick Cottrell
Pamela Cheung
Casey Neuburger
Matthias Will
Pamela Coxon
Liz Smith
Jacqueline Nader

Looking Ahead... Some Dates to Remember!

- Ministry Team Chairs Meeting.....Thursday, July 31
- God's Work Our Hands Sunday.....Sunday, September 7
- Hymnfest and Fundraiser.....Sunday, September 21
- Blessing of the Animals.....Sunday, October 5
- Oktoberfest.....Saturday, October 25
- WELCA Christmas Luncheon.....Tuesday, December 9
- Senior Center Christmas DinnerFriday, December 12
- Interfaith Homeless Shelter.....January 11-February 1, 2015
- Church Council Retreat.....February 7-8, 2015

Celebrate God's Work, Our Hands on September 7!

The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America is celebrating its 25th anniversary in 2014 under the theme, "Always Being Made New." What God is doing through us here at home and around the world is worth celebrating. On September 7, St. Mark's will mark the occasion by performing community service following our worship services. Please watch the announcements for more details on the celebration...God's work. Our hands.

includes inspirational words (photo 4) from Martin Luther (1483-1546) calling us to sing:

“Sing onto the Lord a new song! Sing onto the Lord, all the world! For God has made our heart and mind joyful with his beloved son, whom he has

given for us for our redemption from sin, death, and evil. Whosoever believeth this cannot keep from singing joyfully and telling with gladness of the good news, so that others will also hear and come to partake.”

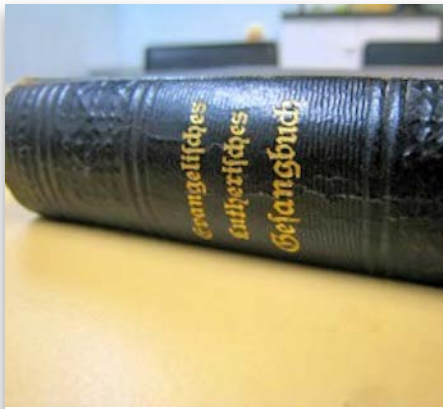
donors for the hymnal you hold. Music composers and text authors are shown in lower corner of each hymn. St. Mark's Lutheran Church, San Francisco is printed in gold on the front cover.

The red hymnals inspire us to sing—perhaps to sing a new song: “Sing! Sing a new song! Sing of that great day when all will be one! God will reign, and we'll walk with each other as sisters and brothers united in love. We are called to act with justice, we are called to love tenderly; we are called to serve one another, to walk humbly with God.” (hymn 720). We're called to sing in this spirit, and also, as generations before us have sung, in the spirit of Martin Luther's words.

Many thanks to Renata Kiefer for translations into English. This is the 24th in a series of Tales from the Archives by Marge Jencks.

Other photos show three familiar hymns we still sing today (photo 5, 6, 7).

Our red pew hymnals that replaced the former 1978 green Lutheran Book of Worship, were donated by parishioners and friends for the church's reopening after the 2006 renovation. The 2006 red hymnal, Evangelical Lutheran Worship, is a new version published by ELCA. Besides old favorites and newer hymns, the red hymnal includes services and liturgies for worship, Holy Communion, baptisms, weddings, and burials; prayers; psalms; church calendar; and other resources. Take a look on the inside front cover and find



[1] 1903 St. Markus Gesangbuch



[2] Title page of Gesangbuch



[3] Early photo of St. Markus in Gesangbuch



[4] Message from Martin Luther in Gesangbuch



[5] Hymn 103: Ein feste Burg ist unser Gott (A Mighty Fortress is our God)



[6] Hymn 367: Stille Nacht, heilige Nacht (Silent Night, Holy Night)



[7] Hymn 8: Macht hoch die Thür, die Thor macht weit (Fling Wide the Doors)

St Mark's

LUTHERAN CHURCH

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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

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 SUMMER HOURS

Monday-Thursday, 9 am to 4 pm
Friday, 9 am to 12 noon

CHURCH OFFICE CLOSURE

Independence Day - Friday, July 4

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 a pastor.

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