

FALL 2014

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

Hymn Festival
& Gala Fundraiser
Benefitting the **El Salvador
Lutheran Pastor's Support Fund**

**SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 21 @ 3:30 PM
ST. MARK'S LUTHERAN CHURCH**

**TICKETS: www.stmarks-sf.org/hymnfest
HYMN FESTIVAL: \$20 RECEPTION: \$30 BOTH: \$45**

Circle of Faith A HYMN FESTIVAL

Sunday, September 21, 3:30 pm

Tim Zerlang

On Sunday, September 21, as part of our recognition and celebration of the completion of our Taylor and Boody organ, St. Mark's will host one of the preeminent organists and choral directors in Lutheran music circles, David Cherwien. We have heard the Taylor and Boody organ in concert, played by several gifted organists, but our upcoming Hymn Festival will be an opportunity to lift up and celebrate the organ's (and organist's) role as leader and accompanist of our community's song in worship. A gifted improviser as well as composer and conductor, David Cherwien will lead us in eleven hymns, inspiring us to raise our voices in song in new and exciting ways.

Tickets are available for both the Hymn Festival and the Fundraiser reception that follows at www.stmarks-sf.org/hymnfest.

**DAVID
CHERWIEN**



**GUEST ORGANIST
& CONDUCTOR**

SALVADORAN Pastoral Fundraiser

Allana Helland

Wherever you look in the Salvadoran Lutheran Synod, you will find dedicated pastors passionately proclaiming God's word and leading the effort to promote and protect God's creation. As delegates from St. Mark's in San Francisco, we saw this every day on our journey of accompaniment in 2013. We witnessed married pastors, Norma and Raphael, and their three children serving their community with boundless passion. Lutheran pastors in El Salvador receive little or no compensation for their efforts, and because the Lutheran Church there serves the poorest of the poor in a very poor country, economic self-sufficiency will not come soon from within. The ELCA has established the **El Salvador Pastor's Endowment Fund** in order to one day provide a sustainable source of income for Salvadoran pastors. To continue to support this fund, St. Mark's is hosting a reception and silent auction on September 21 at 5:00 PM. This reception will be preceded at 3:30 PM by a Hymn Festival led by acclaimed Lutheran musician David Cherwien on the remarkable new organ at St. Mark's. Paper tickets can be purchased on Sundays and in the church office during the week. For more information and to purchase tickets online, go to www.stmarks-sf.org/hymnfest.





El Salvador

Liv Beck

What is your picture of Thanksgiving? In the past few years, for a group of St Mark's travelers, instead of crisp air, falling leaves, and turkey, Thanksgiving has involved warm weather, pupusas, and the community of our sisters and brothers at Cordero de Dios in Soyapango, El Salvador. The group travels as a part of our relationship of accompaniment with our sister parish. We sing and laugh and cry and pray and worship God together. We have learned you don't really need an oven to bake cornbread, just a grill, a piece of a metal sign, and an old pupusa. We have learned stories of loss and courage in the face of gang violence. We have met love, grace, and generosity. We have knit together and walked together. We have come back awakened and enlivened in our faith.

This November, St Mark's sends another delegation to visit Cordero de Dios. The travelers leave on November 25 and return November 30.

How do the people of St Mark's support our travelers and this ministry?

- Pray for our brothers and sisters in El Salvador.
- Consider traveling, this year or another year. Talk with Matt Helland or Mary Ritter.
- Come to the Hymn Festival, Reception and Silent Auction on September 21 to support the El Salvador Pastor's Endowment Fund.
- Pray with and for the travelers on the Sunday before they leave, November 23rd.
- Pray for the travelers on their trip from November 25-30.
- Come to the Adult Forum to learn more about their trip on December 7th at 10:00 in the ULC auditorium.

eBay Marathon for El Salvador Pastors

Jeremy McClain

In conjunction with the reception and silent auction for the El Salvador Pastor's Endowment Fund, St. Mark's will hold an eBay Auction Marathon, and you can help.

In your china hutch, storage space, attic, basement, garage, under your bed, wherever, you're certain to have an item you're no longer using, but which someone somewhere in the eBay universe will bid on. One

person's junk is another's treasure. Bring those treasures to St. Mark's by September 14th.

We will put the items up for auction on eBay, with some of the auctions closing during the reception for the Salvadoran Lutheran Pastoral Support Fund on September 21st and others extending past the reception.

When you bring in your item for auction please provide: a) any information that helps describe and market the item such as manufacturer, material or history; b) your name and contact information.

Join us in this exciting new fundraiser supporting the Lutheran pastors in El Salvador.

Pastoral Reflection

Pastor Bekah Davis

How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of the one who brings news of peace, who announces good things, who announces salvation, who says to Zion, "Your God reigns!" - Isaiah 52:7



We are set to have a very rich and full array of education, programming, and worship at St. Mark's this fall. I hope these next few months will be an occasion for you to rejuvenate your faith and to develop new, meaningful relationships with the people sitting next to you in the pews. In particular, I am grateful that we will have the occasion to honor and support one of our partners in ministry, our sister parish in El

Salvador, by supporting the El Salvador Pastor's Endowment Fund on September 21 at a reception following the Hymn Festival led by David Cherwien.

Since returning last week from a visit to our other sister synod in Rwanda, I have been reflecting on the similarities between our

two sister synods and what we could learn from them. Both El Salvador and Rwanda offer a heartfelt and earnest welcome to newcomers; both countries also share tragic histories through which their current generations have emerged.

Rwanda is known as the land of a thousand hills, a moniker that your lungs immediately recognize as true after a few moments of walking. This beautiful country has three ethnicities: Hutu, Tutsi, and Twa. Twenty years following the genocide, Rwandans have committed to living together on the same hills. I would challenge ourselves to ask, here in our country, are we committed to the teenagers in Ferguson or the neighbor on the other side of Van Ness?

Perhaps we can learn to live together on these same hills.

Blessings to you this autumn,

**God's work.
Our hands.**



God's Work, Our Hands Sunday

SEPTEMBER 7

Stay at St. Mark's after worship on Sunday, September 7 to participate in one of many service projects planned for God's Work, Our Hands Sunday! St. Mark's is one of thousands of ELCA congregations gathering on this national day of service.

Among the opportunities to serve and engage with our community are:

- Visiting Lutheran Social Services sites in the Tenderloin [following the 11 am service]
- Worshipping at San Francisco Night Ministry's Open Cathedral service at United Nations Plaza in Civic Center [following the 11 am service]
- Writing legislative advocacy letters relating to hunger and food security issues
- Tending the community garden adjacent to the church kitchen
- Doing a neighborhood clean-up and other Property-related projects
- Creating greeting cards for Central Gardens nursing home residents [for Sunday School students, following the 9 am service]
- Crafting colorful decorations for the Fundraiser after the Hymn Festival on September 21

Sign up to participate in one of these activities at the information table in Heritage Hall, or simply show up on September 7. We also encourage everyone to wear their yellow "God's Work, Our Hands" t-shirts. If you did not receive one last year, there are extra t-shirts available.

Please contact Rebecca Swee (swee@stmarks-sf.org) or Marisa Louie (louie@stmarks-sf.org) for more information.

1...2...3...Say Cheese!!

SEPTEMBER 24-27, 2014

Liv Beck

It's picture time! Calling one and all for a pictorial directory for St. Mark's. Do you remember St. Mark's last pictorial directory? Well, it was nine years ago! We made arrangements with Lifetouch to create a pictorial directory for St. Mark's, but a pictorial directory is nothing without you.

How do I get my portrait taken?

Pictures will be taken in the Conference Room in the Urban Life Center on September 24th through the 27th. You may schedule your appointment online. St. Mark's website has a link to the schedule system from the homepage: www.stmarks-sf.org. If you would like assistance with the online system, assistants will be set up in Heritage Hall during both coffee hours starting August 17th through September 21st.

Oh no! I've already booked my non-refundable tickets to Iceland.

Not to worry. We can still get you in. Contact Jane Borg at borg@stmarks-sf.org to ask how.

Can I bring my dog to be included in our family portrait?

Yes, Lifetouch is a pet friendly company. Feel free to bring your non-human family members.

What if we absolutely love our family portrait?

You will get one free print and, you will get a free copy of the directory. There will also be opportunities to purchase photos.

What if I'm not crazy about our family portrait?

These are professional photographers who want to work with you to get a good portrait; however, there is no obligation to purchase anything. The directory is simply better the more St. Mark's pictures we have.

I love helping people get their picture taken. How can I help?

Members of St. Mark's will assist by greeting members arriving for pictures and assisting with paperwork for mailing the photographs and directory. If you would like to help, or if you have any questions about the directory, please see Liv Beck, Jane Borg, Jeremy McClain, Marge Okuley, or Suzanne Smith

Please note: to receive a copy of the pictorial directory, you MUST have your photo taken by Lifetouch.



Lights! Cameras! Talk!

Jeremy McClain

Admit it. You have a reason you keep coming back to St. Mark's. Maybe you have many. We would like to learn about those reasons and what St. Mark's means to you. We will videotape your comments and edit them together to make a video lifting up St. Mark's for those who are church shopping.

On the same days pictures for the pictorial directory are taken, September 24th-27th, a video team will be set up to video individuals or families. Video sessions will last between 15 to 20 minutes. A member of the video team will contact you after you have scheduled your appointment for the Pictorial Directory.

Adult Forum is BACK!

Liv Beck

Sundays at 10:00, starting September 14th, grab your coffee and head over to the auditorium of the Urban Life Center ready to be engaged with lively topics of our world and faith. Come to hear Pastor Bekah and Mary Ritter talk about their recent trip to Rwanda. Return to meet Pastoral Intern Rebecca Swee and discuss the Gospel. Come back for a book study with Pastor Elizabeth and think about refugees with Pastor Bekah. Be sure to be there to learn more about Night Ministry with Pastor Lyle and then learn more about Reformation in Germany with Pastor Elizabeth. And then, get ready for more! Look for bulletin announcements for more topics and details.

9/14/2014.....Report on Rwanda Trip.....Mary Ritter and Pastor Bekah
Our Prayers Have Been Answered! Pastor Bekah and Mary Ritter have returned from visits to Mumeya, Nyange, and the Rwamagana Lutheran School in the Land of 1000 Hills, Rwanda in Eastern Africa. Join us at Adult Forum on Sunday, September 14 at 10 am to hear stories about how Rwandans are healing the sick, sheltering the homeless, and educating children 20 years after genocide.

9/21/2014.....What is the Gospel?Pastoral Intern Rebecca Swee
This is the question we will discuss at the Adult Forum, September 21, between services in Heritage Hall. Led by Pastoral Intern Rebecca Swee, we will look at the meaning of the Gospel, the Good News. Is the Gospel easily definable or does it mean different things to different people? There are four different books in the New Testament that are named The Gospel – According to – Matthew, Mark, Luke and John. Does that mean each author had a different story to tell? How could each of them, then, be THE Gospel? And what exactly is it about each of these Gospels that is Good News? Please join us on September 21 for this interesting, perhaps provocative, discussion.

9/28/2014.....Biblical reflection and study of the Beatitudes – Jesus’ Sermon on the MountPastor Elizabeth
10/5/2014 We will utilize a book by Dr. Marty Stortz titled, *Blessed to Follow – The Beatitudes as a Compass for Discipleship*. More than a study of the beatitudes alone, Marty Stortz takes us on a journey through vast reaches of Scripture and the realities of life with the beatitudes as a guide.

10/12/2014.....Ministry with Refugees.....Pastor Bekah

10/19/2014.....San Francisco Night Ministry’s 50th Anniversary.....Pastor Lyle

10/26/2014.....Reformation JeopardyPastor Elizabeth
Which are the most significant Luther cities in Germany? Where did the great Reformer, Martin Luther, play his role? Where can his footsteps still be traced – the famous and not-so-famous ones? Come and refresh your Reformation geography and learn the difference between Eisleben, Eisenach, and Erfurt!

11/2/2014.....Liturgy.....Kyle Schiefelbein
11/9/2014

11/23/2014.....Lectors and Listeners: Keep awake!Pastor Elizabeth
We begin a new liturgical year on Advent 1 (Nov. 30) with an abrupt shift of language with the Gospel of Mark. Encountering the spare prose of Mark can be especially disconcerting after years of hearing Matthew and Luke. What should we listen for? How does Mark challenge our 21st century ways of hearing? What images will the writer help us to ponder during the Season of Advent? Come and re-tune your ears as we prepare the way of the Lord during the Advent Season.

Monthly Focus on St. Mark's Ministries

Each month during the year, we will have a specific ministry at St. Mark's that we will focus on. Look for material on the information table in Heritage Hall, and for a special slide show on the big screen TV, highlighting activities of the ministry. In September, we'll take a closer look at the Sunday School ministry. In October, we'll focus on Music and Worship, and in November we will have a Stewardship focus. Come learn more about St. Mark's many ministries on Sundays after both services.

Sunday School at St. Mark's

Jenny Hart

With the new school year beginning, we'd like to highlight our Sunday School teacher volunteers:

Adrienne Brown is our Kinder -2nd grade teacher. She was born and raised a Lutheran and has been a member at St. Mark's for 12 years. In addition to teaching Sunday School every Sunday, she serves on the Martin Luther Tower board. Adrienne is a lawyer, and currently is a stay at home mom. She has two young sons, Gordon and Glenn. Both attend Sunday School. "I love sharing the story of God's love with some of our younger members."

Gail Culp teaches 3rd-5th grade every Sunday, and she has done for many years. Gail is the backbone of the Sunday School program; most of the traditions we honor have been initiated by

her. Gail is retired and volunteers with the Stanford childhood reading program at our public schools in San Francisco. Gail and her husband Cal are both from the Midwest. She has her Masters of Fine Arts, and now has time to spend in her art studio. Gail is a strong advocate of "hands-on" teaching. This is the second year she will be using the exciting curriculum, "Holy Moly" from Augsburg Fortress.

Jenny Hart is the Sunday School coordinator at St. Marks. She is a public school teacher in Daly City.

St. Mark's is truly blessed with capable, caring and fun Sunday School teachers. Stop by Sunday School anytime to visit, all are welcome.

St. Mark's Summer Day Camp, 2014

Kimberly Hamilton-Lam

Laughing, singing, jumping, dancing and all around FUN was seen and heard around the grounds and in the nooks and crannies of St. Mark's Lutheran Church. Yes, day camp at St. Mark's for the third year in a row was a big hit with our kids. We had 12 campers for the week of June 30 to July 4th. The theme this year was "Living in God's Time". Four dedicated Mt. Cross counselors lead the campers in learning how Jesus is among us in the different "seasons" of our lives by exploring the Church Year. You may have seen the posters displayed in Heritage Hall that the campers made which portray the different "seasons" of the church.

New this year was the inclusion of the campers at the MLT 4th of July BBQ. The campers sang a few of their camp songs for the residents of MLT and then joined in the delicious lunch. The fusing of the generations was a delight to witness.

One of the highlights of the week was the opportunity for the campers to assemble school kits for Lutheran World Relief. This service project provides school kits to children in need all over the world. Day Camp sites and campers collect school supplies and Day Campers assemble the kits. This is a great way for our children to help children like them who otherwise would not be able to go to school. This year the campers were able to assemble over 20 kits with the generous donations from St. Mark's members.

Day Camp at St. Mark's continues to offer a wonderful summer program to the youth of our community. Thank you to all that helped support this great ministry!



Journeys in Faith

Liv Beck

Journeys in Faith is forming a new group this fall and invites all who are interested in joining St Mark's as members to join us. Liz Smith, a new member of St Mark's who was part of Journeys in Faith in the Spring, describes, "Journeys is a platform for meaningful discussion shared between new and old members of St Mark's. It was a great reminder that life itself is a journey and the meetings were intentional in getting us to think about where each of us was on our path. It was also a great way, as a new member, to meet the wonderful community of St Mark's."

Another new member, Pamela Cheung writes, "In January 2014, I started attending St. Mark's 11 am church service. I didn't know St. Mark's had a variety of Education classes until a resource directed me to Journeys in Faith. In February 2014, I began to attend Journeys in Faith. In the class, I observed how each person thinks differently. My favorite part was the retreat. I had never been to a Lutheran retreat. The most enjoyable time spent was the sharing of baptisms from childhood to adulthood. It took me a long time to find a church where I can be myself and become an active member. I'm happy that I chose St. Mark's as my home church."

Even if you are already a member of St Mark's, you are invited to join us in Journeys in Faith. Our lives are full of changes and transitions. We might be experiencing changing family roles, maybe becoming a parent or grandparent. We move, changing homes and seeking new community. Maybe we are dealing with the diagnosis of an illness or the ending of a relationship. Or maybe we are working on our resume, changing a job or career or entering retirement. These changes can challenge us to think about who we are, and sometimes they set us spinning. The ELCA encourages Lutherans to celebrate an affirmation of baptism whenever someone experiences a significant life change. When we affirm our baptism, we affirm our identities as children of God. This is an identity we can cling to when other things are changing. In Journeys in Faith, we prepare for baptism or to affirm our baptism. We celebrate, share, and ponder our baptism and our faith.

Join us at 10:00 in the Fireside room of the Urban Life Center. If you don't feel drawn to join us, pray for those who are going through Journeys in Faith, and look for the new members who will affirm their baptism on November 23rd.



New member, Pamela Cheung

Women's Monthly Study Gatherings

Suzanne Smith

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

FIRST TUESDAYS FROM 6:30 PM TO 8:30 PM IN THE 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 autumn are:

September 2 – *A Call to Action* by Jimmy Carter

October 7 – *Proof of Heaven* – Eben Alexander

November 4 – *A Fighting Chance* by Elizabeth Warren

SECOND TUESDAYS FROM 11:00 AM TO 1:00 PM IN THE FIRESIDE ROOM

All women are invited to come for study at 11:00 and at noon to bring their sandwich or salad and share fellowship. Drinks and dessert will be provided. This year our focus will be on *Transforming Life and Faith* by Carol Scheersten LaHurd. Our program topics are:

September 9 – Transformation and Conversion

October 14 – We Are Called

November 11 – Transformation Takes Time

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



Senior Center Activities for Fall

Senior Center Meals

Senior Center Meals take place in Heritage Hall, generally on the third Thursday of the month from 12 noon to approximately 1:00 pm. The cost is \$4. To RSVP for these meals please call the MLT Office at 415.885.1084.

The upcoming dates are:

September 18

October 16

(No luncheon in November)

Senior Trip

Senior Trips depart from the Brockie Lounge at Martin Luther Tower. There is a \$3 transportation fee to help cover the cost of gas. To RSVP please call the MLT office at 415.885.1084.

The upcoming trip is:

October 10 – A drive along the coast to Half Moon Bay with lunch at Sam's Chowder House

(No trip in September or November)



Bible Study

Pastoral Intern Rebecca Swee leads a Study in Martin Luther Tower's Brockie Lounge every Tuesday at 2:00 pm. The study utilizes the Bill Moyers PBS series on the Book of Genesis, featuring discussion amongst theologians and leaders of different faith backgrounds. All are welcome.

News from Martin Luther Tower

Here are a few activities coming up at Martin Luther Tower. All St. Mark's seniors are welcome.

09/19/2014

Friday – 10:30 AM to 11:30 AM

Medicare Presentation with William Foster (Medicare Part D, Medicare Savings Plan and Understanding the Impact of the Affordable Care Act) – Brockie Lounge

09/23/2014

Tuesday – Noon to 1:00 PM

FREE Annual Flu Shot Clinic - Brockie Lounge – Please sign up in advance in the MLT Office.

09/26/2014

Friday-3:00 pm

Home Health Presentation - Options and Services for Living Independently in your Home
Presentation Presented by Professional Care at Home-Brockie Lounge

For information, call the MLT office at 415-885-1084.

ELCA Missionaries in San Francisco?

Rebecca Swee

Most of us think of “missionaries” as people who volunteer to go to other countries to preach and teach about Jesus, where, perhaps, that name has never been heard before. However, even though the name “Jesus” is well known in this country, church attendance in all denominations is falling, and more and more people are identifying as “spiritual but not religious.”

What does this mean for our mainline churches, and, specifically, the ELCA? How do we carry out our main purpose in serving as disciples of Christ: to not only love God and all others, but also to “Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you.”? (Matthew 28:19, 20) How do we accomplish this mission if people are not joining our churches but, instead, are leaving them? □

The people who have been studying this question for the ELCA have decided that at least part of the answer is to not wait for people to come to our churches, but, rather, to take God’s Word outside our buildings to wherever the people are. Therefore, the ELCA is training pastors and seminarians to become Mission Developers and Redevelopers in the United States. In fact, I know two Mission Developers working right here in the Bay Area; one in San Francisco near Golden Gate Park and another in Emeryville.

It has been the observation of many studies that, although people may not identify with a mainline Christian de-

nomination, they want to have, even feel a need to have, a spiritual influence and purpose in their lives. They believe there is something greater than themselves with which they would like to connect, but they have not found the spirituality and purpose they are seeking in the mainline churches they have attended. Mission developers (people trained for new starts) and Redevelopers (people trained to bring new life into dying congregations) reach out to these people in non-traditional ways.

You may see these missionaries going out during the day or evening to strike up conversations with people in coffee bars, local café’s, the park, the laundromat, or the local pub. They will start Bible Study and discussions in the same places, and begin worship services there as well. The services probably will not follow the traditional Lutheran liturgy. In fact, after some study and discussion, the congregation may write their own. There’s nothing like “owning” one’s faith by writing a worship liturgy in language that speaks to the congregation’s heart. No, this is not traditional worship, or even a traditional “church”, but it is a gathering of previously “unchurched” people who now feel as if they have a spiritual home and purpose they

can relate to. It’s not for everybody, but a lot of people feel more comfortable there.

The Church, after all, is not the building in which people worship or even the worship service itself. The Church is the body of Christ: the people, the believers who identify as disciples of Christ and workers in God’s kingdom. I was recently privileged to attend a five-day training for Developers and Redevelopers in Minneapolis, as I am being considered for placement in the Redeveloper program. It was inspirational to see approximately 200 pastors and seminarians meeting together for this training, and that wasn’t even all of them.

The “motto”, if you will, of the Developers and Redevelopers is, “Let’s make the Main Thing the main thing.” Translated into practical language, this means, “Holy God – You who saves us from ourselves, please keep us from the temptation of allowing the “busyness” of our planning, classes, worship services, committees and duties distract us from remembering our mission and purpose. May we always make the Main Thing the main thing.” Amen.

St. Mark’s and Reconciling Works at SF Pride

St. Mark’s members and friends were joined by other Reconciling in Christ congregations, Bishop Mark, and Bishop’s Associate Nancy at the 2014 LGBT Freedom Day Parade and Celebration on June 29, 2014.





Singing and Dancing in Rwanda – August 2014

Mary Ritter

Pr. Bekah Davis and Mary Ritter accompanied a delegation from People in Community Organizing – PICO Rwanda in early August 2014. PICO Rwanda Director Pastor John Rutsindintwarane accompanied the delegation as they visited PICO projects.

A community of extremely poor people in Nyange was told by their government that they were in violation of a law prohibiting houses with thatched roofs. A government worker suggested they talk with Lutheran Pastor and PICO Rwanda Director John Rutsindintwarane. Pr. John asked them to talk among themselves about what they wanted and what they were able to do. They determined they need tile for roofs for their houses. Many in the community have learned to make tiles, and have made 3500. They have built a house for a woman in the community with HIV. They hope to make tiles to sell and to supply all community members who need better roofs. They don't have more money, but they are filled with hope, dignity and self-confidence. When we visited them in Nyange, they danced and sang!

Pauline in the very rural community of Mumeya told the story of being hand-carried on a gurney from her home 14 years ago because she was having trouble with her pregnancy and labor and delivery. Midway on the 30 km trip as she was being

carried across the river to Tanzania, she delivered her baby on the path. She and her baby, who fortunately survived, were taken in by strangers along the road. When she returned home with her baby, she determined this shouldn't happen to anyone else. 14 years later, the Mumeya community has come together under the guidance of PICO Rwanda and Pastor John R. to build a clinic and community center, build a road so ambulances could get in and out as necessary, and start the work to bring water and electricity to the health center. We visited the Center, heard the stories, including meeting Pico, the last child born of a woman who died in childbirth before the clinic's opening. We met community members in small groups. They asked why we were there. We told them we were there to learn how they were able to do all this without monetary help. As they concluded their time, they broke out in song and dance!

Members of Regina Pacis Catholic Church in Kigali came to the parish priest with concerns about the prostitutes in the near-

by community. They didn't want their sons and other family members to be influenced by them. The priest wasn't sure what to do, but made an announcement in worship offering services. 150 women responded! The priest engaged help from PICO Rwanda's Pr. John R. and Jesuit priest Innocent Rugaragu. Pr. John and Fr. Innocent met with the women. They wanted to improve the lives of their children. The women were assisted in small businesses in a local market, including selling fresh vegetables and doing hairdressing in a market salon. Most of the 150 were able to complete the project. Since then, 60 more women have joined the project. We met with them, heard their stories, and then visited them in the market. After their presentation, they danced and sang for us and with us!

Mary and Pastor Bekah will tell more about the trip and the work of PICO Rwanda at the Adult Forum on Sunday, September 14 at 10 am at St. Mark's. Watch for opportunities to engage with the work of PICO Rwanda in the lives of the poor in Rwanda!

First Choir Rehearsal

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 7:30 PM

Tim Zerlang

A new choir season is upon us, and we will get off to a very fast start. Our first rehearsal will be on Wednesday, September 10, at 7:30 pm in the sanctuary, and we will be rehearsing anthems and psalm settings for the month of September and beyond, including items for the Hymn Festival with David Cherwien. David will be conducting the Saint Mark's choir together with guest singers from throughout the Bay Area in three numbers during the Festival. Other special events this Fall will include an Advent Vespers Service with the choir of Saint Mary's Cathedral (this year here at St. Mark's), and of course, special music for Christmas. If you ever considered serving in the choir, now is the time to give it a try.

If you are the sort that requires extra incentives, (like thank you gifts from KQED) then remember that:

- choir members enjoy the best seats in the sanctuary with excellent sight lines and unobstructed views (up in the balcony!)
- choir members get to sit closest to the organ
- choir members help lead worship
- choir members have fun and enjoy great fellowship while serving the St. Mark's community

If you have any questions, contact Timothy Zerlang, but most importantly, come for supper at 6 pm on September 10, enjoy the lovely service at 6:45, and stay for rehearsal at 7:30, and by 9:00 you may find yourself a member of our very own St. Mark's choir.

Fall 2014 Concerts at St. Mark's

For more information and to purchase tickets, please go to the group's website.

- 9/27/14.....4:00 pm.....**New Esterhazy Quartet**
Masonic Brotherhood: Mozart, Haydn, and Pleyel
www.newesterhazy.org
- 9/30/14.....7:30 pm.....**SF Performances Presents:**
Christian Gerhaher, Baritone and Gerold Huber, Piano
www.performances.org
- 10/4/2014.....8:00 pm.....**San Francisco Girl's Chorus**
The Romantic Imagination
www.sfgirlschorus.org
- 10/5/2014.....4:00 pm.....**Magnificat Baroque**
Heinrich Schütz: Opus Ultimum
www.magnificatbaroque.com
- 10/17/2014.....8:00 pm.....**California Bach Society**
Splendor at Versailles
www.calbach.org
- 10/18/2014.....7:00 pm.....**Ensemble M**
- 10/19/2014.....4:00 pm.....**Noe Valley Chamber Music Presents: Hausmann String Quartet**
www.nvcm.org
- 11/1/2014.....7:30 pm.....**SF Performances Presents: Hagen Quartet**
www.performances.org
- 11/15/2014.....7:30 pm.....**Omni Foundation for the Performing Arts Presents: Beijing Guitar Duo**
www.omniconcerts.com
- 11/16/2014.....4:00 pm.....**Noe Valley Chamber Music Presents: Morbius Trio**
www.nvcm.org
- 11/15/2014.....7:30 pm.....**Wagner Society of Northern California Presents:**
Special All-Wagner Concert
Welcoming Piano Virtuoso Stephan Möller
www.wagnersf.org
- 11/21/2014.....8:00 pm.....**Volti Concert**
www.voltisf.org
- 11/22/2014.....8:00 pm.....**Voices of Music**
I. C.P.E. Bach & Vivaldi Virtuoso Concertos
www.voicesofmusic.org
- 11/23/2014.....4:00 pm.....**San Francisco Early Music Presents: Levantera**
East of the River
www.sfems.org

PLTS Founders' Day – September 10-12, 2014

SPEAKER: THE REV. DR. MONICA MELANCHTHON

Registration is now open. Go to the PLTS website and click on "Founders Day".

"Migrant" Interpretations: Reflections on the Bible and Tradition from Those on the Underside

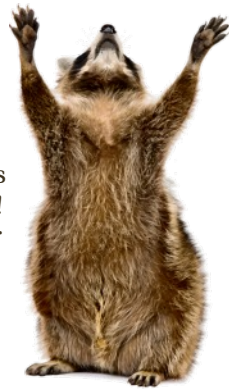
Migrants and immigration policy are the focus of much attention today. How can important biblical perspectives – from those on the margins – enrich this public discussion?

Monica Melanchthon is a native of India, with degrees from Bangalore and the Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago (LSTC). From 1995-2012 she was a professor at Gurukul Lutheran Theological College (Chennai), and currently is Associate Professor of Old Testament Studies, United Faculty of Theology, University of Divinity, Melbourne, Australia. Her work is deeply affected by the multi-lingual, ethnic and religious context and cultures of India/Asia, and the impact of poverty and violence on marginalized communities, especially of women and Dalits.

Blessing of the Animals

OCTOBER 5, 2014, 9 AM SERVICE

Calling all friends, neighbors, coworkers, and animal enthusiasts alike! Everyone is welcome to bring their pet and celebrate Blessing of the Animals. Our Blessing of the Animals service honors St. Francis of Assisi and our wonderful animal companions that bring so much joy to our daily lives. The tradition of blessing animals reflects St. Francis' conviction that all of creation shares the same Creator, and are therefore all creatures and plants are our brothers and sisters. Francis's love of creatures arose from a deep and abiding sense of the presence of God, which underlay all he said and did. Francis is patron saint not only of our city and Italy, but of ecologists as well. All pets and their humans are welcome! Please ensure that pets are safely in carriers or on a leash. Photos of animals unable to attend are also welcome. Join us on Sunday morning, October 5, at the 9:00 am worship service to celebrate a St. Mark's tradition!



Come Knit with Us!

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 4, 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM

Marge Okuley

Bring your lunch & something to share. We will provide refreshments.

We have a wonderful history of supplying knitted (and crochet) items for midwife kits for Africa, leprosy bandages, hats and scarves for Night Ministry and our guests at the St. Mark's Homeless Shelter, lap blankets for Central Gardens and prayer shawls.

If you don't know how to knit, we will teach you. If you don't have supplies, we will provide.

What we need are willing people who realize the need for people to be comforted by the work of our hands.

God's Work -- Our Hands!
Thank you,
St. Mark's Knit Team



"Unto the Least" Fall Retreat

PRESENTED BY THE SIERRA PACIFIC SYNOD WOMEN OF THE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA

Saturday, October 11, 2014

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Concord, California

Setting aside one day for a retreat is one of the most strengthening and reinforcing experiences you can have. Once we let go of all our obligations to attend a retreat... we are often carried along by a storm of grace... a movement into the wide-open space of being a daughter of God. Friendships are formed... friendships are renewed. In meeting together as one and working to help others, we can look at a retreat as a way to spend time with the Lord, whose love makes demands of us, but who is also easily pleased. This year the retreat's Keynote Speaker will be our own Reverend Lyle Beckman, Minister of

the SF Night Ministry! There will be two onsite service projects (making fleece tied blankets and assembling personal care kits) which will be donated to our speaker to celebrate 50 years of the San Francisco Night Ministry, to honor their relentless ministry to providing hope to those in need or in distress during the night. Won't you join us? It will be a day you will not want to miss!

For more information and to register, please visit <http://www.womenofelcasps.org>.

Oktoberfest on Saturday, October 25

Liv Beck

Wait- can you smell the sausage and the sauerkraut in the air? Can't you almost hear the band playing and the children giggling in the bouncy house? St. Mark's Oktoberfest celebration is around the corner! Join us as we start up the band, fire up the grill and uncap the apple cider and beer. Some of us might have even already taken out the lederhosen and dirndls. Don't miss this wonderful family friendly celebration of our German heritage and our life together on St. Mark's Square and in the community. Invite friends and neighbors to join you. Save the Date- Saturday, October 25.



Trip to Luther sites in Germany October 30 – November 9, 2015

Join Pastor Elizabeth and Pastor Hans 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. The dates for this trip are a departure on Oct. 30 and a return to San Francisco on Nov. 9. To make this trip work, we need a minimum of 21 participants. Friends are welcome. For more information, please contact Pr. Elizabeth at ekdale@stmarks-sf.org and 415 928-7770 ext. 2300 in order to receive a brochure with additional information.

Celebrating 50 Years of Night Ministry

GRAND FESTIVITIES PREVIEW

Rod Dugliss, 50th Anniversary Committee Co-Chair

Fifty Years of the Night Ministry; half a century of compassionate presence on the streets of San Francisco—and what a half century it has been. From a “Summer of Love” that brought a new population of street people to the city, to the dislocation of people by prosperity-driven growth that is even now changing the face of the city and pushing more and more people into the margins of the night. Four unpopular wars have each abandoned veterans to survive lonely nights in the city. The assassination of city leaders and the mass suicide of members of People’s Temple have challenged peoples’ sense of safety and inclusion in a city that “knows how,” as a popular columnist repeatedly said.

Recession or prosperity, calm or upheaval, Night Ministers, Crisis Line Counselors, and leaders of a community that is Open Cathedral have worked to be present as beacons of hope, comfort, and acceptance.

All this, and more, we are celebrating in a year-long series of events which will come to its culmination at 3:00 p.m. at Grace Cathedral on Sunday, November 16th with a festive service of prayer and song, praise and thanksgiving. The experience of the four Night Ministers of this half-century will be recognized. Cadres of volunteers who have served on the streets and on the phone will be thanked. The churches and other organizations that support the Night Ministry will be applauded. The celebrated author, Anne Lamott, will

share her wisdom as the principle speaker for this great event. This will be a unique and special occasion. Make plans now to be there.

Following the service there will be a reception in Gresham Hall of Grace Cathedral where friends old and new can connect.

The day will conclude with a grand banquet at 7:00 p.m. in the events hall of Delancey Street on the San Francisco waterfront.

Delancey Street Restaurant will cater the affair. Special persons and groups will be honored. The current cohort of volunteers and the present Night Minister and his staff will be presented and thanked for their gifts of leadership, which we know will lead us well into the next half-century of this vital ministry of presence and service in and for people on the margins in “America’s favorite city.”

The service and reception at Grace Cathedral is open to all. Tickets for the banquet are \$150 for an individual and \$300 for an individual at the Bronze Sponsor level. Specially sponsored tables of ten for Gold Sponsors are available at \$5,000 and Silver Sponsors at \$3,000. For more information, or to book for yourself or a party of ten now, go to the Night Ministry web site, www.sfnightministry.org.



San Francisco Interfaith Council

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

Interfaith Homeless Shelter at St. Mark's

JANUARY 11-FEBRUARY 1, 2015

Beginning Sunday, January 11, St Mark's will host the SF Interfaith Council Homeless Shelter for three weeks. Overnight housing, breakfasts and dinners will be provided for approximately 60 men each evening and morning in the Urban Life Center Auditorium. Be a part of St. Mark's Social Ministry...we look forward to serving with you!



Opening the Gates

Gregory R. Jahnke

St. Mark's Endowment Committee



Janice Vreim

One never knows how our actions will affect others. This is the tale of how an intentional estate gift made to St. Mark's by former member, Jan Vreim, made all the difference.

When St. Mark's re-established its Endowment Fund three years ago, we decided that the fund had to reach \$100,000 in value before grants could be distributed. The fund was established with \$25,000 and gradually, many other endowment gifts were received and added to the fund.

During that time the Endowment Committee worked intentionally to create policies that govern the receipt of gifts and the distribution of grants. All this has given our fledgling endowment the shape it needs to grow into the future.

S M ST. MARK'S E F ENDOWMENT FUND

The purpose of the Endowment Fund is to sustain the further growth of the mission and ministries of St. Mark's into perpetuity.

Gifts made to this kind of fund are known as planned gifts as most come to the congregation through estates or trusts of the donor or member. If you have done any estate planning yourself you know it takes time and planning, and often an attorney or advisor to assist. And it requires your intentions stated in writing.

I was fortunate that I was able to get to know Jan Vreim shortly after she joined St. Mark's in 1995. She was a single woman who worked for 28 years at Bechtel Corp. and had already traveled internationally to many interesting places. She also had a Lutheran history growing up in South Dakota, playing organ in her church in her teenage years, attending Augustana College, and then teaching kindergarten. She was a Lutheran in the classic flow of the faith.

Here at St. Mark's she continued that servant life with quiet, steady participation in WELCA, the homeless shelter, friendship banquets, and volunteering in the office. When she retired in 2001 she inquired as to how she might give part of her estate to St. Mark's. I'll always remember our dinner at a little restaurant out on Geary Blvd when she, with a big smile, signed a beneficiary form naming St. Mark's.

After moving back to South Dakota in 2005 due to failing health, I lost contact with Jan. In fact, she herself was losing contact as her mind failed. Yet, at her passing in 2013, her intention to continue giving to St. Mark's was fulfilled with an estate gift put in place 12 years earlier. Her intent was fulfilled.

When Jan's gift was received and added to the fund, the value of the fund soared "over the top" of the \$100,000 target. We are now poised to make our first grants from our Endowment Fund. Jan's gift made all the difference – the gates are open!

For All the Saints, Especially YOU!

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 2 AT 10 AM & 12:15 PM, HERITAGE HALL

Save the Date!

Margaret McLean

Please come and celebrate the St. Mark's saints who have made our endowment fund possible. Learn how the endowment fund supports the ministries of St. Mark's now and in the future, in the community and in the world.



Understand the ways that you can earn your own set of saintly wings—or halo—as contributors to the endowment fund.

St. Mark's Endowment Fund 2014 Request for Funding Applications

ONLY A FEW DAYS LEFT TO APPLY!

Debbie Varian

The Endowment Committee is delighted to announce that thanks to generous bequests we are now able to award grants to extend St. Mark's ministries both locally and globally. Up to a total of \$2,000 in funds can be allocated among grants for 2014. Applications and instructions are available on the [Forms and Downloads](#) page on St. Mark's website or by emailing endowment@stmarks-sf.org. Applications were made available in the narthex on Sundays in August. *The application deadline is Sunday, September 7.* Questions about the process, the application form, or the endowment distribution and allocation policy can be emailed to endowment@stmarks-sf.org.

A Stewardship Message

Roger Ostrem

The Stewardship Committee at St. Mark's is currently preparing for our annual fall pledge drive which will kick off on Sunday, October 19th and end on Celebration Sunday, November 23rd, when pledges will be collected at both services.

The members and friends of St. Mark's continue to demonstrate their support for our community of faith through their generous gifts. Last year's "Forward in Faith" theme focused on "Celebrating Community" and was highly successful with pledge totals exceeding \$400,000. Our upcoming fall campaign will focus on yet another important facet of stewardship. Join us on Sunday, October 19th, when we will roll out this year's new theme and continue to explore the meaning and relevance of Christian stewardship over the following weeks.

When making a pledge, our committee recommends that you consider the electronic method of pledging by utilizing our Simply Giving program. Simply Giving is a no hassle method of fulfilling your pledge commitment with minimal effort. Sign up information for this electronic version of pledging will be provided in your pledge packets, which will be distributed during the fall pledge drive. However, any method of giving works; the more important concept is your personal act of giving. Making a pledge to St. Mark's becomes a meaningful and rewarding way of supporting this community of faith.

The Stewardship Committee is grateful to the faithful stewards at St. Mark's and we would like to extend our thanks and gratitude to each of them. Join us again this year as we continue to go "Forward in Faith".



Your Gifts at Work

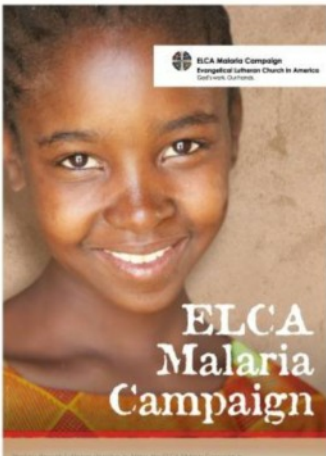
ANNUAL GIVING

General Fund

Number of Pledges:..... 119 out of 199 possible
 Amount Pledged:.....\$404,092
 Received through 7/31/14:.....\$231,820

Income vs. Expenses

Jan-July '14	Actual	Budget	Difference
Income	\$320,753	\$343,581	-\$22,828
Expense	<u>\$314,664</u>	<u>\$358,772</u>	<u>-\$44,108</u>
Net:	\$6,089	-\$15,191	\$21,280



Update: ELCA Malaria Campaign hits \$12 million

Brandee Marckmann

Thanks to the generosity of ELCA members and congregations, the ELCA Malaria Campaign has hit a significant fundraising milestone: ELCA members have given more than \$12 million toward the goal of raising \$15 million fundraising goal!

If you are one of the donors who've helped the campaign get this far: THANK YOU! If you haven't had a chance to give yet, there is still time.

Malaria programs supported by the ELCA Malaria Campaign are making tremendous impact in communities in 13 countries in Africa. Lutherans have contributed to a tidal wave of anti-malaria work resulting in this amazing statistic: since 2000, deaths from malaria have been cut in half in sub-Saharan Africa. Your gifts to the ELCA Malaria Campaign have touched more than 2 million lives.

Council Highlights

MAY 2014

- Highlighted plans for San Francisco Conference Spring Assembly on May 18 and the Sierra Pacific Synod Assembly from May 30-June 1.
- Approved motion to extend six month internship (July 1-December 31) to Rebecca Swee, student at Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary.
- Received report from Pastor Davis about confirmation and youth activities. Pr. Davis hopes to create more opportunities for youth to stay involved at St. Mark's after confirmation, through inter-generational activities and involvement with other ministries.
- Announced God's Work Our Hands Sunday on September 7. As we did last year, we will be participating in this national ELCA Day of Service by offering service activities with our own ministry teams and partners.
- Shared information about September 21 Hymn Festival with David Cherwien, composer and director of the National Lutheran Choir. Matt Helland explained the components of a hymn sing, which will be an appealing event for all music lovers.
- Presentation by Cora Rose on plans to create a lending library with the books stored in the conference room in the Urban Life Center. We have many books on Christianity, Lutheranism, and religion and spirituality that are underutilized by members; this is a fantastic adult education resource.

JUNE 2014

- Received report from Debby Halladay, chair of task force assembled to study adult education at St. Mark's (in conjunction with strategic plan goals.) Halladay presented an extensive, well-researched assessment of adult education initiatives and recommendations to build a more sustainable program.
- Approved the Endowment Fund Distribution and Allocation Policy, which provides guidance for how much of the Endowment Fund can be disbursed and what types of projects and ministries/organizations are eligible to receive grants.
- Received reports on successful Bike-to-Worship Day on June 1 and the Cathedral Hill Neighborhood meeting on June 18.
- Approved "Policy for Renting St. Mark's and Urban Life Center Facilities to Members", which provides more specific guidelines for what types of events are covered under the reduced facility rental rate for St. Mark's members.
- Previewed online Time and Talent Form created by Lisa Gray and Bill Mooney.
- Announced pictorial directory project contracted with Lifetouch. Photography sessions will be September 24-27; final published directory will be available at the January 2015 annual meeting.



Sacred Acts

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

BAPTISMS

June 22, 2014

Ruby Kay Cottrell

July 13, 2014

Raymond Alexander Francis

August 24, 2014

Tessa Eleanor Lydia Johnston

MARRIAGES

June 21, 2014

Shannon Valenti and James Cheng

July 19, 2014

Matthias Will and Roderick Mobley

August 10, 2014

Greg Jahnke and Brian Richards



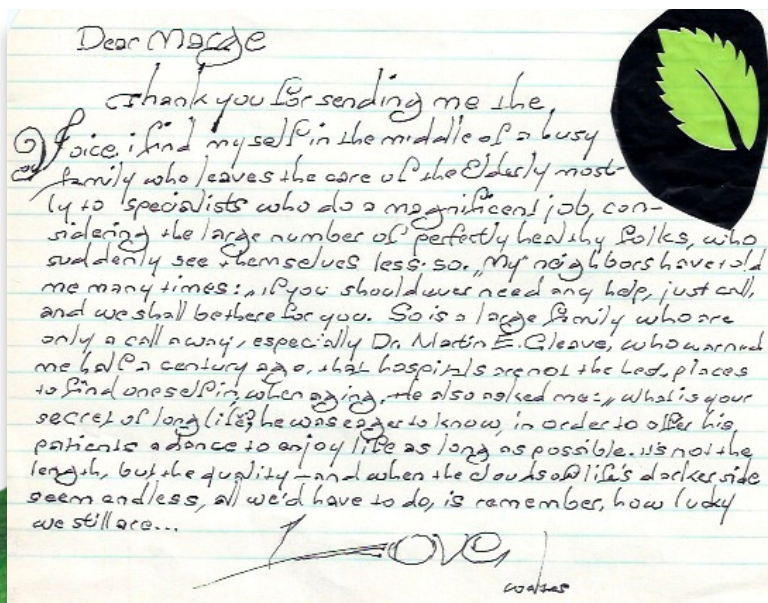
A Secret for Long Life

Marge Jencks

During the 1970's a former member and friend of St. Mark's created the stained glass Nativity window that found a home in our columbarium. We're grateful to artist Walter Schmidt, now over 101 years old, for donating his creative talents to beautify the church with this unique towering window. I communicated with him many times during the process of cleaning, repairing, and installing the window. Now and then, I send him issues of the Voice. He frequently responds with artistic colorful hand-written letters on various subjects, and all 59 letters will rest in St. Mark's archives for future church mice to discover. The letters keep coming...and coming...and a recent one revealed his perspective on longevity. Perhaps reaching 101

allows him certain privileges, including an insight and outlook on life that seems worth repeating for readers of Church Mice Tales.

For easier reading, I include a printed version of the recently received note from Walter (see accompanying original). His message can be appropriately read and digested by those of any age or circumstance.



“Dear Marge,

Thank you for sending me the Voice. I find myself in the middle of a busy family who leaves the care of the elderly mostly to specialists who do a magnificent job, considering the large number of perfectly healthy folks, who suddenly see themselves less so. My neighbors have told me many times: if you should ever need any help, just call, and we shall be there for you. So is a large family who are only a call away, especially Dr. Martin E. Cleave, who warned me half a century ago, that hospitals are not the best places to find oneself in when aging. He also asked me—what is your secret of long life? he was eager to know, in order to offer his patients a chance to enjoy life as long as possible. It's not the length, but the quality—and when the clouds over life's darker side seem endless, all we'd have to do, is remember how lucky we still are...

Love, Walter”

.....
This is the 25th in a series of Tales from the Archives by Marge Jencks

Dates to Remember

Please mark your calendars for the following important dates coming up in the next 3 months:

September 7.....	God's Work, Our Hands Sunday
September 21.....	Hymnfest and El Salvador Pastor Fundraiser and eBay auction
October 5.....	Blessing of the Animals Sunday
October 25.....	Oktoberfest Saturday
November 2.....	All Saints Sunday

Church Bulletin Bloopers

- For those of you who have children and don't know it, we have a nursery downstairs.
- Potluck supper. Prayer and medication to follow.
- Ushers will eat latecomers.
- Remember in prayer the many who are sick of our church and community.
- Weight Watchers will meet at 7 pm. Please use large double door at the side entrance.
- At the evening service tonight, the sermon topic will be “What is Hell?” Come early and listen to the choir practice.
- The Lutheran Men's group will meet at 6 pm. Steak, mashed potatoes, green beans, bread and dessert will be served for a nominal fee.
- The Associate Minister unveiled the church's new tithing campaign slogan last Sunday: “I Upped My Pledge-Up Yours.”



St Mark's

LUTHERAN CHURCH

1111 O'FARRELL STREET
SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94109-6601
415.928.7770 • WWW.STMARKS-SF.ORG

STAFF

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

The Rev. Bekah Davis
Associate Pastor
davis@stmarks-sf.org

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

Jun Ranches
Director, Church Admin & Ops
ranches@stmarks-sf.org

Ann Dayton
Parish Administrator
dayton@stmarks-sf.org

Cheryl Garcia
Bookkeeper & Events Administrator
garcia@stmarks-sf.org

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 CLOSURE

The church office will be closed on Monday, September 1 for Labor Day, then return to its regular schedule (Monday through Friday, 9 am to 5 pm) on Tuesday, September 2. The office will also be closed on November 27 and 28 in observance of Thanksgiving.

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