

*Good News
of
Great Joy*



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



*Advent
Christmas
Epiphany
2017 - 2018*

Christmas
at
St Mark's
LUTHERAN CHURCH



Good News of Great Joy

December 24, 2017

5:00PM

Christmas Pageant

*St. Mark's brings the Christmas story to life with
costumes, carols and candles*

7:00PM

Candlelight, Communion, Carols

Fresh expressions of the ageless story

10:00PM

Good News of Great Joy

*Music by Distler, Vaughan Williams,
Praetorius, and more*

10:30PM

Christmas Choral Eucharist

A Festive Celebration of God's Gift of great Joy

December 25, 2017

10:00AM

Christmas Festival Eucharist

We celebrate God's good news with great joy

CALLING ALL ANGELS AND SHEPHERDS!

Calling all angels and shepherds for St. Mark's special Christmas Eve Pageant. This family-friendly narration of the events surrounding the birth of baby Jesus includes a wonderful cast of angels and shepherds of all ages and wise men and their assistants.

The Christmas Pageant will be on Christmas Eve, December 24 at 5pm. There will be two rehearsals on Saturdays, December 16 and 23

beginning at 9am. Be sure to mark your calendars! There are many more roles available including stage crew and costuming. If you are interested in being a part of this tradition, then please email Mari Tuominen at maridesigns@earthlink.net.



ADVENT MIDWEEK SERVICES WEDNESDAY, DEC 6, 13 & 20

Holden Evening Prayer will be used throughout Advent on Wednesday evenings. Holden is a lovely, candlelit liturgy with Advent and Christmas images. Come and nourish your spirits during the season of Advent.

6:00PM-Community Dinner
6:45PM-Candlelit Worship

All worshipers at our Midweek Advent Services will receive a copy of a special Advent Devotion book by Walter Brueggemann titled: Celebrating Abundance.

ST. MARK'S ANNUAL MEETING JANUARY 28

IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING THE 11:00 WORSHIP SERVICE IN THE SANCTUARY

All members and friends of St. Mark's are encouraged to attend this meeting.

- Celebration and Blessing of the newly installed elevator
- We will receive the Annual Report from leaders and staff. We will adopt a 2018 budget and elect council members
- We will learn about the possibility of development of St. Mark's Square and the work of the Governance Task Force

Everybody is welcome and urged to participate in the life and direction of our ministries together through your presence at this important meeting

DEVOTION

By: Ron Moe-Lobeda Associate Pastor

Four decades ago, the color for the Advent season was switched from purple to blue—precipitating a change in the theological emphasis of the season from penitence to hope. As we take a look at the assigned lessons for this Advent season from Year B in which we concentrate on the Gospel of Mark, these lessons are filled with all kinds of imagery and language of hope. God will not remember our iniquity forever. God is faithful. God has blessed us with every spiritual gift. The word of God will stand forever. God is patient with us. God will clothe us with garments of salvation. God will liberate us from all of our enemies. God is our strength. Nothing will be impossible with God.



Bishop Gomez and Pr. Ron

As we begin our journey through this new church year and assess all that is going on in our country in relationship to the world in which we live, more than ever, we could use some words and images of hope. This season we are reminded that no matter how depressing or despairing our context may be, with God nothing is impossible in terms of God's Spirit continually moving us toward a world where God's love abounds, God's justice is a high priority, and God's way of peace is foremost on everyone's heart and mind.

There is plenty of reason to rejoice in this season because we also are reminded that Jesus came in the flesh to reveal this way of God's love, justice, and peace in all of its fullness. The challenge for all of us in this season of Advent is to explore the ways that we could be a greater reflection of this way of Jesus beyond what we already may be doing to spread God's love, pursue God's justice, or seek God's peace in this turbulent and hostile world. We obviously have a lot of competition in this regard as we try to figure out what to buy for whom, how many holiday parties to attend, and where to go to escape the loneliness of this season.

None of us has to look very far to find an opportunity to make the connection between what God in Christ has done for us and what we might be able to do for others. As the prophet Isaiah suggests, there is so much yet to be done in bringing good news to those who are oppressed, binding up the brokenhearted, proclaiming liberty to those who are captive, releasing prisoners from their bondage, comforting those who mourn, and repairing the ruined cities that are plagued with so much homelessness, hunger, poverty, and violence. We can become so overwhelmed by this plight of our society that all that we may want to do is escape into the safe harbor of merriment and wassail revelry.

Not to worry, because God is patient with us and God is the One who will "bring about the obedience of faith" in us so that we might become more faithful in our response to all of the travesties and hostilities that surround us. Herein lays our hope. As we celebrate the birth of Jesus once again, we are reminded that we are a people of peace and good will to all peoples and all nations, and that we are not alone in this ministry because Jesus has come to be with us forever and has baptized us with the Holy Spirit to inspire and empower us with every spiritual gift to fulfill the year of God's favor in the year 2018.

INTERFAITH HOMELESS SHELTER

St. Mark's will be participating in the San Francisco Interfaith Council Winter Shelter program and will be hosting Dec. 9th-Dec. 16th and Jan. 15th-Feb. 4th.

Please consider volunteering for this very worthwhile ministry. Volunteers will be needed to serve during both Breakfasts and Dinners. Please contact John Elford at 415-490-7966 or jbruceelford@gmail.com or go to www.stmarks-sf.org/serve/ if you would like to participate in this ministry, which helps so many people in need at this time of the year.



Senior Adults

MARTIN LUTHER TOWER AND ST. MARK'S SENIORS CHRISTMAS PARTY AND FESTIVE DINNER, DEC. 8 AT 5:00PM

All Seniors are joyfully invited to an evening of delicious food, entertainment and holiday festivities. The cost is \$10.00 and you are asked to call the Martin Luther Tower office (415 885-1084) to reserve your spot. Location is Heritage Hall, Dec. 8, Friday evening at 5:30 pm.

SENIOR LUNCHEON IN HERITAGE HALL JANUARY 18 AT NOON

All Seniors are welcome from St. Mark's and Martin Luther Tower!
The cost is \$5.00 for a delicious hot lunch.
Please call the Martin Luther Tower office (415 885-1084) to reserve your spot.
Friends are always welcome too!

CHRISTMAS GIVING TREE

The Christmas Giving Tree at St. Mark's will be filled with tags for gifts that will be going to the children and youth at Bernal Gateway Apartments where Lutheran Social Services provides support services for the residents. They will be having a Christmas Party at the apartments for the children on Wednesday, December 13, and St. Mark's will be providing \$12 - \$15 gifts for the children and youth. Look for a tree in the narthex and Heritage Hall. Each tag on the tree will list the gender and age of a child at the apartments. Please take one or more tags, purchase a gift(s) that is age-appropriate, and put it (unwrapped) in one of the boxes in the narthex or Heritage Hall by Sunday, December 10. Be sure to affix your tag to the gift. Join in this Advent service and you will bring lots of joy to these children and youth. Also, if you would like to assist at the Christmas Party, please contact (hartx4@hotmail.com).

CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS

You are invited to contribute to St. Mark's Christmas decorations in honor of or in memory of, a loved one. Look for a bulletin insert on Dec. 3, for more details. The insert may be completed and mailed to the church office or dropped in the offering plate on Sunday morning. Your donations will go towards the cost of Christmas trees and poinsettias.

Thank you for your holiday generosity!

Please send all donation information to the church office by Dec. 14.

BERNAL GATEWAY CHRISTMAS PARTY, DEC. 13

Members of St. Mark's will be assisting with the Christmas Party at Bernal Gateway Apartments on Wednesday, December 13, 5:30 to 7:15 pm. The party will include a potluck meal by the residents and an offering of gifts from St. Mark's (see the Giving Tree article) for the children and youth who live at the apartments. If you would like to help with this event—either by serving at the meal, distributing gifts, or making pies for dessert—please contact Jenny Hart (hartx4@hotmail.com).

ADULT EDUCATION

SUNDAYS, 10:00 AM IN THE FIRESIDE ROOM

Every Sunday you are invited to grow in your faith through Adult Education at St. Mark's. Forums are located in the Fireside room next to the Urban Life Center auditorium at 10:05 every Sunday.

DECEMBER FORUMS

Adult Forums on: December 3 and 10

“The Mystery of Eve and Adam” with Pr. Ron

This story at the beginning of the Hebrew Scriptures probably is one of the most used, and sometimes abused, stories in the entire Bible. For over 20 years, Pastor Ron delved into various interpretations of this story without satisfaction. Finally, through a process of inquiry and Biblical research, he discovered a new and original interpretation of this story that explains so much about the meaning of the curses that God addressed to the serpent, the woman, and the man. His book was published in 2012, and continues to be a challenge to many of the more traditional interpretations of this ancient story. Come and hear more about why this story could be a critique of the monarchy that dominated the nations of Israel and Judah for centuries.

December 17 in Heritage Hall: Stories from El Salvador

The 9-member delegation from St. Mark's that traveled to visit our sister congregation, Cordero de Dios, in El Salvador over the week of Thanksgiving will be showing slides and sharing stories from their time in San Salvador. The 6-days were filled with many wonderful and intense experiences that reflected the joys and the pain of the members of this community. Everyone is encouraged to come and share in this experience in Heritage Hall at 10:00 a.m. The delegation included the Helland family, the Beck/Greig family, Mary Ritter, and Pastor Ron.

JANUARY FORUMS

Jan. 14

The Gospel of Mark with Pr. Elizabeth

Introducing the Gospel of Mark This gospel has a number of distinctive features that make its study not only important but surprising! Come and learn about what is unique about this gospel and how learning about Jesus through this gospel can transform your faith. Mark's gospel will be featured in our lectionary calendar. On many Sundays, the gospel appointed for the day will be from Mark.

Jan. 21

A preview of the Annual Meeting (Jan. 28)

Come and receive a copy of the Annual Report, Budget proposal, and other reports.

Meet leaders from the Church Council and Martin Luther Tower board for conversation about ministry and development on St. Mark's Square.

Jan. 28

The Gospel of Mark with Pr. Elizabeth

The game of Jeopardy - test your knowledge of the gospel of Mark

FLOORS AND ELEVATOR AND WINDOWS – OH MY!

As 2017 draws to a close, we are excited to report that the FEW (Floors, Elevator & Windows) projects are nearly complete!

- St. Mark's members and visitors have enjoyed the new oak flooring for over a year. The beautiful wood and its acoustical enhancement of our worship space are still thrilling with every visit!
- Although the project has taken longer than expected, the elevator is nearly finished as this issue of The Voice is published. Following the review and approval of the State Elevator Inspector in early December, the elevator should be ready for use in time for the holiday season, providing access for all people to each floor level of our landmark building.
- The restoration of our historic windows is nearly complete! The project should come to a close in early 2018 when the last windows are removed, rebuilt with new lead comes and reinstalled. We have enjoyed the shimmering results of each rebuilt window as the work progressed this past year and a half.

These significant projects will improve and enhance the experience of St. Mark's members and guests for generations to come and would not have been possible without the generous gifts of St. Mark's members and friends. Even so, we still have a great distance to go before these improvements are fully funded. We hope that you will recognize the value of the FEW projects and consider additional gifts as 2017 concludes and 2018 begins.

Thank you for your continued support!
The FEW Committee

STEWARDSHIP



FORWARD IN FAITH

Building Community



Our growing congregation has been joyfully exploring the theme of Forward in Faith – Building Community. Our life together at St. Mark's is strengthened by the participation and passionate service and generosity of our members and friends.

We invite you to participate more fully in the life of the congregation through your support and financial commitment. Our 2018 commitments, as of Dec. 1, 2017, are noted below.

Every gift is important no matter its size. As we plan for our ministries and programs in 2018, we invite you to make a commitment by using a

commitment card. It is easy to do so through our website at www.stmarks-sf.org/giveagift or by turning in a commitment card to the office.

Your gifts make a real difference in the lives of so many people...

- Your gift helps provide for weekly worship on Sunday mornings and other seasonal worship services
- Your gift helps provide the wonderful music program we have at St. Mark's - including our Director of Music, Dr. Timothy Zerlang
- Your gift helps provide for children and youth who learn about God's love through our Sunday School and Confirmation ministry
- Your gift helps welcome new members and new Christians to St. Mark's through our Journeys in Faith ministry
- Your gift helps provide a place for hungry families in our neighborhood to receive nutritious food through the Food Pantry
- Your gift helps house and feed homeless men in the auditorium of the Urban Life Center for several weeks each year
- Your gift helps provide pastoral care for persons needing support during a hospitalization and other stressful times in their lives
- Your gift helps support our ELCA missionary in Rwanda
- Your gift keeps the church doors open and the lights on ... and so much more!

Our three-year Capital Campaign will conclude at the end of 2018. We encourage you to make a gift or commitment to the campaign which funds the installation of the elevator, new sanctuary floors, and refurbishing our stained-glass windows. As we near completion of these projects, we anticipate a gap between committed gifts and expenses. After the first of the year, we will communicate with the congregation about the size of this gap – once all the invoices have been received.

Please know every financial gift toward the Capital Campaign will help decrease this gap. Thank you for making an additional gift to the campaign as you are able and/or increasing your pledge. We rejoice over the accessibility that our elevator will provide to the community. Your gift will help ensure hospitality to all people.

It is exciting to be enjoying the work already completed by the projects. The additional chancel space with the curved edge is not only visually appealing; it has been enjoyed during services, especially when the congregation joins together on the chancel for communion as it allows for welcoming more of us to join together. Various musicians have expressed their appreciation of the chancel as it provides them more space and flexibility in arranging their performance. It also is rewarding to hear comments from concert goers, and members of the congregation, that the exterior façade for the elevator looks like it has always been part of the church's design. How glorious to see such appreciation of the design and craftsmanship from our friends and members of St. Mark's!

2018 General Fund (as of Dec. 1, 2017)

Number of Commitments.... 86 out of 184 Giving Units

Amount Committed \$336,460

Number of donors who increased commitments from 2017 to 2018.... 33!

Thank you all for your support and generosity!!

Thank you for prayerful discernment of your stewardship decisions.

In Christ's love,
St. Mark's Stewardship Team

A NOTE REGARDING YOUR END OF YEAR GIVING

As the end of the year approaches, we thought this might be a good time to review IRS rules regarding end of year donations.

- Checks must be dated within the current year AND the envelope the donation is mailed in must be postmarked no later than December 31, 2017 to be counted as a 2017 donation.
- Credit and Debit Card donations must be marked with a December 31, 2017 processing date to be considered eligible for a 2017 tax deduction.

If you plan on making a Stock Donation in 2017, please contact us at the St. Mark's Accounting email (accounting@stmarks-sf.org).

Thank you for your generous and continued support of St. Mark's Lutheran Church. All gifts are welcome!

ANNUAL INTERFAITH MEMORIAL SERVICE FOR OUR HOMELESS DEAD

Thursday, December 21, 2017 at 5:30 pm

Civic Center Plaza (Polk Street Side)

(Please bring your candles)

Co-Sponsored By:



SAN FRANCISCO
NIGHT MINISTRY
50 Year Anniversary 1964-2014

San Francisco World AIDS Day Interfaith Service

Sunday, December 3, 2017 - 4:00 PM

Congregation Sha'ar Zahav

290 Dolores Street, San Francisco

Organized by:

Cantor Sharon Bernstein, Congregation Sha'ar Zahav
Rev. Victor Floyd, Calvary Presbyterian Church
Rev. Maggi Henderson, Old First Presbyterian Church

Co-Sponsors:



YOUTH AT ST. MARK'S

CONFIRMATION

We have 9 youth participating in our Confirmation ministry and have had a good start to this year with our exploration of the Hebrew Scriptures based upon Dan Erlander's booklet, "Manna and Mercy." As we begin this new church year, we will take a look at the church calendar and review all of the seasons of the church year. After the New Year, we will begin our examination of the 10 Commandments and learn how these commandments informed and shaped the life of the Israelites as well as guide us in our pursuit of right relationships today. These middle-school youth also participated in the food distribution on Saturday, October 21 and in a Synod-sponsored retreat at Mt. Cross Camp on Friday – Sunday, November 11-13.

HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH

The high-school youth will be meeting on Sundays, December 17 and January 21 at 10:00 a.m. in the Conference Room to discuss various topics relevant to their faith in daily lives. This monthly gathering provides an opportunity for our high-school youth to stay in touch with each other and plan other activities for the future.

YOUNG ADULT FELLOWSHIP

The Young Adults of St. Mark's will be participating in many of the congregational events of Advent and Christmas, and resume their monthly gathering in January with a luncheon in the Fireside Room on Sunday, January 21 at 12:30 p.m. We will have the opportunity at that time to reflect upon the past year, and discuss what might anticipate doing together in the New Year.

MT. CROSS MINISTRIES SUMMER CAMP

Registration for the summer program at Mt. Cross Ministries is open. You can go to their website (www.mtcross.org), preview all of the camps that they have to offer for youth and children, and register. If you register before February 1, you will receive a \$15 discount for each camper. Mt. Cross Ministries is a joint ministry of the ELCA and LCMS in our region.

EYES TO THE HILLS

UPDATES, STORIES, AND PRAYERS FROM THE LUTHERAN CHURCH OF RWANDA, THE YOUNG ADULTS IN GLOBAL MISSION PROGRAM, AND REV. JANELLE NEUBAUER, YOUR FRIEND AND ELCA MISSIONARY, ALL FROM WITHIN THE LAND OF ONE THOUSAND HILLS.

Murakoze Cyane - Thank You All

It seems almost impossible to start this newsletter any way other than saying, "Thank you!" Thank you for your spiritual support through direct and indirect prayers and encouragement as well as your financial support* through gifts to Global Mission, gifts to the YAGM Program, and sponsorship of my call here.

Since my last newsletter, the rains have arrived along with five YAGM volunteers, a delegation of visitors from the ELCA, and plenty of visible examples of God's activity in Rwanda and our world. In this second issue, you will find reflections on a common Kinyarwanda expression, an introduction to a question posed by a Rwandan judge, and updates on the programs of the Lutheran Church of Rwanda and the YAGM program.

Do you want to hear more about God's people in Rwanda in between editions of my newsletter? Like YAGM Rwanda on Facebook to continue hearing from ELCA missionaries and members of the Lutheran Church of Rwanda. Head there now to see photos from the first round of YAGM Rwanda site visits!

*If you are interested in financially supporting me through sponsorship or by contributing a donation, please reach out to me or the ELCA's Global Church Sponsorship department (globalchurch@elca.org) for more details and information!



MINISTRY TEAMS GATHERING

On Thursday, January 11, the leaders and liaisons of all of the ministry teams at St. Mark's will gather for their quarterly meeting to update each other on the current emphases and activities of each team as well as coordinate any programs or events that involve more than one ministry team. Everyone who represents any major ministry of St. Mark's is urged to attend this gathering, 7:00 pm in the Conference Room.

SMLC COUNCIL AND MLT BOARD JOINT RETREAT

The leadership of St. Mark's Church Council and Martin Luther Tower Board will meet together over the weekend of February 3 & 4 at Mercy Center in Burlingame in order to discuss and strategize about the governance of St. Mark's Square. Dan Hotchkiss will facilitate this discussion and guide our leaders toward a coordinated effort of embodying and implementing the mission of St. Mark's.

ST. MARK'S VISITS OUR SISTER PARISH CORDERO DE DIOS

"Pasa por aqui, Pasa por aqui," sing Clarke, Ryan, and Linnea from Gate 15 at the San Salvador Airport. These three St. Mark's youngsters are singing a favorite refrain from our worship this week as our delegation concludes another meaningful, relationship-strengthening visit with our sister parish Cordero de Dios.

Our trip included many highlights, such as a spontaneous visit with Bishop Medardo Gomez from the Salvadoran Lutheran Church, who talked about IPAZ, an initiative for peace in El Salvador. In addition to the Bishop, we met with two former gang members and three community leaders. They urged us to share their struggle for peace with our communities in the United States, and pleaded for solidarity in these times. They are organizing a march to urge rival groups to seek peace this advent season.

We spent time at Cordero de Dios talking in small groups with parishioners, playing some casual soccer games, and leading a hand loom weaving workshop. The youth were so enthralled with the hand loom project, they plan to make hats and scarves for cancer patients at a local hospital using their beautiful yarns donated by the St. Mark's knitters and the new looms purchased by friends at St. Marks. This was one of many examples where we felt giving yielded more giving.



On Thanksgiving, we visited a community near the border of Guatemala along with an ELCA Global Mission team who were there to follow-up on a microloan program for Salvadorans deported from the US. There is a stigma for deportees and it can be hard for them to find jobs, so these loans helped a fisherman, beautician, and shop keeper to get started with their businesses.

The Cordero de Dios community still mourns the loss of our dear Pastor Norma, and her husband Pastor Rafael is leading the community with passion and purpose. We shed tears together with community members fighting serious illnesses, and renewed our interest in coupling our accompaniment with some financial support for specific medical needs.

There are a hundred more stories we could share. If you are able to connect with Pastor Ron, Liv, Aaron, Ryan, Allana, Matt, Clarke, Linnea, or Mary, here are some prompts you can ask us about: sharing the prayer shawls and squares, "Flora for Mayor," reinterpreting the story of Christ's birth as a modern-day migration story, a floating paper lantern, the arduous path to the lookout point, our delicious breakfasts, splashing around in a pool, painting crosses with Christian at Casa Magnolia, encouraging scholarship students from across El Salvador at a rally, the children's journals, Pastor Brian's open-door policy, giving an olive wood nativity from Claire Anastase and St. Mark's, and the long bumpy road to Cara Sucia.

We've received a very clear invitation to come back next year. The congregation made it clear that they missed us last year, and urged us to continue our visits. If you are interested in being part of a delegation during Thanksgiving week 2018, let the Hellands know.

ST. MARK'S VISITS OUR SISTER PARISH CORDERO DE DIOS



REFORMATION 500 HYMNFEST AND OKTOBERFEST





WOMEN'S MONTHLY STUDY GATHERINGS

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

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

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

Dec. 5 – The Book of Joy by the Dalai Lama and Desmond Tutu

Jan. 9 (Note date change) – Glass Houses by Louise Penny

Feb. 6 - TBD at the December meeting

Second Tuesdays from 11:00am to 1:00pm in the Fireside Room

All women are invited to come for study at 11:00 and at noon to bring their sandwich or salad and share fellowship. Drinks and dessert will be provided. Our Bible study will center on the Apostles' Creed.

Dec. 12 – Christmas Luncheon

Jan. 9 – “Washing Hands with Distant Hearts”, Mark 7:1-12

Feb. 13 – “Prepare the Way of the Lord”, Luke 3:3-17

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

COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Council highlights for fall quarter:

- Support for Stewardship committee community events and Capital campaign to continue to foster our ministries
- Support and discussion for Endowment committee allocations (those which best support the mission and ministries of St. Mark's Lutheran Church)
- Continued discussion and support for the Governance Task Force: purpose to examine St. Mark's mission and how we are currently organized and how we are to evolve into a governing body of St. Mark's Square. Council has authorized funding to support consultation by Dan Hotchkiss (author of “Governance and Ministry” to aid us in this important work. Planning of this joint Council and MLT board retreat will also address the evolution of our Governance.
- Support for the FEW projects and happily await elevator realization
- Organization and work for our 500 year Reformation celebration: the Hymnfest and Oktoberfest (along with St. Mark's staff and choir) a successful event with over 200-300 attendees please submit any questions or request a copy of the minutes to Cristin Owens, St. Mark's Church Council Secretary (and view our updated Council bulletin board): ceisyinowens@gmail.com

NEXT VOICE DEADLINE

The next Voice deadline is Jan. 21 2018 and will cover February, March, April, and May. The issue will contain highlights from the Annual Meeting, Lent, Holy Week, and Easter. Please send all submissions to Stefani@stmarks-sf.org by Jan 21 to include your submission in the Newsletter. Thank you!

SACRED ACTS AT ST. MARK'S

Baptism of: Viola Suvi Boles

Marriage of: Kyle and Rommel Schiefelbein-Guerrero

JOIN THE ST. MARK'S CHOIR ON TOUR!

On Sunday, December 10 at 4 pm join with the St. Mark's Choir as they journey all the way to St. Mary's Cathedral (across Gough Street) where they will collaborate with the choir of St. Mary's under the direction of the Director of Music, Chris Tietze. This joint Lutheran/Catholic Advent Vespers has become a seasonal tradition, and alternates between St. Mark's and St. Mary's each year. The service is less than an hour long, and is a wonderful close to the day as we watch the light fade from within the Cathedral. Take advantage of this opportunity to contemplate the Advent of Our Lord in an inspiring environment with beautiful music.

WINTER CONCERTS AT ST. MARK'S

Fri, Dec 1, 2017 8:00 PM

California Bach Society
Christmas in Poland and the Baltic Countries
www.calbach.org

Sat, Dec 2, 2017 8:00 PM

Voices of Music
Virtuoso Concerto Holiday Celebration: Virtuoso Concertos by Bach, Biber, Geminiani and Vivaldi
www.voicesofmusic.org

Sun, Dec 3, 2017 7:00 PM

SF Performances Presents: NY Polyphony
Sing Thee Nowell: Works by PHILIPPE VERDELLOT, CAMILLE SAINT-SAËNS, PETER MAXWELL DAVIES, ALEXANDER CRAIG and others.
<https://sfperformances.org/performances/1718/NYPolyphony.html>

Sat, Dec 9, 2017 4:00 PM

Musae
Queen of Heaven: compositions by Palestrina, Brahms, Verdi, Bach, Holst, Libby Larsen, and a world premiere of a setting of Hildegard von Bingen by Bay Area composer Eric Tuan.
www.musae.org

Sun, Dec 10, 2017 4:30 PM

Bay Choral Guild
MESSYAH: In collaboration with Redwood Symphony, Eric kujawski, director. English composer Paul Ayres has rewritten Handel's Messiah, imagining how Handel's original melodies might sound if the master were alive today and could set them in any musical style.
baychoralguild.org

Sat, Dec 16, 2017 2:00 pm

Sunset Youth Orchestra

Sat, Dec 16, 2017 7:30 PM

International Orange Chorale
Past Perfect: New Takes on Our Favorite Choral Music, featuring music written for IOCSF by composers Nilo Alcala, David Conte, Jake Heggie, Marielle Jakobsons, Elizabeth Kimble, Huang Ruo, Mari Valverde, and 2017 Composer-in-Residence, Elliott Encarnación.
www.iocsf.org

Sun, Dec 17, 2017 4:00 PM

SF Choral Artists
A Rebel's Christmas: Martin Luther's Musical Reformation with special guest narrator Stephen Wilson
www.sfca.org

Sun, Jan 7, 2018 4:00 PM

SF Early Music Society
VAJRA VOICES WITH SHIRA KAMMEN AND KIT HIGGINSON
Annus Novus: One Year Begins—Medieval Poetry, Music & Magic to Ring in the New Year
sfems.org

Sun, Jan 14, 2018 2:00 PM

Polina Rushinsky Piano Recital

Sat, Jan 20, 2018 8:00 PM

Voices of Music
An Evening in Paris: Music for the King's Chamber and the Parisian Salons—Music by Couperin, Marais and Telemann, Carla Moore, Hanneke van Proosdij, Elisabeth Reed, William Skeen, Derek Tam, and David Tayler
www.voicesofmusic.org

Sun, Feb 4, 2018 4:00 PM

Ensemble for these Times
56x54+Gorecki: strings & things: featuring: Henryk Gorécki's rarely performed Genesis I: Elementi for string trio, Passion Revisited by Aleksandra Vrebalov and "Rorrim's Run" movement I for violin and piano by David Garner; Call for Scores composers: Weiwei Miao (China, world premiere); West Coast premieres by Juliana Hall, Leah Kennedy, and Mike McFerron; also Dave Collins and Joelle Wallach.
www.e4tt.org

Sun, Feb 25, 2018 8:00 PM

American Bach Soloists
Bach's SAINT JOHN PASSION
americanbach.org

Fri, Mar 2, 2018 8:00 PM

California Bach Society
German Romantics
Composers such as Schumann, Brahms, and Mendelssohn composed large-scale sacred works, motets, and secular partsongs. Lesser-known composers also created works for the new Singvereine (choral societies). Music by Fanny Mendelssohn Hensel, Gustav Jenner, and Joseph Rheinberger, in addition to works by the best-loved German Romantic composers.
www.calbach.org

Sat, Mar 3, 2018 8:00 PM

Voices of Music
Leonardo da Vinci: A Musical Odyssey
www.voicesofmusic.org

ST. MARK'S WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Sundays

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

Check our weekly Parish Announcements and our Facebook page

www.stmarks-sf.org/blog

www.facebook.com/stmarkssf

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

Church Office Hours

Monday through Friday - 9:00AM to 5:00PM

415-928-7770

Staff

Extension

Email

The Rev. Elizabeth E. Ekdale, Lead Pastor	2300	ekdale@stmarks-sf.org
The Rev. Ron Moe-Lobeda, Associate Pastor	2460	moe-lobeda@stmarks-sf.org
Dr. Timothy Zerlang, Director of Music	2330	zerlang@stmarks-sf.org
Winnie Heslin, Director of Operations	2250	heslin@stmarks-sf.org
Stefani Lawrence, Communications & Media Coordinator	2260	lawrence@stmarks-sf.org
Deidre Rettenmaier, Events Administrator	2290	events@stmarks-sf.org
Rachel Friedland, Bookkeeper/Accountant	2320	accounting@stmarks-sf.org
Mark Semonian, Council President		semonian@stmarks-sf.org
Edda Mai Johnson, Nursery Coordinator		nursery@stmarks-sf.org

Carl Storey, Security

Chanelda Daniels, Nursery Attendant

Jenny Hart, Sunday School Coordinator

The Rev. Chuck Lewis, Visitation Pastor

Reconciling in Christ

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

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

Other Important Numbers

Martin Luther Tower	(415) 885-1084	mltinc.org
Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary	(510) 524-5264	http://www.plts.edu/
ELCA (national office in Chicago)	(800) 275-3522	https://www.elca.org/
SF Interfaith Council	(800) 638-3522	http://www.sfinterfaithcouncil.org/