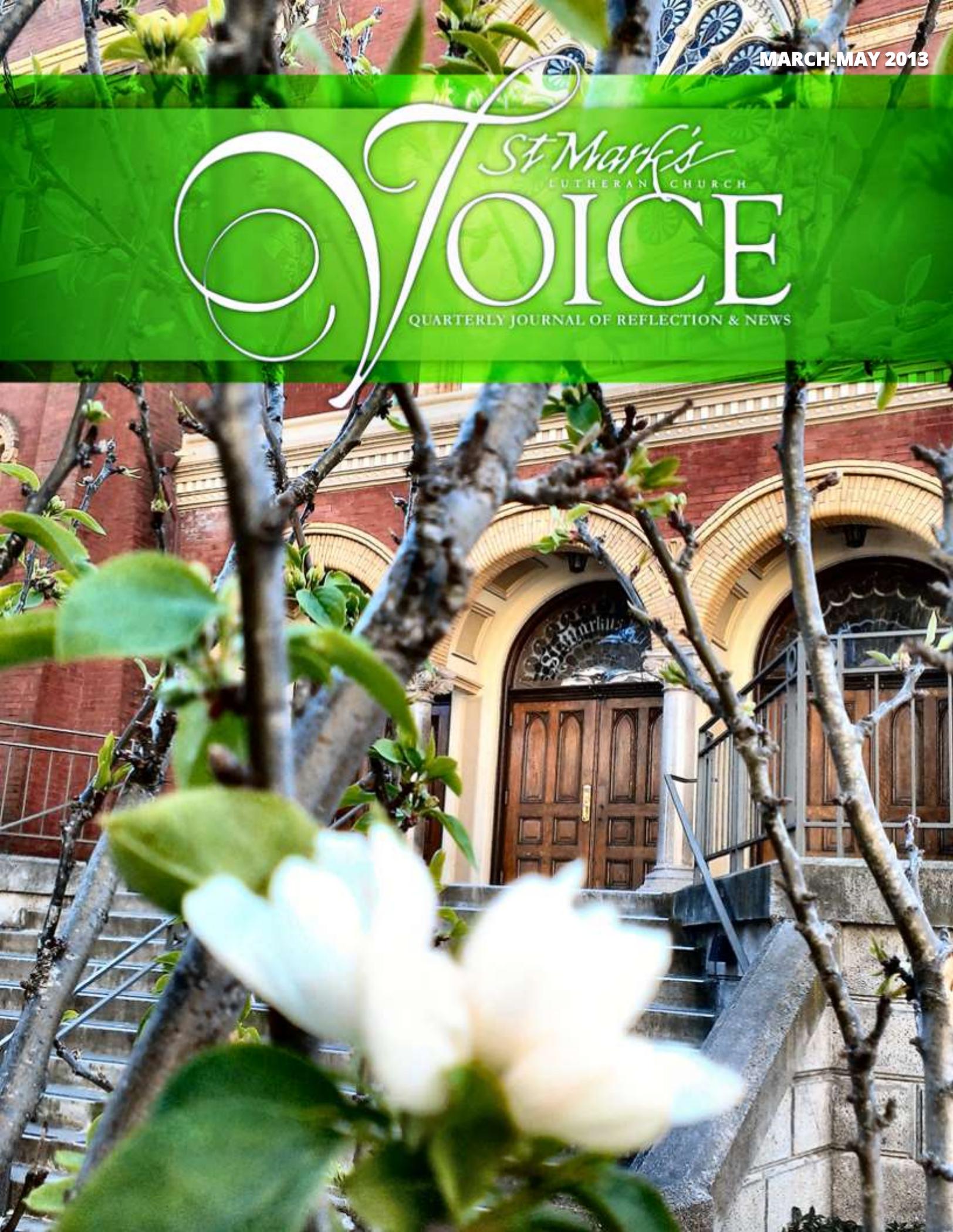


MARCH-MAY 2013

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





There in God's Garden... Easter joy which embraces our pain and sadness

*There in God's Garden
stands the Tree of Wisdom,
Whose leaves hold forth
the healing of the nations:
Tree of all knowledge, Tree of all
compassion, Tree of all beauty.*

*See how its branches
reach to us in welcome;
Hear what the Voice says,
"Come to me, ye weary!
Give me your sickness,
give me all your sorrow,
I will give blessing."*

*All heav'n is singing,
"Thanks to Christ
whose passion
offers in mercy,
Healing, strength, and pardon.
Peoples and nations,
Take it, take it freely!"
Amen! My Master!*

ELW Hymn 342 v. 1, 4 and 6
Text Kiraly Imre von Pecselyi



This hymn is in the Lent section of our hymnal – but I've always viewed it as a powerful Easter hymn. It speaks of Jesus, the life-giving tree, taking in all of our grief, our suffering, our weariness. And in return, we receive blessing, mercy, and healing. It speaks of a sacred love so deep and strong that not even death can contain it. Christ's passion and resurrection is offered to all people. The hymn writer says, "take it, take it freely!" Heaven and earth rejoice over the abundance of God's love, strength and pardon for all of creation.

We are a weary people having traveled through the darkness of grief and loss during Lent. Let us hear the Easter invitation from Jesus Christ – "Come to me all you who are weary and burdened and I will give you rest". Christ is risen bringing comfort, rest and peace. Let the Alleluias begin, our joy overflows and our tears fall freely over this gift of new life.

Easter joy and peace

Pastor Elizabeth Eedole

Lenten Midweek Activities at St. Mark's: Beneath the Cross of Jesus

March 13 & 20

Lenten Supper in
Heritage Hall
at 6:00 PM

All are welcome to join us for
a community dinner in
Heritage Hall prior to
worship.

Lenten Mid-Week
Worship Every
Wednesday Evening
from 6:45 to 7:15 PM

Recharge your batteries with
a peaceful and restorative
service of Evening Prayer
during the season of Lent.

Sacred Geography:
History and Reality in
the Land Called Holy
Taught by Dale Loepp,
Hebrew Scholar

Sacred Geography will take
place on Wednesdays in Lent
at 7:15 with a special focus
on the history of the city of
Jerusalem and the sites
related to Jesus' death and resurrection.
All are welcome; please join us!

MARCH

24

Sunday of the Passion | Palm Sunday
9:00 & 11:00 am
Procession with Palms, Holy Communion

28

Maundy Thursday
7:00 pm
Holy Communion, Stripping of the Altar

29

Good Friday 7:00 pm
12:00 noon Liturgy of Good Friday
Stations of the Cross "Passion According to St. John"
St. Mark's Choir

30

Easter Vigil
8:00 pm
Service of Light, Service of Readings, Renewal of Baptis-
mal Vows, First Eucharist of Easter, Festive Reception

31

Easter Sunday

9:00
am

Festive Easter Worship
Joyful choir and traditional Easter music
Special Easter gifts for all children

10:15
am

Easter Egg Hunt
Children of all ages are welcome to this fun-filled, kid-
friendly activity on the Square

10:30
am

Buxtehude's Easter Cantata
"Rejoice, Earth and Heaven"
Come and listen to Buxtehude's magnificent music for
Easter

11:00
am

Festive Easter Worship
Joyful choir and traditional Easter music
Special Easter gifts for all children

all
morning

Pancake Breakfast
Everyone is welcome to this delicious feast
in Heritage Hall

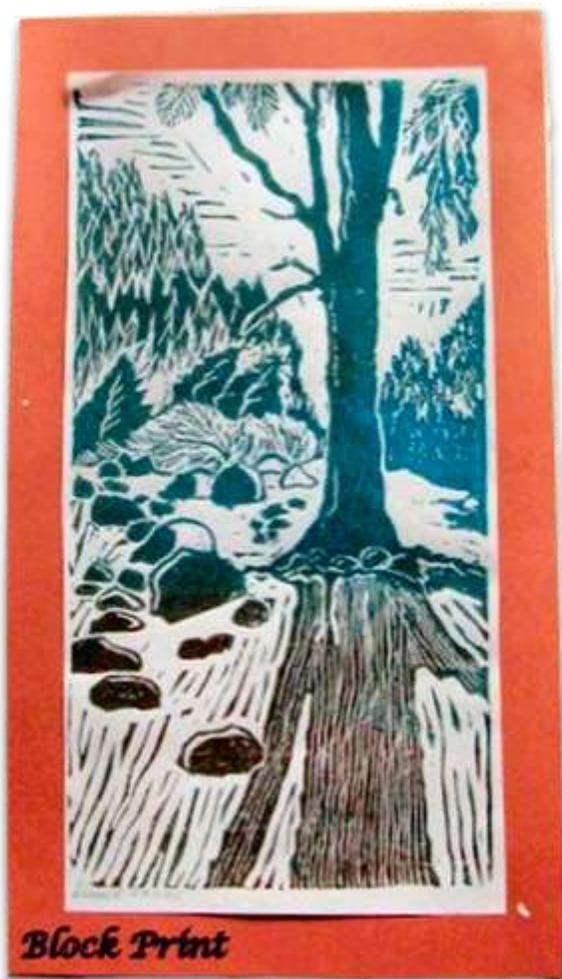
Planned Estate Gift to St. Mark's Endowment Fund Reflects Donor's Desire to Do Lasting Good

For Eunice Childs, some things just come naturally, such as appreciating the great Sierra landscape, enjoying music, and giving to her church. Born in the Empire State, New York, Eunice moved as a schoolgirl with her family to the Gateway to the West, St. Louis, Missouri. After finishing college at Washington University and working for a time, westward she went. Eunice landed in the Bay Area and lived in Berkeley for nearly 40 years. She now calls San Francisco home.

Like many at St. Mark's, Eunice is a "PK," a pastor's kid. She also has Lutheran pastors on both sides as grandfathers and two more as great grandfathers. Her Lutheran association runs deep. In her house, going to church was "automatic" and giving back to the church was too. Living in gratitude is the family way.

While living in Berkeley, Eunice belonged to Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church, where she served on the church council, as council president, and served on call committees. After she moved to San Francisco in 1999, she attended church at St. Mark's with ever greater frequency. She recalls that the close proximity of the church to her home first brought her in. She has stayed in the St. Marks community for lots of reasons - the pastoral staff, the diverse congregation, and the music.

Adventure is not ever far from Eunice's imagination. When reading for pleasure, she enjoys the literature of adventure - such as long voyages in a sailboat. Although Eunice never undertook any sea-faring adventure, she and her husband made a point of backpacking in the great Sierra wilderness. She remains uncertain about what Heaven might look like, but feels that it must be beautiful, like any landscape above 9,000 feet. She says with a wry smile that it might be more crowded in Heaven.



Eunice has a long-standing interest in the arts. She was a design major in college and continues to exercise her visual talents in an art class at her residence. With a characteristic good-natured laugh and out of an abundance of humility, she declined to give a photo of herself for this article. We agreed that a shared picture of her artwork would let people see her beautiful personality.

Eunice and her husband, Alfred, had always included the Lutheran Church in their estate plan, even before the Endowment Fund was established by St. Mark's. Eunice wondered, however, how her gift would be used if left undesignated. Although she sees that there are many great ways to give gifts to St. Mark's to support its varied ministries, she was happy when the Church established the Endowment Fund. She wants her gift to last and knows that a gift to the St. Mark's Endowment Fund means that the benefit will continue to do good for a long time to come.

To learn more about St. Mark's Endowment Fund or to share your story, please contact Debra Varian at endowment@stmarks-sf.org or 415-310-3786.

A Word from Pastor Bekah

Greetings! I have enjoyed getting to meet many of you at St. Mark's.

In addition to my work with the congregation, I enjoy volunteering with the SPCA's Animal Assisted Therapy program. My dog, Gilligan, and I visit various facilities in San Francisco to provide therapeutic respite for patients. Gilligan occasionally makes an appearance at the church office, too.

Since moving to San Francisco, I have enjoyed discovering my new neighborhood of Cole Valley as well as hiking trails in the surrounding area. I continue to marvel at the gorgeous landscapes of the Bay Area, and to seek out opportunities to be in nature. I look forward to spending time with you during our Lenten journey.

Blessings,
Pr. Rebekah



**Pastor Bekah's Ordination,
Sunday, February 24, 2013**



Ministry Opportunities

St. Mark's, this body of Christ in which we live, needs folks to serve in helping it minister to the congregation and those coming in our doors. Yes, we are short staffed in the areas of hospitality and education. Ideally, we would like to have co-chairs and members in the following positions:

- * The Easter Vigil Festive Reception March 30
- * The Hospitality Ministry Team – both members and chairs
- * Adult Forum – planning and scheduling

If you are interested in serving on any of these teams, please contact Suzanne Smith at smith@stmarks-sf.org.

Direct Thrivent Choice Dollars® by March 31

Eligible members of Thrivent Financial for Lutherans have the opportunity to designate Choice Dollars®: if you haven't already done so, ***please be sure to direct your designated Thrivent Choice Dollars by March 31, 2013.*** After that date, any undirected Choice Dollars will expire. Don't miss this opportunity to help support St. Mark's Lutheran Church. Go to Thrivent.com/thriventchoice or call 800-THRIVENT and state "Thrivent Choice."

\$25,000 Challenge Grant for the ELCA Malaria Campaign

A member of St. Mark's has offered a \$25,000 challenge grant that provides a \$1-for-\$1 match for all gifts to the ELCA Malaria Campaign received by April 21. To have your gift doubled, please make checks payable to St. Mark's, and write "ELCA malaria campaign" in the memo line. You can also donate through our website; please be sure to designate your gift to the malaria campaign.

Proceeds from this year's Lenten boxes will be designated to the Malaria Campaign. The boxes have been designed by the Sunday school children of St. Mark's.

Adult Forum

Sundays at 10:10 am | Fireside Room

Members and friends of St. Mark's meet Sunday mornings at 10:10 in the Fireside Room of the Urban Life Center. We welcome all to join in learning and exploring together. Our coming topics are:

LIVING LUTHERAN IN LENT

March 10

[In War And Peace](#)

Rev. Kelly Denton-Borhaug

Led by our guest preacher for the day, Dr. Denton-Borhaug has written a book titled, "U.S. War-culture, Sacrifice and Salvation." The military-industrial complex in the U.S. has grown exponentially in recent decades, yet the realities of war remain invisible to most Americans. A culture has been created where sacrificial rhetoric is the norm when dealing in war. This culture has been partly enabled to flourish because popular American Christian understandings of redemption rely so heavily on the sacrificial. Come and learn more about how theology can shape U.S. war-culture from Dr. Denton-Borhaug.

March 17

[In The Holy Land](#)

Pr. Elizabeth and Dale Loepf

Lutheran ministries in Jordan and Palestine. How did Lutherans get there in the first place? What kinds of ministries are they doing? What do we have in common with them? Come to this forum and learn about Lutherans and Lutheran congregations and schools in Palestine, Israel and Jordan.

March 24

[In Liturgy](#)

Kyle Schiefelbein

Luther and the subsequent Lutheran reformers retained the liturgical year and daily cycle of prayer as a way to form the faithful in the Christian life. Come and explore how we can live Lutheran in today's context with the help of these centuries' old traditions.

March 31

[Easter](#)

NO FORUM

April 7 & 14

[St. Mark's Endowment: Giving Beyond](#)

[Your Lifetime](#)

St. Mark's Endowment Committee

St. Mark's Endowment was created not only to be a resource for the church going forward, but to help

extend our mission to the community beyond our walls. As we approach the Fund's 3-year anniversary in 2014, we will have opportunities to start making distributions of the Fund's earnings.

We will explore ideas with one another of the different ways that our Endowment Fund can support the broad mission of St. Mark's. We will also provide basic estate planning information and address how individuals can participate in the growth of the Fund.

April 21 & 28

[Dreamtending: Deepen your Spiritual Journey through your Dreams](#)

Kirsten Maier

Join Kirsten Maier Smith at the Adult Forum for an experiential workshop on learning from your own dreams. No previous experience is necessary. Dreamwork has a long Biblical tradition and cultural history which is alive to us today. Kirsten has 12 years of experience as a therapist and has worked with her dreams for 14 years. She is Psychological Assistant to Dr. C. Burton (license #PSY 23188) in California. We hope to see you there.

May 5

Pastoral Intern Eric Huseth

May 12

[Report on the Sierra Pacific Synod Assembly](#)

Voting members and attendees from St. Mark's will report back on the work of the larger church. Come and discuss resolutions which were voted on at the Synod Assembly on May 2-4 in Fresno.

May 19

[Bay To Breakers](#)

NO FORUM

May 26

[Report from the St. Mark's Trip to Palestine/Israel](#)

Come and hear about the trip that 19 members of our congregation made to visit Palestine and Israel in April. Learn about their time with members of Christmas Lutheran Church in Bethlehem and their impressions of the Holy Land.

Women's Monthly Study Gatherings

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

1st Tuesdays from 6:30pm to 8:30pm in the Fireside Room

We will be sharing our impressions/experiences with Lisa Dahill's 40-Day Journey with Julian of Norwich at the beginning of each gathering on the first Tuesday of the month from 6:30pm to 8:30pm in the Fireside Room. All women are invited to come for dessert and fellowship for the first half hour and then discussion until 8:30.

The book for spring:

April 2 and May 7..... Revelations: Visions, Prophecy & Politics in the Book of Revelation by Elaine Pagels

2nd 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. This year our Bible study will center on Gathered by God, using the Women of the ELCA's guide developed by Audrey West.

Our sessions will include:

March 12..... Koinonia Calling
April 9..... Beneath Her Wings
May 14..... Storytelling

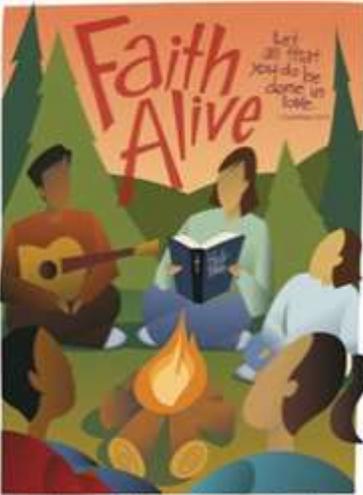
If you have any questions, please contact Suzanne Smith at 415.285.7438 or smith@stmarks-sf.org.

Mt. Cross Summer Day Camp Planning Meeting

Sunday, March 24

Please plan to join us on March 24 after the 9:00 service in Heritage Hall to make plans for this summer's Mt.

Cross Day Camp on July 8-12, 2013. There are various ways to help out including marketing, scheduling and support. This is a great service to the children of St. Mark's and we'd like to find ways to reach out and include children from the community. If you have any questions you can contact Kimberly Hamilton-Lam at mjkkmom@yahoo.com or 415-668-8740.



Sunday School News

The New Year gave us an opportunity to stop and learn about the global movement to stop Malaria. We started the unit by making mosquitoes out of tin foil and pipe cleaners as we learned about the causes of malaria. The next 2 Sundays were spent creating a video about malaria and studying Bible stories that corresponded to healing. (The video will be ready for viewing sometime soon.) We closed the month of January thinking about what we can do to help our "sisters and brothers" affected by this preventable disease. We will continue to learn about Malaria throughout the duration of the St. Mark's/ELCA Malaria Campaign.

Sunday School was deeply saddened by the death of Shauna Malone, one of our Sunday School teachers. Jenny Hart will take over her class for the remainder of the school year. We will create a banner to honor Shauna's spirit of joy and love for teaching all of our children.

Martin Luther Tower Bible Study

Mondays, 1:45-2:45pm in Brockie Lounge/MLT

Come and join us for great learning and conversation at the MLT Bible study! We are currently reading and studying the gospel of John which has illuminated new things about faith and seeing God's presence in the world. All are welcome to join our journey no matter if you live in MLT or not! Talk to Intern Eric for details!

Intern Eric Graduation at PLTS

Saturday, May 25th starting at 11 am @ PLTS Chapel

All are welcome from St. Mark's to come to Intern Eric's graduation from Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary.



Sharing, Worshiping, Mutually Supporting

Invitation: St. Mark's and Cordero de Dios Accompaniment Committee

St. Mark's has a sister parish – Cordero de Dios (CdD) Lutheran Church in Soyapango, El Salvador. Our relationship with Pastora Norma Castillo and the members of Cordero de Dios is growing and flourishing!

Members of St. Mark's who are interested in continuing to work on the relationship between St. Mark's and Cordero de Dios have begun to meet monthly on the 4th Sunday of the month at 12:30pm. The next meeting will be March 24, 2013.

All members of St. Mark's are encouraged to participate, whether or not you are able to travel to El Salvador.

Agenda items include the following:

- ✱ Prayers for each other's congregations;
- ✱ Increase communication between the two congregations;
- ✱ Develop a covenant between the two congregations (St. Mark's council and the St. Mark's Accompaniment Committee have approved a first draft – now we share it with Cordero de Dios to get their approval);
- ✱ Share worship experiences through media such as a YouTube video or Skype;
- ✱ Support the work of each congregation in mutually agreeable ways; and
- ✱ Plan regular visits to El Salvador and San Francisco.

Again, all members of St. Mark's are encouraged to participate in this exciting project, whether or not you are a traveler. Contact Matt Helland at Helland@nka.com or Mary Ritter at mlrped@aol.com if you have questions.

Bienvenidos! Welcome!

Connecting With The Holy Land Continues

After Pastor Elizabeth Ekdale's stimulating study tour of Israel/Palestine last spring, she was inspired to lead a group of St. Mark's parishioners to the Holy Land. From April 19-29 the tour, planned with Bright Stars of Bethlehem, takes participants to visit many of the sites of Jesus Christ's ministry and includes the present day Lutheran ministries in Bethlehem, Ramallah and Jerusalem.

The group of twenty journey first to Bethlehem to see first-hand the outstanding work of the Rev. Mitri Raheb at Christmas Lutheran Church and Dar Al-Kalima College. While in Bethlehem the group will also reconnect with the family of Claire Anastas, who visited St. Mark's last December bringing beautiful Palestinian handicrafts to sell, and spoke to the women of St. Mark's WELCA about the challenges facing Palestinian Christians today. After Bethlehem the itinerary continues to Jerusalem and northward to Nazareth, then the Sea of Galilee area, and many other points of historic and religious importance en route to Tel Aviv for the trip's conclusion. Watch for fascinating slide presentations and conversations after the group's return home!

As preparation for this pilgrimage Dale Loepf has been presenting an enlightening twelve-week series of

lectures, Biblical insights and slides entitled "Sacred Geography: History and Reality in the Land Called Holy." In addition, three adult forums were dedicated to studying the KAIROS Document, which was written by Christian leaders of Palestinian Christian churches to relate their urgent situation to the outside world and to ask Christians everywhere to walk with them in their suffering and help bring hope, change and justice to the troubled Holy Land. Leading the discussion were John and Barbara Erickson of FOSNA (Friends of Sabeel in North America), who had just returned from a Holy Land trip in January. Palestinians Sandra and Nader Khoury showed powerful slides to illustrate the dire situation of Palestinian people caused by the decades-long Israeli military occupation.

Are you inspired to be involved in our Lutheran ministry efforts in

Palestine? Then join in now to help plan and present the following project, sponsored by Bright Stars of Bethlehem and Bay Area Lutherans:

Next September 25-29 a five-day Palestinian Arts Festival and fundraiser based at San Francisco State University will feature the student Dance Troupe of Dar Al-Kalima College, film screenings, art exhibits, workshops, poetry readings and more. The Festival shares the story of the Holy Land and benefits the Lutheran ministry in Bethlehem that prepares these students to represent their culture through the arts. Dance performances will continue beyond the weekend at many Bay Area sites, among them Stanford University, Sacramento, Morgan Hill, and Walnut Creek.

To help, contact Linda Krauskopf: jklmk@comcast.net or (415) 285-4424. Thank you!

30 Knitted Lap Robes To Central Gardens Nursing Home

St. Mark's Knitters completed thirty lap robes this winter. They were the culmination of hundreds of one foot square pieces and lots of creative stitching.

The lap robes were shared with residents of the Central Gardens Nursing Home at our regular Sunday afternoon worship on February 10th.

Thank you, knitters!



Palm Sunday SMOP Hike to See the "Lilies of the Field"

Everyone is invited to join our "St. Mark's Our Planet" (SMOP) hiking group on Palm Sunday (March 24). As we come to the end of Lent, we'd like to climb the trails above Tennessee Valley in the Marin Headlands to view the "Lilies of the Field" (Steven says we'll find them). This moderately strenuous hiking event will depart from the St. Mark's upper parking lot at 1:30PM. We'll arrange carpools on the spot as needed. Wear good shoes, bring extra water and a snack for our picnic among the lilies. Plan for a full afternoon of hiking with amazing views of the Pacific, the Headlands and the greater Bay Area! Families with children are always welcome. For more details, contact Steven Krefting at skrefting@igc.org or (415) 826-3124.

Women of the ELCA (W-ELCA)

MEMORIAL - MARY GRACE FERGUSON
September 23, 1919 - January 18, 2013

A memorial service for Mary Ferguson was held by her family and the women of WELCA during the February meeting. Pastor Elizabeth read scripture and led us in prayer as well as sharing stories about Mary. The family was represented by her oldest and youngest daughters, their husbands and one of her granddaughters. They told us the story of her life and shared stories both past and recent after which W-ELCA members shared their stories and memories of Mary. There were many!

Mary was a long time member of St. Mark's and W-ELCA. We will remember her warmth, her lovely and ready smile and her wonderful sense of humor. She will be greatly missed by all W-ELCA and St. Mark's members.



Senior Center

To reserve your spot for the trips or the luncheons, please contact the MLT office at 415.885.1084.

SENIOR CENTER LUNCHEONS

Thursday, March 21

Thursday, April 18

No Senior Luncheon in May

SENIOR TRIPS

Friday, March 15

Railroad Museum, Sacramento

Join St. Mark's and Martin Luther Tower seniors for a trip to Old Sacramento, and a visit to the California State Railroad Museum. The museum is a complex of historic facilities and unique attractions, widely regarded as North America's most popular railroad museum. We'll have lunch at a local restaurant.

Friday, April 25

Luther Burbank Gardens, Santa Rosa

The Luther Burbank Gardens is a registered National, State & City Historic Landmark. It is a unique city park located in Santa Rosa. Sights include the Home with its original furnishings, the Greenhouse, a portion of the Gardens, and a summary of Burbank's life and achievements. We'll have lunch in the area.

No Senior Trip in May



Participate At Interfaith Food Pantry In 2013

St. Mark's Interfaith Food Pantry continues to share beautiful healthy nutritious food with nearly 300 households on Saturday mornings.

A team of 15-18 St. Mark's members meets the San Francisco Food Bank truck at about 8:00am. Several pallets of fruits, vegetables, rice, protein, breads – a different selection each time – is moved into the space at Old First Presbyterian and prepared for distribution. The 300 families send a representative who are served between 9 and 10:30am. Clean-up is quick and we are out the door.

Come and join. Contact John Elford at jbruceelford@gmail.com if you have questions.

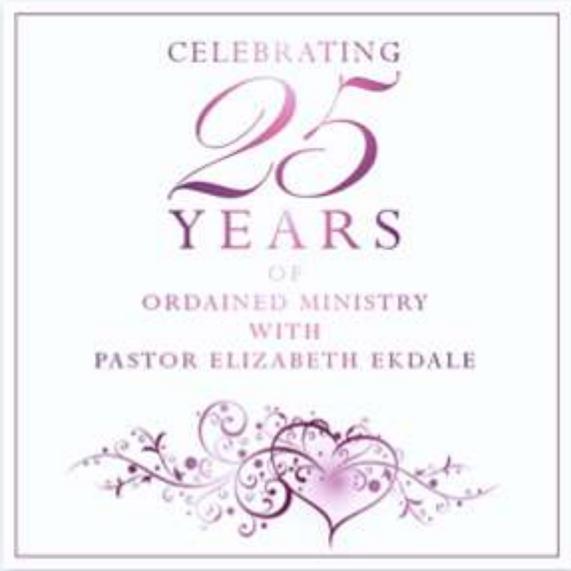
The remaining Food Pantry dates for this year are:

April 6
May 18
July 6
August 10
September 21
November 2
December 14



San Francisco WinterFaith Shelter Walk
Sunday, April 21, 2013
1:30 - 4:00 pm @ Lake Merced

Announcing the first annual WinterFaith Shelter Walk hosted by the San Francisco Interfaith Council in support of the San Francisco Interfaith Winter Shelter! St. Mark's has been very committed to the Interfaith Shelter through hosting and providing meals. Our congregation will now be making a team (the St. Mark's Marchers!) and YOU are invited to come and take part in this exciting walk which will support the Interfaith Winter Shelter. With continued unpredictable funding from government sources, the WinterFaith Shelter Walk will ensure needed financial stability. Come and have fun while enjoying a walk with your friends and neighbors as well as raising funds for a necessary cause. Go to www.winterfaithwalk.dojiggy.com to find more information or talk to Intern Eric!



Celebrating the 25th anniversary of ordination of Pastor Elizabeth Ekdale on Sunday, March 10, 2013

Sacred Acts at St. Mark's

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

Baptism

Evan Martin Dober on December 23, 2012

Memorials

John Douglas Bernet on January 9, 2013

Kurt Modarelli on January 14, 2013

Shauna Jean Malone on February 10, 2013

Mary Ferguson on February 12, 2013

Pastor Paul Brenner on March 4, 2013



Your Gifts at Work

Annual Giving 2013

General Fund

One year pledge

No. of pledges 122 out of 229

possible

Pledged \$ 370,607

Received thru 02/28/13 \$ 71,765

Income versus Expenses

Jan-Feb '13	Actual	Budget
Income	\$ 106,445	\$ 115,664
Expense	\$ 100,293	\$ 103,977
NET	\$ 6,152	\$ 11,687

Welcome New Council Members

Elected to the Church Council at the annual meeting were Kimberly Hamilton-Lam, Matt Helland, Nate McDonald, Lisa Gray (three year terms), Ana Hurley, and Liv Beck (two year terms). They will be joining returning members Suzanne Smith, Jeremy McClain, Robert Rathmell, Marge Jencks, Andrew Sallach, and Marisa Louie.

The Council elected its 2013 officers at the February 9th monthly meeting: Suzanne Smith, President; Jeremy McClain, Vice President; Marisa Louie, Secretary; Kimberly Hamilton-Lam, Treasurer; Matt Helland, Executive Committee Member-At-Large.

Council Meeting Highlights

November 15, 2012

- * Pr. Ekdale expressed her pleasure at serving on the ELCA council and her excitement about the wider church's attention to poverty, malaria, disaster response, and other global issues.
- * Intern Eric Huseth expressed appreciation for his travel opportunity to El Salvador, and spoke of his plans for a Young Adult Interfaith Network and the World AIDS Day service.
- * Discussed new bike racks, installation of Nativity Window in Columbarium area, Christmas trees, and repairs to the ULC.
- * Discussed success of Oktoberfest and plans for the 2013 event. Discussed the broad need to be welcoming to visitors at all special events and celebrations, including Oktoberfest, Easter, and Christmas.
- * Planned that wood pieces and candles for Advent wreaths will be available for all to create wreaths during the Advent Fair.
- * Announced that next year's Summer Day Camp will be week of July 8-12, 2013.
- * Thanked Aron Bohlig for his 6 years of devoted service as Treasurer.

December 9, 2012 Special Meeting

- * Met with MLT Board for an update on St. Mark's Square development project, as Board enters an exclusive negotiating agreement (ENA) with John Stewart Co/CCDC, a preliminary step before negotiating a development agreement.
- * Discussed Constitutional amendments relating to the relationship between St. Mark's and ELCA intended to be on agenda at Congregational Meeting on Jan. 27, 2013.

December 16, 2012 Special Meeting

- * Recommended that the proposed amendments to the Constitution be voted on at Congregational meeting Jan. 27, 2013.

January 17, 2013

- * Met with Call Committee's recommended candidate for Associate Pastor, Rebekah Davis, during a time of fellowship.
- * Took action to direct \$10,000 from 2012 budget to Endowment Fund.

- * Discussed need for capital campaign to fund ~\$500,000 for construction of elevator.
- * Discussed the activities on The Square, mentioning the many outside groups, weddings, office space rentals, the Homeless Winter Shelter, and the improvements, such as the new gate/grill behind the church ramp and repairs to the ULC. Noted that Christmas Eve attendance at the three services totaled 557.
- * Appointed Stacy Cullison and Margaret McLean to 3-year terms on Endowment Committee. Noted that St. Mark's Endowment Fund is poised for growth.
- * Announced that Council Retreat with newly elected Council members is planned for Feb. 9-10 at Mercy Center. Featured speaker will be Jason Jennings, St. Mark's member and nationally noted inspirational speaker and author.

Before I die...

It's easy to get caught up in the day-to-day and forget what really matters to you. Before I Die is a global public art project that invites people to reflect on their lives and share their personal aspirations in public space. Originally created by artist Candy Chang on an abandoned house in her neighborhood in New Orleans after she lost someone she loved, the project is here at St. Mark's thanks to passionate people who want to create a space for this community to share more with one another. It's about remembering what is important to you. It's about getting to know the people around you in new and enlightening ways. It's about creating public spaces that help us see we are not alone as we try to lead personally meaningful lives. It's about examining life and death in the season of Lent. More than 100 walls have been created in over 10 languages and in over 30 countries, including Kazakhstan, Argentina, China, Italy, and South Africa.

St. Mark's wall is located on the south end of Heritage Hall now through Good Friday. This wall is yours. We invite every person of any age who stands before it to use a piece of chalk to share your aspiration with the community. Thank you.

For more information visit www.beforeidie.cc.





A Close Look at Our Ascension Window

Have you ever paused to examine the stained glass window over the altar? Have you wondered what the window portrays and why the artistic style is different from the ten tall side windows?

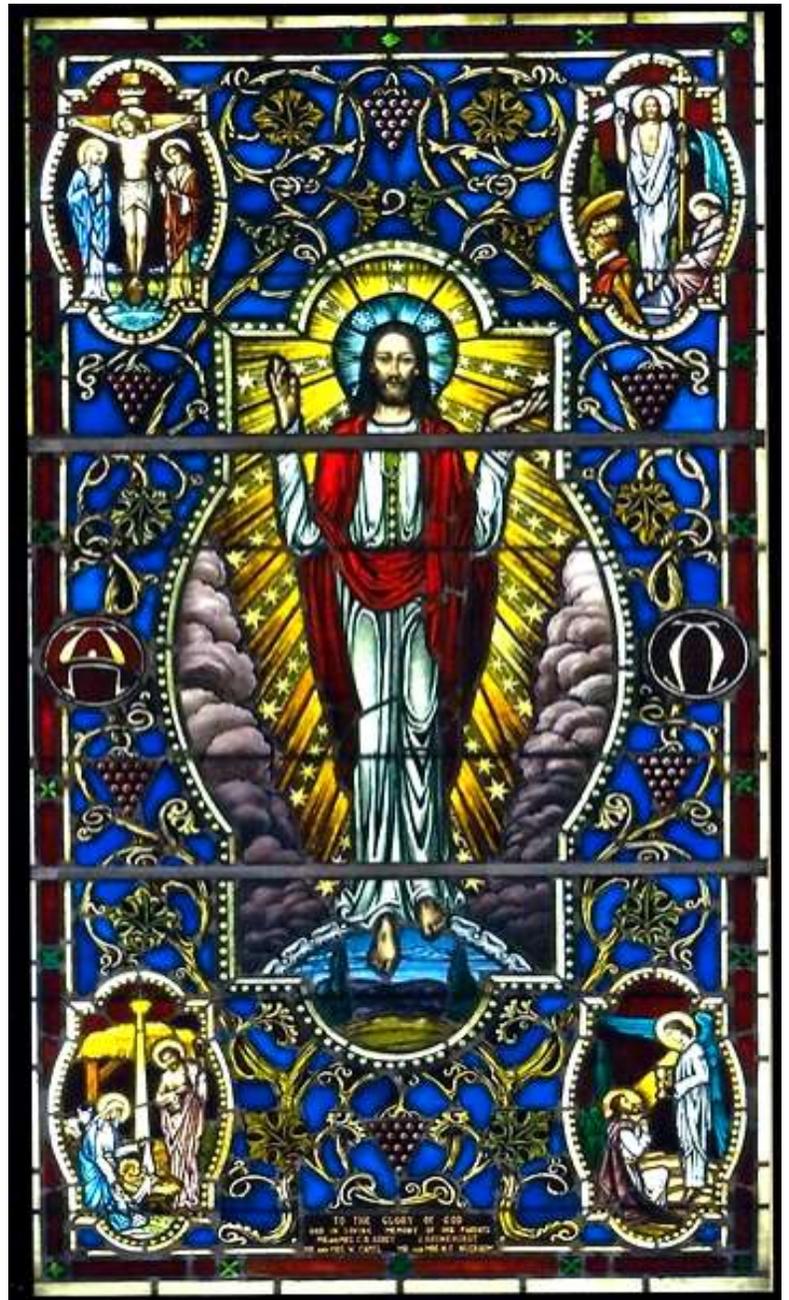
The beautiful distinctive tall windows in the east and west walls of the sanctuary depict doctrinal concepts within the circular designs at the tops, and are especially lovely when sunlight is shining through. They are original windows incorporated as part of the Romanesque architectural design when the church was built during 1894-95. The Ascension Window that rises above the altar, however, was added much later during renovation of the chancel in 1949 in celebration of St. Mark's centennial anniversary, i.e., 100 years after the roots of St. Mark's were planted during the 1849 California Gold Rush. This window does not have the benefit of sunlight shining through, but is stunningly backlit.

The primary image in the Ascension Window features Christ ascending into heaven. Four phases of Christ's life are depicted in the corners: The Nativity representing Christ's birth (lower left), Christ praying in the Garden of Gethsemane (lower right), the Crucifixion (upper left), and the Resurrection (upper right).

The Greek letters, alpha (α) mid-left side, and omega (Ω) mid-right side, symbolize the beginning and the end. The background shows intertwining grape leaves, vine, and branches symbolizing the unity of the church. Jesus said, "I am the vine, you are the branches." (John 15:5)

You are invited to approach the altar and take a close look.

This is the 19th in a series of Tales from the Archives by Marge Jencks.



Stained glass Ascension Window over St. Mark's altar.



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Maggie Falenschek
Teaching Parish Student

Suzanne Smith
Church Council President

St. Mark's Worship Schedule

Sundays

9:00 am HOLY COMMUNION w/Children's Time
10:00 am Sunday School
10:10 am Adult Forum
11:00 am CHORAL EUCHARIST
12:15 pm Refreshment and Fellowship Hour

Wednesdays

6:00 pm Midweek Supper
6:45 pm MIDWEEK HOLY COMMUNION
7:30 pm Choir Rehearsal

Church Office Hours

Monday-Friday, 9 am to 5 pm

Summer Hours (beginning May 28)

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

Church Office Closures

Friday, March 29, noon ~ Good Friday
Monday, April 1 ~ Easter Monday
Monday, May 27 ~ Memorial Day

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 lesbian and gay people are equally welcome to join fully in the worship and life of this Christ-centered community. For more information, please contact Steve Krefting at krefting@stmarks-sf.org or 415.826.3124 or speak to one of the pastors.

St. Mark's is a congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

The Rev. Mark S. Hanson, 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

