

JUNE-AUGUST 2013

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

**Let All Creation
Praise!**

Celebrate
**the Season
of Creation**

Celebrate the Season of Creation at St. Mark's in July

The Wisdom Series

During the month of July, we will celebrate the Season of Creation with The Wisdom Series. Wisdom is a deep impulse within all parts of creation, designing their mysteries, guiding their purposes, and mentoring their functions. This will be an opportunity for our community to take time in the church year to focus our celebration on God the creator, Christ as the redeemer of creation, and the Spirit as sustainer of creation—to worship God along with all creation, and to express gratitude, love, and a commitment to care for all living things on earth. For four Sundays we can join in a wholehearted experience of celebrating the mysteries and wonders of creation with God, Christ, and the Holy Spirit. We will celebrate Ocean Sunday on July 7, Animal Sunday on July 14, Weather Sunday on July 21 and Universe Sunday on July 28. In preparation for this special series, we invite you to share your digital photos of nature in its many forms so that we can create a display for the Heritage Hall screen. Please submit your photos to bertieb1970@gmail.com (and thanks to Bertie Brouhard for “curating” this display!) We'd like to have all photos by June 26th. Thanks!



July 7: Ocean Sunday

“Have you entered into the springs of the sea, or walked in the recesses of the deep?”
~Job 38:16



July 14: Animal Sunday

“Wild animals and all cattle, creeping things and flying birds! Praise the Lord!”
~Psalm 148:10



July 21: Weather Sunday

“The voice of the Lord is over the waters; the God of glory thunders...”
~Psalm 29:3



July 28: Universe Sunday

“The Lord created me at the beginning of God's work...ages ago I was set up, before the beginning of the earth.”
~Proverbs 8:22-23



Summer Midweek Worship at St. Mark's

Every Wednesday at 6:45 pm

Unplug, unwind, and refresh yourself with a 30 minute service of inspiring music, sacred silence, Holy Communion and prayer in our beautiful Sanctuary. If you are away from St. Mark's on the weekend, come and be fed at this worship service . . . 6:45 pm every Wednesday during the summer. A light dinner is served at 6:00 in Heritage Hall. Note: On June 12, there will be worship (but no supper).

Summer Day Camp at St. Mark's July 8-12, 2013

A summer camp experience presented at St. Mark's by the staff of Mt. Cross and St. Mark's volunteers.

who: Children post-kindergarten through 5th grade

what: Summer camp fun:
Games
Crafts
Singing
Community building
Bible Encounters
Worship

when: July 8-12, 2013
9 am-3 pm: Monday-Thursday
9 am-12 noon: Friday

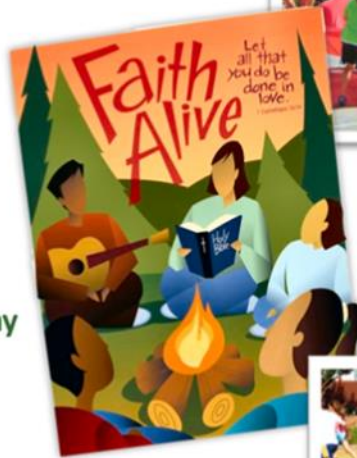
cost: \$90 per child
\$75 additional siblings
\$5 Early-bird discount (must register by May 31, 2013)
Scholarships available upon request

how: Download and complete the registration form from our website at www.stmarks-sf.org/daycamp.

Return form and payment to St. Mark's or give to Kimberly Hamilton-Lam.

For more information, please email Kimberly Hamilton-Lam at mjjkmom@yahoo.com

St. Mark's is located at the corner of O'Farrell and Franklin Streets. It is accessible by MUNI lines 47, 49, 38, and 31.





A Time Apart

A sabbatical is an opportunity for clergy to step away from the persistent obligations of daily parish life and to engage in a period of renewal and reflection through life-giving experiences.

Life-giving experiences could include opportunities for strengthening relationships, renewing a sense of call, meeting and serving neighbors in a new way, finding joy and purpose in a simplified life, traveling to new lands and unfamiliar territory, seeking space for reading, praying, and thinking and creating opportunities where members of the congregation can exercise their gifts for ministry

Sabbaticals are not vacations, but times for intentional exploration and reflection, for drinking again from God's life-giving waters, for regaining the enthusiasm and creativity for ministry. Like all people of faith, good pastors need moments to renew and refresh their energies and enthusiasm to determine again "what makes their hearts sing."
www.lillyendowment.org



Let me begin by saying a heartfelt "thank you":

I am grateful for our sabbatical leave policy which recognizes that a "successful ministry leader must be given periodic opportunities for spiritual renewal." I will be away from St. Mark's, June 15 – Sept. 21, for this extended time of renewal, refreshment, and reflection. Thank you.

Why now? It has been over 5 years since my previous sabbatical and our policy allows for Sabbatical Leave once per 5 years. With the arrival of Pr. Bekah, it is the ideal time to step aside in order for you to get to know her pastoral strengths, leadership style, and the many gifts she brings to St. Mark's as our Associate Pastor. I am confident these three months will provide multiple opportunities for Pr. Bekah and our community to thrive together while you get to know one another. In addition, Pr. Lyle Beckman will be present to provide supervision and guidance to Pr. Bekah, Eric Huseth, our Pastoral Intern, the staff, church council and MLT board as needed. I know that you will enjoy having Pr. Lyle around more often than usual!

Why now? I am in need of rest and retooling. These past two years of "interim time" have been good years but also challenging and demanding. In the past six months, we have experienced the heartache of several deaths of beloved members and family including the death of Pr. Brenner. Pastors need time to grieve and process significant events just as parishioners do. I have set aside time during these three months to do so primarily through worship and two silent retreats.

The theme for this sabbatical is "A Time Apart".

- Time with myself
- Time with family
- Time with mentors/friends
- Time with professional colleagues

Time with myself

I will begin and conclude my sabbatical with a 48 hour period of time by myself at the Hermitage retreat center and the Asilomar Conference Center. I envision this time as one of "holy listening" and intentional time for reading, journaling, and reflecting.

Time with family

We will enjoy a few weeks at a family cabin at Lake Almanor (near Mt. Lassen) which will include: reading, studying, biking, running, swimming, camping, and quiet. In addition, we are traveling to Montana in order to visit Glacier National Park – a place we have never visited.

Time with Mentors and Friends

Visiting Dr. Kelly Denton-Borhaug (she preached on March 10 on the celebration of my 25th ordination anniversary) in Bethlehem, PA.

Visiting retired Pastor Gary Cockrell (the pastor who confirmed me at Grace Lutheran, Palo Alto) at Flathead Lake in Montana near Glacier National Park

Time with Professional Colleagues

I will be taking two classes during this sabbatical time:

"Prophets then and Now" with Dr. Steed Davidson, Professor of Old Testament at Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary

This course explores the social location, function and office of the prophet in the ancient world as the basis for understanding a modern conception of prophetic preaching. The aim of the class is to integrate the preaching tradition of the prophet in its broadest sense into the routine of pastoral work.

New Visions for the Long Pastorate with Rev. Roy Oswald at Luther Seminary in St. Paul, MN

This course examines:

- Concrete ways of preventing burnout in a long pastorate
- Three ways of gaining accurate feedback from congregational members
- Leadership strategies for keeping a congregation on its growing edge
- Paying attention to the accumulation of power in a long pastorate and continuing to empower strong lay leadership
- Engaging in a strategic planning process that will focus the energy of the congregation

I will attend the ELCA Churchwide Assembly in Pittsburg, PA, Aug. 10 – 17.

I am required to attend the assembly and provide leadership due to my service on the ELCA Church Council. In addition to passing a 3 year budget and electing a Presiding Bishop, we will hear various reports from the Church Council, staff and departments of the ELCA. The assembly will also be asked to approve the new social statement on criminal justice.

Thank you for this opportunity for renewal and reflection. The schedule for the sabbatical is June 15 – September 21. Hans, Grace and I will be back in worship with you on September 22.

With deep gratitude,

Pastor Elizabeth Eckole

Greetings, Members of St. Mark's!

Associate Pastor Bekah Davis

I am excited for these summer months ahead of us. I have enjoyed visiting many of you in your homes and at your places of work. I hope to continue this tradition over the summer! For those of you I have not yet had the pleasure of visiting, I would invite you to please send me an email to let me know possible times I might be able to visit you.



I am grateful to our Palestine pilgrims for the stole which they brought back for me. Look for this beautiful, hand cross-stitched stole at the 9am service during this season of Pentecost.

I have had the privilege of working with Kimberly Hamilton-Lam on this summer's day camp. For families with children between kindergarten and 5th grade, please support St. Mark's in our efforts to have a vibrant and engaging summer program July 8-12. More details and registration forms can be found on St. Mark's website.

Looking ahead to this fall, I encourage you to find out more about the El Salvador group! This delegation aims to have many young people participate in this year's trip. On a personal note, I continue to enjoy volunteering with these San Francisco organizations: Hamilton House, Langley Porter ER, Taylor Elementary, and Hunter's Point Family.

Listening to Creation

Timothy Zerlang, Director of Music

Sometimes I have to take a walk somewhere, anywhere really, just to get away from



distractions: tasks and projects demanding my attention, all the I-really-should-do-it-but-really-don't-want-to chores on my list. Yesterday was one of those times - I took a day-cation, actually a half-day-cation; I did teach four hours last night. Mid-morning (after some

errands) I put the top down on the car and drove to one of my favorite escapes; I'm not going to say where because I want to be sure I'm alone again the next time I go. I drove just an hour or less away, but it seems like the other side of the world. When I shut off the car I just sat there and listened - listened to what at first seemed quiet, but quickly became a quiet that was not quiet at all. What seemed like a complex, natural counterpoint surrounded me; air moving gently past my ears, the rustle of leaves moving in the same breeze, remnants of the morning's fog shaken from the trees and hitting the ground, a choir of birds. It amazed me that while my focus would switch from one component to another moment to moment, what I heard never seemed confusing or even disorganized. It was as

though the breeze, the trees, the fog, and the birds were all competing for my attention in a way, completely independent; at the same time they were blending with each other to form a beautiful composition, a music that I had come there to hear. Later, as I walked, I tried to listen more intently, because I know as a musician (and concertgoer) that the more focused your listening, the deeper your musical experience. At times I became frustrated because it seemed like the loudest thing I heard was myself moving and breathing. When I stopped to watch a salamander meander across the path, I wondered if it heard its own feet hit the ground, like I heard mine. When I stopped to eat, I found myself wishing I could be quiet enough to hear the sound the slug made as it slithered by me, just inches away, or still enough to experience the rhythm the centipede that shared my log made as it hurried along. I suspect that kind of listening takes a great deal of practice.

Before each service during our Season of Creation in the month of July, we will have the opportunity to practice listening to Creation. Instead of the piano or organ, our preludes will be contributed by the ocean, animals, weather, and the cosmos. I hope you join me in listening to just a bit of Creation's music, and pondering how much more we might hear if we just took more time to practice (listening).



From your Pastoral Intern Eric Huseth

It is amazing to think that my year-long internship at St. Mark's/The San Francisco Interfaith Council is already beginning to come to a close! My last date with you as intern will be July 31st. What an incredible year it has been! Abby and I have felt so welcomed at St. Mark's and supported by this community. Let me relive some highlights of my internship year with you:

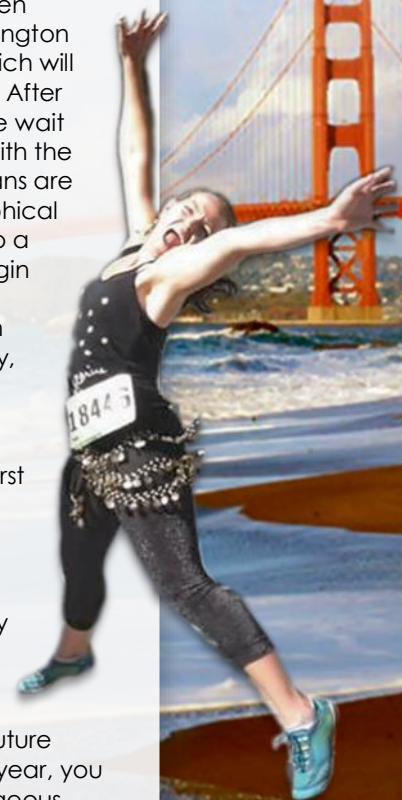
- **World AIDS Day Interfaith Service:** This service, which was hosted by St. Mark's in November, was the first interfaith worship gathering I have ever planned. Remembering the struggles of those who have AIDS as well as those who have been lost to this terrible disease with this community was an honor and something I will remember for a long time to come.
- **El Salvador Trip to Cordero de Dios:** Walking with our brothers and sisters in Christ has both challenged and renewed my passion for Christian mission. This relatively new relationship between our two congregations has the potential of changing many lives. It has been an absolute joy to join the St. Mark's community in its discernment of where the spirit is leading it among the people of El Salvador.
- **Christmas at St. Mark's:** St. Mark's works hard to make worship meaningful. Nowhere did I see this fact more than in the Children's Pageant. As I came down the aisle as a "Wise One" singing "We Three Kings" and sat with the kids, I felt a real divine presence that moved me in very new ways.
- **WinterFaith Shelter Walk:** St. Mark's cares about its surrounding community and stepped up during the first annual WinterFaith Shelter Walk in support of the Interfaith Winter Shelter. It was a privilege for me to help plan this walk and to join in with the passionate "St. Mark's Marcher's" team!
- **Israel/Palestine Trip:** Walking in the footsteps of Jesus and his disciples as

well as hearing about the situation in present-day Israel has opened my eyes to the real hope that dwells within Jesus Christ. This trip for me was an incredible lesson that taught the blessings and challenges of being a community on a global scale.

- **MLT Bible study:** Every Monday, I have walked over and led a bible study with a group composed of MLT residents and St. Mark's members. Together, we have shared, debated, learned, and appreciated each other through studying God's word and the words of other authors.
- **Coffee dates and visits with members of the congregation:** I have cherished the time that you have given me through your stories and experiences. I believe that as intern, these experiences have shaped me in ways beyond my understanding and will live well into my future ministry. Thank you for allowing me into these sometimes intimate moments.

Looking forward reveals many exciting moments to come! After my internship, Abby and I will volunteer at Holden Village in the mountains of Washington state for the month of August which will be very exciting and recharging! After returning from Holden Village, the wait for a new call starts in October with the assignment process: all seminarians are assigned first to a larger geographical region of the country and then to a smaller area synod. I will then begin interviewing with different congregations once I have been placed within a synod (most likely, this will happen around Thanksgiving 2013). Abby and I don't know to what area of the country God will lead us for my First Call yet, but intend to live in the Bay Area for the meantime while we wait. This means, you will probably see us at various points throughout the autumn and early winter!

St. Mark's has had a huge impact on my life and call as a future leader in our church. In the past year, you have shown me new and courageous ways of living out faith. Thank you for everything and may God's peace go with you always!



St. Mark's Travels to the Holy Land

April 19-29, 2013

A group of nineteen pilgrims (including one "honorary" St. Mark's member from Chicago) journeyed to the Holy Land from April 19-29, 2013. The trip was led by Pastor Ekdale and was organized by Bright Stars of Bethlehem, a non-profit organization that supports the educational and religious ministries of the Diyar Consortium, affiliated with Christmas Lutheran Church in Bethlehem.

We were able to visit three of the six ELCJHL (Evangelical Lutheran Church of Jordan and the Holy Land) churches, in Bethlehem, Ramallah, and Jerusalem and meet with Pastors Mitri Raheb and Imad Haddad. It was a joy to meet the children at the Evangelical Lutheran School of Hope in Ramallah! We spent an afternoon with Mark Brown of the Lutheran World Federation and were inspired by the LWF's work at Augusta Victoria Hospital in east Jerusalem.

We also walked with the historical Jesus, from his birthplace in Bethlehem, to sites commemorating his ministry in the Galilee, to his passion on the Via Dolorosa in Jerusalem. Being in Nazareth on the Orthodox Palm Sunday was a particular surprise, filled with parades, music, and young people carrying palms throughout the crowded streets. Other sites of interest on our trip were Masada, the Yad Vashem Holocaust Museum and Memorial, and the Dead Sea.

You'll find posts from our blog, a wonderful YouTube video set to music, and photos online at: <http://smic-sf-travels.blogspot.com/>

We invite you to become involved with our post-trip projects that will connect and strengthen relationships with our Christian sisters and brothers in the Holy Land. Among them are:

1. Joining the ACT Palestine Prayer Vigil for Peace (<http://actpalestineforum.org/vigil/>). Contact Jeremy McClain (jeremymcclain@me.com).
2. Attending the Palestinian Arts Festival in San Francisco from September 25-29, 2013. Contact Linda Krauskopf (jklmk@comcast.net) to join planning and support committee efforts. (See article on the Festival in this issue of The Voice.)



Suzanne Smith presents Pastor Imad Haddad of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Hope in Ramallah with a gift from San Francisco: a statue of St. Francis of Assisi.



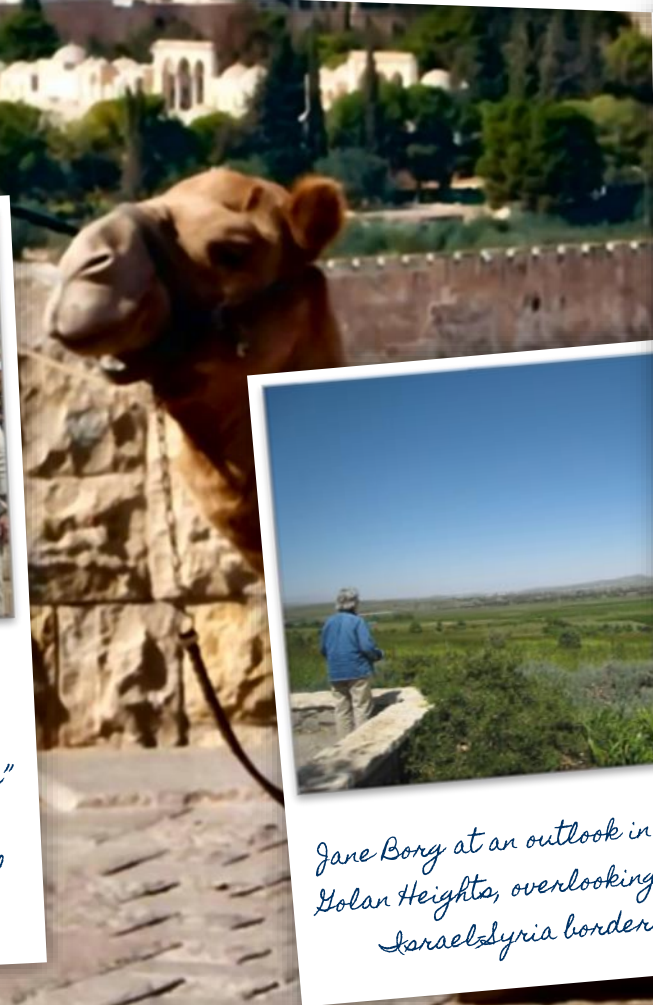
Andrew Sallack leads us in devotion near the site of ancient Caesarea Philippi.



Linda Krauskopf and her sister Ruth LaCroix Cour (honorary St. Mark's member from Chicago) are helped through the ancient ruins of Dan by Fred Blickle.



Through the Suitcase Ministry, travelers brought books from the United States to be donated to Dar al-Kalima College in Bethlehem and the Evangelical Lutheran School of Hope. Thanks to the many members of St. Mark's who contributed!



Jeremy McClain and Ed Chitty renew their vows in Cana, site of Jesus's wedding miracle.



Jane Borg at an outlook in the Golan Heights, overlooking the Israel/Syria border



A fun afternoon, covered in mud from the Dead Sea

Reflections from Travelers

Mary Ritter

Rev. Dr. Mitri Raheb is a Palestinian Arab and pastor of Christmas Lutheran Church in Bethlehem, in the Palestinian West Bank.

He acknowledges that for many years, he was "the one man show" trying to faithfully support the educational, cultural and spiritual needs of the Bethlehem community, but is now proud of the broad array of people and ministries which have grown from Christmas Lutheran and the International Center in Bethlehem.

We had a lovely lunch and visit with Rev. Mitri and his wife Najwa after worship at Christmas Lutheran. When we asked, "What can we do?", he encouraged "3 P's" – "Prayer, a Personal visit, and to Pick-a-project". Watch for ways St. Mark's will follow his direction as we walk with our Palestinian brothers and sisters.

Mitri Raheb is truly a remarkable man. He speaks a message of hope in a troubled time and place. He reminds us of the line from the familiar hymn: "Yet in thy dark street shineth the everlasting light..."

Debbie Halladay

It was such a thrill to travel through many of the key Biblical places that I've heard about all my life - Bethlehem, Jerusalem, Samaria, Cana, Nazareth, Dead Sea, Jordan River, and the Sea of Galilee. Somehow I had had an expectation to see everything to be on a different or even larger scale, so I have gained a more realistic understanding of the geography from seeing these places in person. It was also very gratifying to learn how Lutheran churches, schools and medical facilities are providing important services and hope in a troubled land.

Marge Okuley

I am so proud of my Lutheran Church through the Lutheran World Federation (LWF) for its work in the Holy Lands. Through the Department for World Service (DWS) there is a firm commitment to uphold the rights of the poor and oppressed to alleviate suffering, combat injustice and poverty and lay the foundation for a life of dignity for all. We saw their work in action at Hope Lutheran Church and School in Ramallah and at August Victoria Hospital (AVH) on the Mount of Olives in Jerusalem. One small project to help AVH's "Fund for the Poor" is to purchase their olive oil, which we will be doing soon.

Suzanne Smith

As a high school student in 1951, I read John Hersey's *The Wall* about the Warsaw ghetto during WWII, and Robert Frost's *Mending Wall* that starts: "Something there is that doesn't love a wall."



*We walked
the Via
Dolorosa,
culminating
in the Church of the
Holy Sepulcher, which
commemorates where Jesus
was crucified and buried.*

For me, walls have been a metaphor for banishing and forcing people to be "them" and "us" and blotting out any opportunity for understanding. I worked in East Palo Alto to break down the wall of the Bayshore Freeway and open that ghetto. I saw the Berlin Wall before and after it came down. When those walls were broken, it was not easy for folk to live openly together but the joy of people being free to unite and move was palpable.

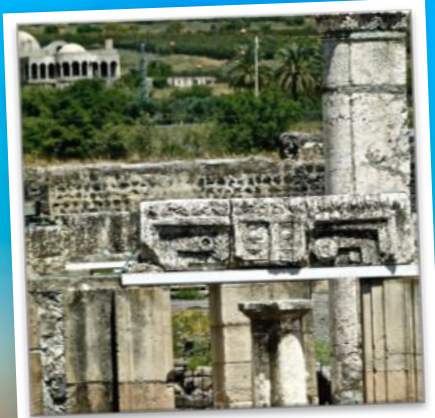
In Bethlehem we saw the wall making a Palestinian ghetto of the town, and check points reminding all of controls on where people are to be and are not to be. Then we went to the Western Wall where I prayed with hands on that Wall for peace in the Holy Land and the holy land of this world and its people. May the power of the prayers of peace at a broken wall lead us to the breaking down of barriers between people, clans and countries.



The Bethlehem home of Claire Anastas, who hosted us for lunch, is surrounded on three sides by the Separation Wall.



The ruins of the fortress at Masada helped us to better understand desert imagery in the Bible.



In the Galilee region, we visited the site of the synagogue in Capernaum, where Jesus taught and healed the sick (Mark 1:21).



We prayed at the Western Wall in Jerusalem.



Street art on the Separation Wall

Jane Borg

After our tour of the Dar Al-Kalima School in Bethlehem, I realized it was the first time during the trip I was left with the feeling that there may, indeed, be reason for hope for peace in this region.

Dar al-Kalima is open to and is attended by children, regardless of sex, religion or social standing. Their goal is to provide students with what's needed to bring peaceful coexistence among all nations in the region, including harmony and tolerance among both Christian and Muslim Palestinians.

The children we encountered seemed just like children anywhere, and as you can see by the photos, their classrooms could be classrooms anywhere in the U.S. The children were curious, engaging and very excited about our group visit -- and they all loved having their pictures taken!

Ruth LaCroix

As the one sojourner from Chicago, I was blessed to join my sister, Linda Krauskopf, and the St. Mark's Palestinian Pilgrims on an unforgettable Holy Land journey. Right now, my head is spinning with a myriad of experiences, while my feet have finally realized we are not walking five miles on cobblestones today! Briefly, I am struck by contrasts: waking up in the Anastas' home to see the Wall right outside my window---viewing the Sea of Galilee from our hotel in Tiberias; our bus breezing through checkpoints--- Palestinian cars being checked; fervent, joyous pilgrims on Via Dolorosa in Jerusalem---a monk at Capernaum, sitting in quiet solitude; eating an olive flatbread sandwich on a patio near Mt. Hermon and Syria---feeling unsettled about the war across that border; seeing reasons for Palestinians to feel despair under occupation---being inspired by their faith and determination to live in hope. I'll be retracing this faith-enriching journey for a very long time!



St. Mark's and MLT Senior Center

Senior Center Luncheons

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

Thursday, June 20

Wednesday, July 3 (4th of July BBQ!)

Thursday, August 15

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

Senior Center Trips

Senior Trips depart from Martin Luther Tower's Lobby at 10:00 am unless specified otherwise. There is a \$3 per person transportation fee to help defray the cost of gas. To sign up for a trip, please contact (or stop in to) the MLT office at 415.885.1084. (There will be no senior trip in June. Senior Trips for July and August will be announced soon.)

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 palates 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:

July 6
August 10
September 21
November 2
December 14

Energy, Ethics, and Climate Change: How We Got Here and What We Can Do About It

7:15–8:45 pm, Wednesdays, July 24 & 31 in Heritage Hall

During the month of July, St. Mark's will be focusing on the make-up and care of God's Creation. On July 24th and 31st, our congregation is honored to host a two-part lecture series on Climate Change and the future of energy use given by guest lecturer Daniel Wilson. Daniel is a doctoral student at the University of California Berkeley in mechanical engineering. His research focuses on designing new and cleaner cook stoves for families in the developing world: historically a major contributor to global CO2 emissions. Daniel has spent years helping to develop new techniques for tracking and understanding the impact of atmospheric "soot clouds" emitted from traditional cooking sources. He was recently selected as a Fulbright scholar and will continue his work and research in India at the beginning of 2014. All are welcome to come and learn about this important issue and how we as people of faith can help make a difference.

St. Marks Parents & Kidlettes Camping

July 26-28 at Big Basin

Welcome to our Third Annual St. Marks Family camping trip! We have a developed group site for up to 11 families at Big Basin and lots of nature exploration, crafts, campfires, smores, songs, and bbq.

Please RSVP to Lara Dickinson at larajdickinson@gmail.com and send your \$75 hold to cover the campfire reservation cost to Aron Bohlig, payable to St. Marks to cover the reservation. We will assess approximately \$55-\$75/family for breakfast and dinner and campfire wood costs during the weekend (depending on number who join).



Women's Monthly Study Gatherings

There will be no Gatherings in July and August. If you have any questions, please contact Suzanne Smith 415.285.7438 or suzathome@astound.net. See you in the fall!

Living With Loss: A Drop-in Group

You are invited to join us for this 7session group at St. Mark's for people who have experienced losses such as death, employment, relationship, or illness. We will be meeting Saturdays from 10am - noon on September 21 and 28, October 12 (Sunday 1pm-3)), November 2, 16, 23. Childcare can be provided if requested in advance. This series has a cost of \$10/session and stipends are available. Invite your friends. Everyone is welcome. Group sessions will be led by Kirsten Maier Smith and Jo Chadwick. Please let us know if you are planning to attend by contacting Kirsten Maier Smith (415)430-5126 or Jo Chadwick (415) 409-6294. Additional information will be available at later date.



Palestinian Arts Festival at San Francisco State University

September 25-29

Save the dates September 25-29 for our Palestinian Arts Festival at San Francisco State University, to celebrate and fundraise for students at Dar Al- Kalima University College of Arts, Culture and Drama in Bethlehem, Palestine. Stirring dance performances, art exhibitions, prize-winning student films, festive dinner and receptions with the renowned Rev. Mitri Raheb - all will showcase this remarkable Lutheran ministry in the Holy Land. An ecumenical committee is working together NOW to bring this ambitious program to our city and to benefit young Palestinian students. Can you join us in planning this event? Linda Krauskopf can connect you to the action! Call (415) 285-4424 or email: jkrauskopf7@comcast.net; or call the church office to volunteer.



LEWD & LASCIVIOUS

1965: DRAG QUEENS, MINISTERS, AND THE SFPD

On Saturday, June 22, at 1:30 pm in the Victoria Theater in San Francisco, the documentary that was 7 years in the making will have its world premiere at San Francisco's LGBTQ Film Festival, Frameline! Tickets go on sale May 31 at the Frameline box office.

The film features our own Jo Chadwick and Chuck Lewis who were present at a fundraising dance for the benefit of the newly organized Council on Religion and the Homosexual. The dance was raided by the San Francisco Police Department and three gay attorneys and one straight woman were arrested for interfering with the police in the line of duty. Later that evening two other men were arrested for lewd and lascivious conduct when they grabbed for each other while falling from two folding chairs on which they stood.

At trials held months later the case against the three attorneys and the one woman was thrown out of court for lack of evidence. The trial for the two men found them guilty, fined them \$250 each and forced them to register as sex offenders. The result of these trials and a legal suit against the police department and the city and county of San Francisco prompted a sea change in San Francisco as to how the police department treated the LGBT community at public events.

For additional information watch the trailer for the production at www.ComeTrueProductions.com.

Council Highlights

February 2013

- Welcome of new Council members and election of officers
- Passage of the Sister Parish Covenant with Cordero de Dios Lutheran Church in Soyapango, El Salvador
- Signed onto Synod Assembly resolution to fundraise for ELCA Malaria Campaign
- Designated funds from the Lenten boxes for the ELCA Malaria Campaign
- Passed motion to place funds designated for building fund into the elevator fund

March 2013

- Sought leadership for Easter Vigil reception and for the hospitality committee
- Continuing discussion about the Kairos Document regarding Christians in Palestine
- Laid out steps to bring the three-year strategic plan to a close
- Received sabbatical proposal themed "A Time Apart" from Pastor Ekdale
- Discussed misuse of upper parking lot by individuals with no affiliation with St. Mark's or events on the Square
- Discussed Pr Ekdale's sabbatical proposal

April 2013

- Accepted resignation of Hamilton-Lam as Treasurer
- Approved Pr Davis' use of a designated amount of her cash salary as housing allowance, in accord with IRS policy
- Approved sabbatical proposal and use of sabbatical funds by Pastor Ekdale
- Amended Reconciling in Christ statement with phrase "people of all sexual orientations and gender identities..."
- Began planning for Oktoberfest: Louie and Beck will assemble event committee
- Accepted new policies relating to gifts: "St. Mark's Gift Acceptance Policies & Guidelines" and "Policy Regarding the Appropriation of Bequests, Planned Gifts & Other Deferred Gifts Received Following the Death of a Donor"
- Discussion about gifts and discretion around how they are appropriated
- Post-Council Retreat discussion and brainstorming topic: "Big Noble Purpose"

Your Gifts at Work Annual Giving 2013



General Fund

One year pledge

No. of pledges 152 out of 251 possible

Pledged \$ 363,422

Received thru 05/31/13 \$ 169,939

Income versus Expenses

<u>Jan-Apr '13</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budget</u>
Income	\$ 233,387	\$ 234,240
Expense	\$ 223,264	\$ 238,159
NET	\$ 10,123	- \$ 3,919

Sacred Acts at St. Mark's

Join us in commemorating recent sacred events in our parish:

Baptisms

Elizabeth Josephine Catt-Rubald

on April 14, 2013

Adeline Rose McDonald

on April 14, 2013

Titus Darshan Vikneswarra

on April 21, 2013

Lillian Kristina Spaenle

on April 21, 2013



New Members

Received on March 30, 2013

Mary Birkel

Rachel Catt

Colin Williams

Starbucks and St. Mark's



The St. Mark's church we now know lived before—blocks away in a church building on Geary St. between Powell and Stockton where Macy's is now.

Although our roots trace to 1849 during the Gold Rush, the first church built especially for St. Mark's was constructed in 1866 on the spot where Macy's stands today on Union Square. And on the 3rd floor of Macy's is

Starbuck's Coffee overlooking the Square. I sat there recently with my cappuccino gazing at tourists loading their sight-seeing buses—musing that I might be sitting in the very spot where the cross stood atop the Geary St. church—and musing further how “space has different uses over time.”

Imagine yourself as a parishioner voting to move up the hill from Union Square way out of town to build a grand new church in the Western Addition on O'Farrell St. When our current church was completed in 1895 several items were transferred to the new building: the first organ (a Schoenstein), the chandelier (a gift from Adolf Spreckels), and a time capsule from 1866 (discovered during our renovation in 2005, smuggled in a niche in the foundation), all probably eagerly and lovingly transported up the hill on horse drawn carts—to begin new lives in our new church that has stood for 118 years.

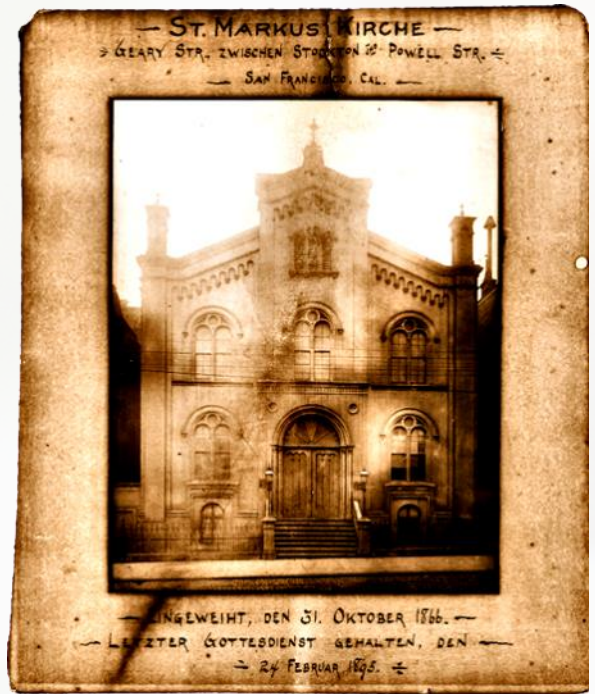
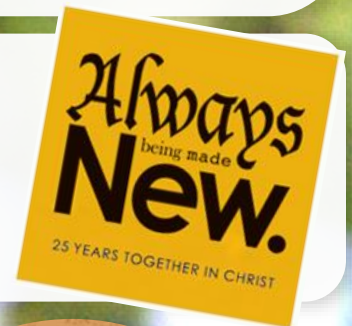


Photo of Geary St. church. Translation to English reads, “St. Mark's Church—Geary St. between Stockton and Powell Sts.—San Francisco, Calif. / Dedicated October 31, 1866. Last service held February 24, 1895.”

This is the 20th in a series of Tales from the Archives by Marge Jencks

Celebrate Rally Day on September 8!

The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America is celebrating its 25th anniversary in 2013 under the theme, “Always Being Made New.” What God is doing through us here at home and around the world is worth celebrating. On Rally Day, September 8, St. Mark's will mark the occasion by performing community service following our worship services. Please watch the announcements for more details on the celebration...God's work. Our hands.



Looking Ahead...Some 2013 Dates to Remember!

- Ministry Team Chairs Meeting Thursday, August 29
- Rally Day Sunday, September 8
- Blessing of the Animals Sunday, October 6
- Night Ministry Fall Gala Saturday, October 19
- Oktoberfest Saturday, October 26
- St. Mark's Congregational Retreat November 15-17
- WELCA Christmas Luncheon Tuesday, December 10
- Senior Center Christmas Dinner Friday, December 13
- Interfaith Homeless Shelter January 12-February 2, 2014 (tentative)





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Visitation Pastor

Carl Storey
Security

Shirley Liu
Elvira Markov
Johanna Najera
Nursery Attendants

Jenny Hart
Sunday School Coordinator

Suzanne Smith
Church Council President

St. Mark's Summer Worship Schedule

Sundays

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

Wednesdays

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

Church Office Summer Hours

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



Church Office Closures

For Independence Day:
Wednesday, July 4 and Friday, July 5

St. Mark's is a "Reconciling in Christ" Congregation

St. Mark's is one of over 315 congregations, 22 synods and 12 organizations across the ELCA and the ELCIC (Canada) which have declared that people of all sexual orientations and gender identities are equally welcome to join fully in the worship and life of this Christ-centered community. For more information, please contact Steve Krefting at krefting@stmarks-sf.org or 415.826.3124 or speak to one of the pastors.

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

The Rev. 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



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.