

St Mark's LUTHERAN CHURCH VOICE

QUARTERLY JOURNAL OF REFLECTION & NEWS

Church That Doesn't Steal Your Joy...

By Pastor Elizabeth Ekdale

This was the title of a blog written by a pastor while on sabbatical. I've been ruminating on his thoughts in light of returning from my vacation up in the mountains. I'm mindful of being the church that doesn't steal your joy. What do we do or not do that would help us retain and reclaim our joy, our passion for being the community of St. Mark's, for serving in Christ's name?

I'm wondering about the following...

Do you find comfort and hope and promise in the worship services? Look forward to receiving Holy Communion and being addressed by God's living word?

Do you enjoy reconnecting with friends and making new ones during coffee and refreshment time?

Is there safe space to confess the laments of your life and to express the gratitude in which you feel?

Do you delight in the child singing to her own tune in the pew behind you... feel inspired to greet the senior who sits by herself week by week... find yourself wanting to become more involved in serving Christ through one of our ministries? These are some of my questions – you may have your own. Come and share them with me. I'm eager to listen... eager for us to be the church that doesn't steal your joy.

Rally Day is Sunday, Sept. 9. The good and joyful news of God experienced through worship, fellowship, study, prayer, and serving is yours to receive. Can we be the church together that doesn't steal your joy? Come and see. Come and explore. Come and receive God's joy and delight in you.



St. Mark's Choir

If you have ever considered joining the St. Mark's Choir, now is a great time! The choir sings every week at the 11 am service, as well as some festivals and special liturgies. Some musical background is needed, but don't let that stop you from contacting our Director of Music, Timothy Zerlang (zerlang@stmarks-sf.org). Let him help you decide if this valuable and enjoyable ministry is right for you. Our first rehearsal this fall will be Wednesday, September 7, at 7:30 pm, but you can join us anytime.



Trip to Israel/Palestine Information Meeting with Pr. Elizabeth

September 23 at 1:00 pm in
Heritage Hall

Pastor Elizabeth will be organizing a trip to Palestine/Israel in April 2013. If you are interested in knowing more about this once-in-a-lifetime trip, come to this information meeting.

Rally Day & Ministry Fair

September 9

Join us for our Ministry Fair on RALLY DAY, September 9! Come to Heritage Hall after both services to learn about the great variety of St. Mark's Ministry Teams and their activities, including Hospitality, Social Ministry, Discipleship & Outreach, Education and Sunday School, Youth and Family, Worship, Property, and Stewardship. The Fair will coincide with Rally Day, a time when we kick off a new year of programs and ministries, as we return to Sunday School, Adult Forum, and so much more. Please join in celebrating this very important day in the life of St. Mark's!

RALLY DAY

RALLY DAY-SEPTEMBER 9
MINISTRY FAIR AT 10:10 AM & 12:15 PM

SUNDAY SCHOOL BEGINS SEP. 16
REGULAR SCHEDULE

9:40 AM - CHILDREN'S CHAPEL
10:00 AM - SUNDAY SCHOOL
10:45 AM - CLASS DISMISSED



Blessing of the Animals

October 7 at 9:00 am

Our Blessing of the Animals service honors St. Francis of Assisi and our wonderful animal companions that bring so much joy to our daily lives. The tradition of blessing animals reflects St. Francis' conviction that all of creation shares the same Creator, and therefore all creatures and plants are brothers and sisters. St. Francis' love of creatures arose from a deep and abiding sense of God's presence, which underlay all he said and did. Francis is patron saint not only of our city and Italy, but of ecologists as well.

All pets and their humans are welcome! Please ensure that pets are safely in carriers or on a leash. Photos of animals unable to attend are also welcome. Join us on Sunday morning, October 7, at the 9:00 am worship service to celebrate a St. Mark's tradition!



Oktoberfest October 27

Join St. Mark's members and Martin Luther Tower residents for a celebration of our German heritage and our life together on St. Mark's Square and in the community. This year's festivities will be all party, so bring your good spirits and a friend or two for an evening of fun, food, music, and fellowship - lederhosen are optional.

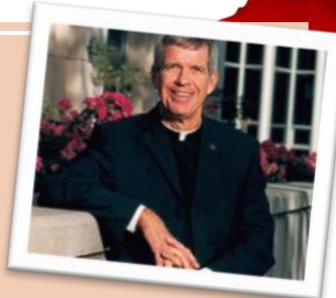
Chef Dean Atkinson and his faithful helpers will prepare a traditional German meal, and vegetarian options will be available. If you have friends who may want to experience a faith community outside of the church walls, bring them along. Save the evening of Saturday, October 27th.

Journeys in Faith Next Cycle Starts in November

The fall is upon us, which means that we will be starting up another Journeys in Faith cycle for those interested in baptism, affirmation of baptism, and membership. Those interested in participating are encouraged to attend an information gathering on September 16 or October 4. The cycle will begin on November 4. The Rite of Welcome will occur on the First Sunday of Advent, and Baptism/Affirmation of Baptism/Reception into Membership will occur at the Vigil of Easter. For more information about Journeys in Faith, e-mail journeys@stmarks-sf.org or speak to someone wearing a red badge at worship.

Reformation Sunday October 28

Our very special guest preacher will be President Stephen Privett from the University of San Francisco.



Rev. Stephen A. Privett, S.J., began his tenure as the 27th president of the University of San Francisco on September 15, 2000. Father Privett was born in San Francisco. He entered the Society of Jesus in 1960 and is a graduate of The Catholic University of America, the Jesuit School of Theology in Berkeley and Gonzaga University. His doctorate is in Catechetics and his particular expertise focuses on the Hispanic community in the Catholic Church.

Prior to his appointment at USF, Father Privett served as provost and academic vice president at Santa Clara University. As provost, he was responsible for oversight of student life, intercollegiate athletics, as well as academic affairs. While teaching at Santa Clara, he was recognized for "Teaching Excellence and Campus Leadership" with the Sears Roebuck Foundation Award.

We are so pleased to welcome President Privett to St. Mark's on Reformation Sunday, Oct. 28, to preach at both worship services and lead the Adult Forum between services.

Annual Thanksgiving Luncheon Sunday, November 18

Join fellow worshipers in Heritage Hall after the 11:00 am service for roast turkey and all the fixings. This is open to all—there will be a free will offering basket at the meal.

St. Mark's Thanksgiving Eve Service

Wednesday, November 21 at 6:45 pm
Note: there will be no supper this
Wednesday

If you stay in the Bay Area for Thanksgiving this year, please join St. Mark's for a Thanksgiving Eve Worship Service with Holy Communion. Pie and refreshments will follow the service in Heritage Hall. We look forward to seeing you there!



Women's Gatherings

In the spirit of today the Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America have chosen new language to describe their monthly magazine. It will be known as "**Gather**" and St. Mark's is continuing the theme by calling our study groups - **Gatherings**. All women are welcome to the Gatherings this autumn. There are two different groups meeting at different dates, times and using different study materials.

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

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 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm 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 books for the autumn are:

September 4 - *The Lemon Tree: An Arab, a Jew, and the Heart of the Middle East* by Sandy Tolan

October 2 & November 6 - *The Hidden History of Women's Ordination: Female Clergy in the Medieval West* by Gary Macy from Santa Clara University

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

All women are invited to bring a salad or sandwich and join us for study at 11:00 am and lunch and fellowship at noon. 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:

- September 11** Our Present, Christ's Presence
- October 9** Learning the Tough Stuff
- November 13** Nothing Lost

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

The first Charles Lewis Lifetime Achievement Award was presented to Pastor Chuck Lewis by ReconcilingWorks (formerly Lutherans Concerned/North America) in July 2012.



Adult Forums

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:

Meet St. Mark's Intern, Eric Huseth

September 16

Eric Huseth

Come and get to know St. Mark's intern for this year. He is working with St. Mark's and the Interfaith Council and will share his journey and ask us about St. Mark's.

The Gospel of St. Luke

September 23 & 30

Pastor Elizabeth Ekdale

A wonderful thing has happened, something that gives meaning in a complex world, order in the midst of chaos, and light in the midst of darkness. A Savior has come bringing God's timeless promises to a weary people. Luke presents the story of Jesus Christ as good news, challenge and hope. These forums will help to reacquaint you with this third Gospel. We will enter into the "Year of Luke" beginning with the First Sunday in Advent. Come and explore the Gospel of Luke with Pastor Elizabeth.

Crime and Its Aftermath

October 7 & 14

Chaplain Hans Hoch

These adult forms will explore the personal, social and theological experiences we have as a result of crime in society. The draft ELCA Social Statement on Criminal Justice will frame the discussions.

October 21

Maggie Garberg

October 28

President Stephen A. Privett from the University of San Francisco

Accompaniment – El Salvador, Palestine, & Closer to Home

November 4 & 11

Mary Ritter

St. Mark's will embark on trips to visit partners in ministry in El Salvador and Palestine, as well as continue to work with mission partners in our neighborhood. Come join the discussion as we prepare the action, reflection and celebration of our relationship with God's people in all these places and at home.

Let My People Go - Thinking about Liberation Theology

November 18

Dr. Margaret McLean

NO FORUM

November 25

Thanksgiving Weekend



2012 ELCA Youth Gathering

2012 Youth Gathering

By Andrew Sallach

Over 33,000 Lutheran youth and adult leaders converged on New Orleans! We Lutherans made our presence known when moving through the streets with colorful tee shirts and during our 'justice' projects in the community. Being in the presence of so many other like-minded youth was a priceless experience.

A highlight for all was the evening program in the Superdome when everyone was in one place. The speakers were incredible, lots of Christian rock, lights, and theatrics. The adult leaders especially were very impressed by the bold statements against bullying and in support of all diversities of people including people with different abilities, body type, race, gender, and sexual orientation. One inspiring speaker described our church as a bowl of gumbo, much like Dean made at our fundraiser, a mix of all types of different ingredients creating a wonderfully beautiful and delicious meal. A powerful anti-bullying segment concluded with Presiding Bishop Hanson calling for everyone to take action when they witness aggression toward, or neglect of classmates. "Make a difference" was a repeated message.

After the evening programs at the Superdome, the youth enjoyed dancing and meeting other youth at gatherings set up in ballrooms of the larger hotels.

The people of New Orleans welcomed this massive increase in population with smiles and great music. Everyone enjoyed meals of po'boys, red beans and rice, gumbo, and fresh seafood - sometimes with heads still attached.

This was Maria Anderson's final activity as our seminary student before moving to Minnesota for her year of internship. "What a great way to end my time with St. Mark's!" Maria said. We all felt proud to be part of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and inspired by the gathering.

Kilian Benson, Natalie Lehmann, and Astra Varian, along with adult leaders Maria Anderson and Andrew Sallach thank St. Mark's members and friends for your prayers and financial support to make this experience possible.

Bridges to Bethlehem: Coming and Going

By The Krauskopf's

Last March Pastor Elizabeth Ekdale travelled on a study tour to the Holy Land, returning for Holy Week at St. Mark's. She has shared her experiences and photos of that trip on numerous occasions with St. Mark's members since her return, heightening interest in a Holy Land pilgrimage for our members and friends, perhaps in April 2013. Pastor Ekdale toured in Israel and also visited Bethlehem in the Occupied Territories of Palestine, where she met with Pastor Mitri Raheb of Christmas Lutheran Church and Dar-Al-Kalima College. Pr. Raheb's ministry among Palestinians in Bethlehem and beyond its Separation Walls has won international recognition and acclaim. (St. Mark's members will recall Pr. Raheb's preaching at our church last September and the subsequent fund-raising Palestinian Festival at Grace Lutheran Church/Palo Alto benefitting Dar-Al-Kalima College.) Pastor Ekdale also connected with Claire Anastas and her daughter Oriana during her day in Bethlehem.

Meantime and simultaneously with Pastor's trip, several members of St. Mark's attended a Bay Area SABEEL Conference concerning Palestine and obstacles and solutions toward peace in the Holy Land. Reports from this conference will be given in the coming months. Watch the schedule for Adult Forums and other events, e.g. study of the 2009 Kairos Palestine Document.

Then this summer, another journey in faith brought teenager Oriana Anastas into the St. Mark's community through her homestays in June with John and Linda Krauskopf, and later in July with Georges Lammam and his wife Jeanette Cool. In this, her first overseas trip, in addition to San Francisco area sightseeing (and occasional Palestinian food and music!) Oriana shared a variety of activities with our youth and church members. Alexa Benson (senior staff counselor at Mt. Cross) led a personalized camp weekend for Oriana with Martha Jin, Carole Setzer and Linda Krauskopf, and an early Sunday morning breakfast introduced her to Debra and Astra Varian and Coco.

Carla, Monica and Natalie Lehmann treated Oriana to dinner in their home and viewing their seven new-born puppies. Sacramento youth groups from St. John's and Lutheran Church of Our Redeemer invited Oriana to join them in a two-day program and sleepover at St. Mark's. This San Francisco experience included Mission District sightseeing, a moving Wednesday night worship service led by youth (thanks to Maria Anderson for planning this!) and a late evening on San Francisco streets with Night Minister, Pastor Lyle Beckman. The following day the youth visited Sacramento (Bethlehem's Sister City) for a presentation on Sister City projects and a walking tour of the state capital buildings. As a St. Mark's farewell party at the end of June, Shelly, Scott and Erika Taylor hosted a festive backyard BBQ for all youth and families who had met Oriana.

Oriana concluded her U.S. stay with a week at a Middle-Eastern Music Camp in Mendocino, studying with musician Georges Lammam, then with the Krauskopf's in Chicago and rural Michigan, and finally a few days with her relatives near Detroit. She flew back home to Bethlehem the end of July and is now immersed in her senior year of high school. She left with many varied memories of her U.S. adventure and welcomes continuing contact with those she has met.

Note: It was a pleasure to bring this lovely and courageous Palestinian Christian girl from behind the walls surrounding Bethlehem, to host her in our family and share her with our St Mark's community. She was a blessing to us all!





Summer Day Camp

By Kimberly Hamilton-Lam

St. Mark's Lutheran Church's first summer day camp on the Square was a success. From July 16 to 20, twelve campers arrived every day for fun, singing, Bible stories and worship. The four dedicated Mt. Cross counselors lead by our own Alexa Benson were a fantastic team. The theme, Jesus Chooses Us, taught campers that Jesus chooses each of us to follow him, and teach others about God. It was a great week full of fun, laughter, and God's love. I want to thank the St. Mark's congregation for its support of this year's day camp. Special thanks to the daily volunteers, Counselor Host family, the Dinner Hosts and those that helped provide snacks and lunches to the campers and counselors. Also, donations made to this year's service project provided enough supplies for 20+ school kits that will be distributed by Lutheran World Relief to children whose lives have been disrupted by war or natural disaster. Without this help, Summer Day Camp 2012 would not have been possible. Thank you!



Parents with Kidlettes Campout

The August weekend campout in the Presidio included the Bohligh family, Dickinson family, Malone family, Haller family, Sall family, Semonian family, Tuominen/Jackson family, and the Beck/Greig family.



St. Mark's Future Staffing: Overview and Status of the Call Process

When St. Mark's bid farewell to Associate Pr. Christian Jennert, a comprehensive process began to reassess the staffing needs of St. Mark's and ensure that we are well-equipped to fulfill our congregational mission of being a growing Christian community that reaches out in service to the community and the world. This culminated in the creation of a Call Committee and the Call process that is currently underway. As we move into what we hope to be the final stages of this process and a decision regarding new staff at St. Mark's, it is a good time to review how we got to where we are today, and what you can expect to see over the next few months.

The Strategic Planning process completed by the congregation in May 2010 formed an important foundation for understanding our future staffing requirements. As a reminder, the congregation developed 7 goals for the next five years, and we remain committed to implementing these goals and ensuring the staff structure reflects these priorities. They are the following:

- Goal 1:** Broaden Opportunities for Adult Education
- Goal 2:** Create Lay Ministry Program
- Goal 3:** Improve Support for Clergy and Staff
- Goal 4:** Reinforce Healthy Communication
- Goal 5:** Expand Local and Global Ministry with Mission Partners
- Goal 6:** Create a New Marketing Strategy
- Goal 7:** Renew Commitment to Installing an Elevator

To focus in more clearly on the implications of our Strategic Plan and the latest congregation thinking on staffing requirements, Interim Pastor Paul Brenner conducted a series of conversations with members of the congregation and staff during 2011 regarding St. Mark's staffing, and presented this report to Council in October of 2011.

This report articulated staffing needs in key areas, especially:

- Expanding current programs to create a comprehensive ministry for children, youth, confirmation age and families

- Implementing Stephen Ministry
- Expanding and enhancing faith formation, adult education and small group ministries
- Providing vision and leadership for outreach

An ad hoc Council committee took Pr. Brenner's findings and created possible staffing scenarios to meet these needs, including the possibility of hiring a single full-time Associate Pastor, an Associate in Ministry (AIM) or a Diaconal Minister. This ad hoc Committee also suggested St. Mark's should be open to having a single full-time staff person, or one or two part-time staff to fill these roles.

Using this work as a foundation, the Call Committee was formed in February of this year. The Committee's first action was to set out the activities that would make up the call process in line with Synod guidelines. A point of emphasis for the Call Committee was to keep in mind that this is a call, and not just a job interview. In this spirit, the Call Committee ensured prayer was an important part of every Call Committee meeting and candidate conversation, and built in time in the process for fellowship, meditation and reflection to allow both St. Mark's and each candidate to discern the Holy Spirit's guidance.

The first stage was the development of a Ministry Site Profile (MSP). This profile is a 14 page report using a standard Synod template that describes in detail the St. Mark's community and the characteristics we desire in a candidate. In developing this profile, the Call Committee drew extensively from St. Mark's mission, the Strategic Plan, and the staffing assessment work of Pr. Brenner and the Congregation Council.

Once completed and submitted to the Synod, the Profile was made available to eligible candidates who then contacted the Synod office with their interest in St. Mark's. The Synod evaluated those expressing an interest, and provided a preliminary list of candidates to Pr. Ekdale. Pr. Ekdale conducted an initial videoconference conversation with each candidate, and in consultation with the Call Committee, narrowed the list to 4-5 candidates who then had subsequent videoconference conversations with the full Call Committee. Following these conversations and further discernment, the list of active candidates was further reduced.

The Call Committee is now entering the final stages of discernment with the

(Continued on page 9)

(Continued from page 8)

remaining candidates. This stage includes a ½ day visit to St. Mark's, including face-to-face conversations with Pr. Ekdale and the full Call Committee, fellowship over dinner, and a tour of St. Mark's. These site visits are planned for completion during September.

Following these visits, the Call Committee will meet to decide whether to recommend one of the candidates for Call. If the Committee does decide to recommend a candidate for call, the recommendation will first go to Church Council, and then a congregational meeting will be scheduled. During this congregational meeting, information on the candidate will be presented, and the congregation will vote on whether to move forward with a call, requiring a two-thirds majority of

members present to pass. If the congregation decides to move forward and the candidate accepts, the candidate will begin the process of transitioning to St. Mark's.

The Call Committee will continue to keep the congregation informed as we move through what we hope to be the final stages of this process. Please keep us in your prayers, and feel free to reach out to any of the members of the Committee if you have further questions or comments.

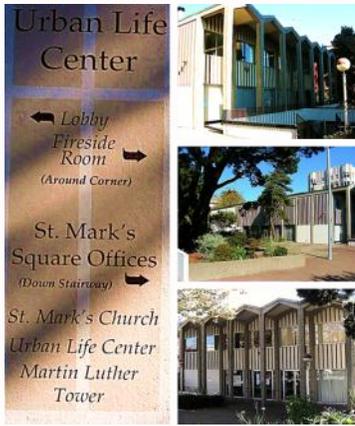
Members of the Call Committee:

Randy Schieber (Chair), Dean Atkinson, Pr. Elizabeth Ekdale, Diana Gomez, Ana Hurley, Marisa Louie, Bill Mooney, Kyle Schiefelbein

Development on the Square

By Suzanne Smith, Council President and Jon Moeller, MLT Board President

It was reported late last year that a Martin Luther Tower Board and Church Council sub-committee had begun exploring the development of additional affordable housing, including improved offices and community group space, on the Urban Life Center site. Initial meetings with various developers went well and we are blessed to be assisted in this effort, on a pro bono basis, by Jeff Kohler at The John Stewart Company, a knowledgeable development consultant and Justin Cooper, an experienced real estate attorney in the San Francisco law offices of Orrick, Herrington & Sutcliffe LLP. Barbara Engmann has also joined the MLT Board, bringing significant planning and development experience.



The catalyst for the work last year was the California Pacific Medical Center project and the announced \$100 million allocation for affordable housing. Our site was not allocated or considered for funding from the \$100 million because the site was not in the "queue" of potential projects.

To avoid missing a similar opportunity the sub-committee has issued a non-binding request for qualifications to prominent local developers of affordable housing. The goal of the process is to review these expert proposals and select a partner. The criteria for any prospective project has been agreed

upon by the MLT Board and Church Council and will continue St. Mark's mission to serve those in need and will provide space for church offices and church functions.

Informational sessions with interested members have been held in August and St. Mark's members who have additional ideas to offer should direct them to Suzanne Smith, Council President (suzathome@astound.net) or Jeremy McClain (jeremymcclain@me.com). MLT residents should direct their ideas to Jon Moeller (moellerj@mlt-sf.org).

SMOP News

SMOP (St. Mark's Our Planet) had three lovely events so far in 2012: A hike in the East Bay Hills with subsequent potluck at Sharon Reinbott's home, an exciting and fruitful habitat restoration event at Muir Beach in the Marin Headlands, and a stunning walk on the slopes of Mt. Diablo when we encountered the most beautiful Globe Lilies we've ever seen. SMOP hikes and service events are open to all St. Mark's members, including families with children. For more information or to be included in our early notification e-mail list, contact Tom Benson at takebenson@earthlink.net.



Spring SMOP hike in the East Bay Hills overlooking San Francisco



Installation of Pastoral Intern, Eric Huseith

*Farewell and
thank you*

to Pastor Chuck and Adolfo
for their time and ministry
at St. Mark's.



Senior Center Activities for Fall

Senior Center Meals

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

The upcoming dates are:

- | | |
|----------------------|--|
| September 20: | Senior Center Luncheon at 12 noon |
| October 18: | Senior Center Luncheon at 12 noon |
| October 27: | Oktoberfest and MLT Founders Day meal and celebration at 6:00 pm (see article in this newsletter.) |
| November 18: | Thanksgiving Luncheon at 12:15 pm |
| December 14: | Senior Christmas Dinner Celebration at 5:00 pm |

Senior Trips

Senior Trips depart from the Brockie Lounge at Martin Luther Tower. The trips generally take place on a Friday, and the usual departure time is 10 am unless indicated otherwise. There is a \$3 transportation fee to help cover the cost of gas. To RSVP please call the MLT office at 415.885.1084.

The Senior Trips for the fall are as follows:

- | | |
|----------------------|--|
| September 28: | Cathedral of Christ the Light in Oakland with lunch at Spenger's |
| October 12: | Sunset Garden Tour in Menlo Park with lunch at Nola |
| November 9: | Museum of California in Oakland with lunch at Dopo |
| December 7: | Crêche Exhibits in Palo Alto (lunch TBD) |

Seniors
IN ministry

Eight Annual **PICNIC** for Lutherans and friends

Thrivent's Annual Free BBQ Picnic

September 16

You are invited to join us for the annual picnic sponsored by the San Francisco Thrivent Chapter Board. All Lutherans are invited to attend. We only request that you let us know you're coming so we can plan.

- When: Sunday, September 16, 2012 - anytime 11:30 am-3:00 pm
- Where: Hellman Hollow in Golden Gate Park (formerly known as Speedway Meadow).
- What: A free BBQ picnic for the Lutheran community and any other friends. The day will have a WESTERN THEME, and there will be live music provided by "The Jenny Kerr Band" as well as a bouncy house and other activities.

Important note: Members of Thrivent Financial for Lutherans will cast votes for the local chapter election.

Please RSVP: Jo at 800.564.1293 or jo.zemke@thrivent.com.



Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary Founders' Day

September 26

Save the date for this year's PLTS Founders' Day on September 26, 2012. The speaker this year will be J. Kameron Carter, Associate Professor in Theology and Black Church Studies at Duke Divinity School. For more information and to register, visit www.plts.edu/news.html.

6th Annual herconference

November 2- 4, 2012

"Earth herbody – spirituality, politics and praxis for a sustainable world"
Womanist, Feminist, Mujerista, Native American and Minjung Perspectives (where faith traditions and goddess meet)

Keynote speakers: Dr Chung Hyun Kyung (Union Seminary) and Rev. Robyn Hartwig (EchoFaith Recovery)

A conference for women and men!

Registration includes keynote presentations, two workshops, musical, art, movement, two lunches, two breakfasts, Saturday dinner, coffee hours and receptions, materials and conference activities.

Registration Fee before 9/15: \$125

Registration Fee 9/15 & later: \$195

For more information, go to <http://herconferencesf.org> or www.herchurch.org.



Image by Katie Ketchum

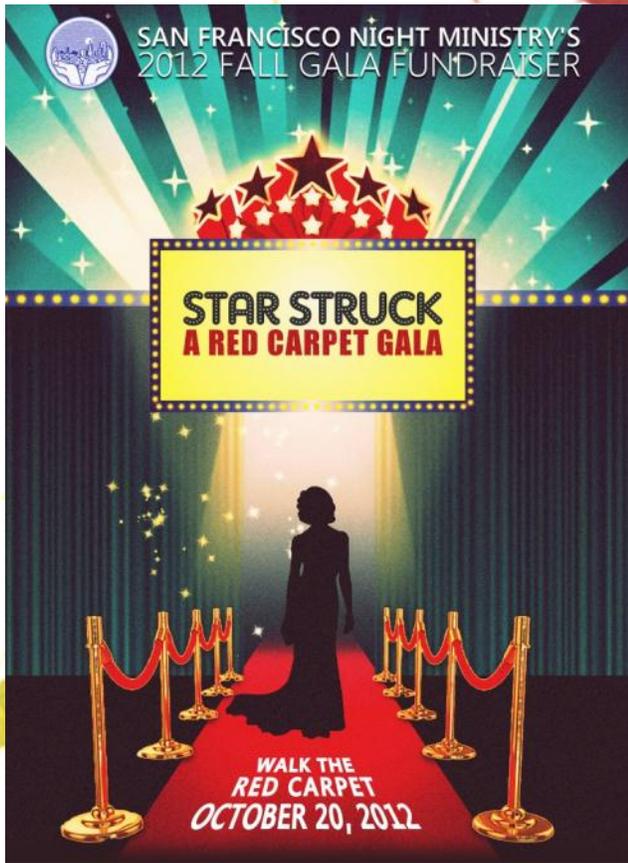


Interfaith Homeless Shelter at St. Mark's

November 18-December 16, 2012

Beginning Sunday, November 18, St Mark's will host the SF Interfaith Council Homeless Shelter for four weeks. Overnight housing, breakfasts and dinners will be provided for approximately 60 men each evening and morning in the Urban Life Center Auditorium. Please contact John Elford at j_elford@att.net if you can help. Be a part of St. Mark's Social Ministry...we look forward to serving with you!





ELCA Celebrates Its 25th Anniversary

The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) is celebrating its 25th anniversary beginning January 2013. Under the theme, "Always being made new" the 4.2 million-member church will embark on a year-long reflection on the people and events that have shaped this church and the life-changing ministries across the United States and overseas.

The ELCA is the largest Lutheran denomination in the United States, with about 10,000 congregations, 65 synods and numerous Churchwide ministries.

"In 25 years we have started 435 new congregations, ordained nearly 8,000 pastors, sent more than 2,000 missionaries to serve in the world, and contributed more than \$350 million toward the alleviation of hunger and poverty," according to ELCA Presiding Bishop Mark S. Hanson.

"We are a church that is deeply rooted -- and always being made new. Our roots are in Scripture, tradition and the Lutheran Confessions, as well as in the vibrant communities and rich histories of our congregations. These roots are an ongoing source of nourishment, enabling us to be a church that is resilient, always reforming and guided by the Holy Spirit," said Hanson.

The anniversary theme is based on 2 Corinthians 5:17: "So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new!"

For more information about the anniversary and to view a special timeline that chronicles some of the ELCA's most significant events, visit www.ELCA.org/25.

About the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America: The ELCA is one of the largest Christian denominations in the United States, with 4.2 million members in 10,000 congregations across the 50 states and in the Caribbean region. Known as the church of "God's work. Our hands," the ELCA emphasizes the saving grace of God through faith in Jesus Christ, unity among Christians and service in the world. The ELCA's roots are in the writings of the German church reformer, Martin Luther.

www.ELCA.org/news | Facebook: www.facebook.com/Lutherans | Living Lutheran: www.livinglutheran.com

Church Mice Tales

There are Ghosts in Those Pages!

German immigrants flooded San Francisco during the Gold Rush of 1849, seeking their fortunes in California. The beginnings of St. Mark's date back to this era, and Germans kept lots of records!

There are parish registers carefully stored in our archives dating back to 1860, listing baptisms, confirmations, marriages, and deaths. (There are even copies of a

couple's 1856 marriage certificate and baptism certificates for their children born in 1859, 1862, and 1867, all signed by the founding pastor of St. Mark's, Rev. Frederick Mooshake.) The flourish of old German script in the ledgers is still apparent, even in the faded ink and stale moldy smell of fragile pages. These ledgers are a goldmine of information for genealogy researchers. We receive about ten requests a year from family members interested in tracing their ancestors,

seeking dates of marriages, or witnesses names, or place of origin for brides and grooms, or entries for baptisms of someone's great-great grandparent's children, or dates of death.



An archival parish registry open to pages showing entries for marriages in 1867.

Oh, surely, there are ghosts in our treasury. They sleep there, but I've seen them awaken and float up from the pages to greet me and briefly escape from their dark closed musty storage place, eager to yield their secrets.

I've felt 19th century pastors carefully and dutifully open a ledger book, and in dim light with pen in hand and inkbottle nearby, create the latest entry. Never mind that it might have happened 150 years ago—I've seen them.

This is the 17th in a series of Tales from the Archives by Marge Jencks

Council Meeting Highlights

April 19, 2012

- Pr. Ekdale reported learning much about the complex history of Palestine and Israel on her recent trip sponsored by the Jewish Community Relations Council.
- Discussed church member database and new visitor pew cards.
- Reported large attendance on Easter Sunday of 514 total for both services.
- Agreed to host homeless shelter an extra week, Nov. 18 to Dec. 16, contingent on help with breakfasts and dinners.
- Reported use of contingency funds to cover costs of increase in outreach efforts.
- Council thanked for approval of Site Ministry Profile, the first step of call process.
- Pr. Witschorik to be lead planner for congregation retreat June 16-18 at San Damiano.
- Appointed Robert Rathmell to Endowment Committee and Mary Carlton Lull to Council to fill vacancy left by Linda Jackson's resignation.
- Appointed committee to recommend policies for interacting with homeless.
- Announced initial steps to consider redevelopment on the Square.

May 17, 2012

- Interfaith Council Executive Director Michael Pappas addressed Council regarding shared internship of Eric Huseth and proposed Sunday parking meter changes that would direfully affect religious communities in San Francisco.
- Approved 2 additional months of stipend for Maria Anderson to work with youth.
- Discussed need for full-time social worker at MLT.
- Announced contribution of Carillon Tower toward new gate near handicap ramp.
- Reported that police recommend consistent policy enforcement relating to homeless to reduce impact.

- Announced beginning of coordinated effort to engage developer for Square, including importance of expressing our expectations and desire to be transparent and proactive.
- Announced Synod approval of Site Ministry Profile and listing on Synod website.

June 21, 2012

- Announced that Eric Huseth will begin his Internship at St. Mark's on August 1.
- Reported that Pr. Witschorik has accepted teaching position at SF University High School; his last Sunday at St. Mark's will be August 26.
- Plans for Day Camp the week of July 16 will include 4 Mt. Cross counselors on site.
- Stressed desire to maintain open space on Square, should development unfold.
- Slate of candidates responding to our announcement for a call via the Synod process has undergone initial interviews.
- Lenten Box offerings of ~\$1000 were divided equally to provide \$500 each to Lutheran World Relief for safe water systems in Africa and to local Women's and Children's Community Center in the Tenderloin.
- Announced Sierra Pacific Synod website report on the Synod Assembly held May 18-20, 2012, describing highlights, resolutions passed, elections and other business.
- Approved plans to relocate Nativity Window to Columbarium area and install picture rails in Heritage Hall.
- Embarked on further discussions of need for safety policies on Square, including availability of phone numbers for emergencies.
- A second trip to our sister congregation in El Salvador is tentatively planned for Thanksgiving weekend. Matt and Allana Helland will lead this effort.
- Discussed plans for Oktoberfest to be held on October 27, 2012 in Heritage Hall.

Your Gifts at Work Annual Giving 2012

General Fund

One year pledge	
No. of pledges	177 out of 210 possible
Pledged	\$ 362,564
Received thru 07/31/12	\$ 224,298

Income versus Expenses

<u>Jan-Jul '12</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budget</u>
Income	\$ 283,878	\$ 287,106
Expense	<u>\$ 259,485</u>	<u>\$ 302,538</u>
NET	\$ 24,393	- \$ 15,432

Sacred Acts at St. Mark's

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

Memorial

Art Michel, June 3, 2012

Love is in the Air

If you are anticipating a wedding on the horizon, or interested in learning more about getting married at St. Mark's, please email Elizabeth Baldrige at baldrige@stmarks-sf.org or call the church office.

St Mark's

LUTHERAN CHURCH

1111 O'FARRELL STREET, SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94109
(415) 928-7770 PHONE | (415) 928-8534 FAX

www.stmarks-sf.org

Staff

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

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

Jun Ranches
Director of Church
Administration & Operations
ranches@stmarks-sf.org

Ann Dayton
Parish Administrator
dayton@stmarks-sf.org

Cheryl Garcia
Bookkeeper
garcia@stmarks-sf.org

Elizabeth Baldrige
Events Administrator
baldrige@stmarks-sf.org

Eric Huseth
Pastoral Intern
huseth@stmarks-sf.org

The Rev. Chuck Lewis
Visitation Pastor

Carl Storey
Security

Shirley Liu
Elvira Markov
Johanna Najera
Nursery Attendants

Jenny Hart
Sunday School Coordinator

Maggie Garberg
Teaching Parish Students

Suzanne Smith
Church Council President

St. Mark's Worship Schedule

Sundays

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

Wednesdays

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

Church Office Hours

Monday through Friday
9 am to 5 pm



Office Closures

The office will also be closed on November 22 and 23 in observance of Thanksgiving.

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

St. Mark's is one of over 315 congregations, 22 synods and 12 organizations across the ELCA and the ELCIC (Canada) which have declared that 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



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

