

DECEMBER 2012 | JANUARY - FEBRUARY 2013

St Mark's LUTHERAN CHURCH VOICE

QUARTERLY JOURNAL OF REFLECTION & NEWS



Art by Diane Haavik

Advent Reflections

We will center our lives and our hopes once again on the one true promise – the coming of Christ into our world bringing healing and peace for all.

“Mom,” Grace asked, “What is Black Friday?” I did my best to explain why Target, Wal-Mart and Best Buy were attempting to entice shoppers through their doors on Friday (or Thursday as it turns out) without going into too much economic detail. The newspaper advertisements are tempting and the Christmas catalogs downright alluring for a 9 year old or a 51 year old, for that matter. I can’t toss them into the recycling container fast enough.



The Season of Advent is a simple yet powerful gift for our lives amidst the cacophony of noise and empty promises. We will center our lives and our hopes once again on the one true promise – the coming of Christ into our world bringing healing and peace for all. In our family, we use meaningful daily rituals to remind us of this poignant season. We light the candles on our Advent Wreath every evening. Their glow

reminds us of the Light that shines in the darkness – and the darkness cannot overcome it. The Advent Calendar is opened the very first thing each and every morning. We remember that Jesus was born into poverty which inspires us to focus our Christmas giving on gifts that will make a difference.

“But just how do you wrap a duck, Mom, and send it to a family?” Grace wanted to know. The answer – You don’t have to! Just log onto www.elca.org/goodgifts and they will do it for you. And not only can you send a duck but a pig or cow or alpaca to a family in Kenya or wherever such a gift is most needed. God’s global barnyard makes a difference in the lives of others and in the world.



All too soon, it will be over . . . Christmas decorations packed up and put away, trees discarded on the sidewalk, our beautiful Candlelight Christmas Eve services a distant memory. But I’ll be thinking about that duck in the New Year . . . hoping that whoever receives it, knows it has been given with a lot of love and prayer by a certain 9 year old in San Francisco.

Advent, Christmas and New Year blessings to you!

Pastor Elizabeth Eddole

Center Your Heart and Renew Your Spirit in the Season of **ADVENT**



Advent Vesper Service

December 5 at 7:00 pm

Don't miss our third annual Advent Vespers with our special guests, the choir of St. Mary's Cathedral. Our own Dr. Zerlang will direct the St. Mark's Choir and the choir of St. Mary's in music by Britten, Tavener, Tschnesnokoff, and others, with candlelight, lessons, carols and more. Join us for a time of musical meditation and preparation for the coming of our Lord.

Midweek Advent Worship

December 12 & 19 at 6:45 pm

Holden Evening Prayer with candle-lighting

Parents with Kidlettes Holiday Activities

December 2: Advent Fair

Advent Wreath-making! Fair Trade Shopping! Parent Toy Swap just in time for the Holidays, Gifts from Bethlehem, and Advent Calendars for the entire congregation from our St. Mark's Sunday School children. Come to Heritage Hall from 10 am-12 pm and stay on for Refreshments after the 11 am service.

December 8: Babysitting at St. Mark's

St. Mark's Nursery Attendants will babysit from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm so parents can go shopping. Suggested fee for babysitting is \$20/child for four hours of babysitting.

December 15: Pageant Rehearsal and Holiday Cookie Swap and Potluck

9-11 am: Christmas Pageant Rehearsal
11 am-1 pm: Cookie Baking Swap and Holiday Potluck Party

December 22:

9-11 am: Christmas Pageant Rehearsal

December 24: Christmas Pageant

Followed by holiday refreshments

You are invited to celebrate
CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES
Monday, December 24

5:00 pm

ENTER

Enter the Wonder of Childhood Again with the popular Christmas Pageant.

Favorite Carols, Candle-lighting, Youthful Exuberance.

8:00 pm

RESTORE

Restore your Spirit with a Peaceful Service of Sacred Readings, Carols, Candle-lighting, Holy Communion.

10:00 pm

EXPERIENCE

J.S. Bach's variations on *From Heaven Above to Earth I Come* and D. Buxtehude's Christmas cantata *The Newborn Little Child* with the St. Mark's Choir and Orchestra

10:30 pm

CONNECT

Connect With the Sacred in a Festive Midnight Mass. Joyous Music, Centering, Candle-lighting, Holy Communion.

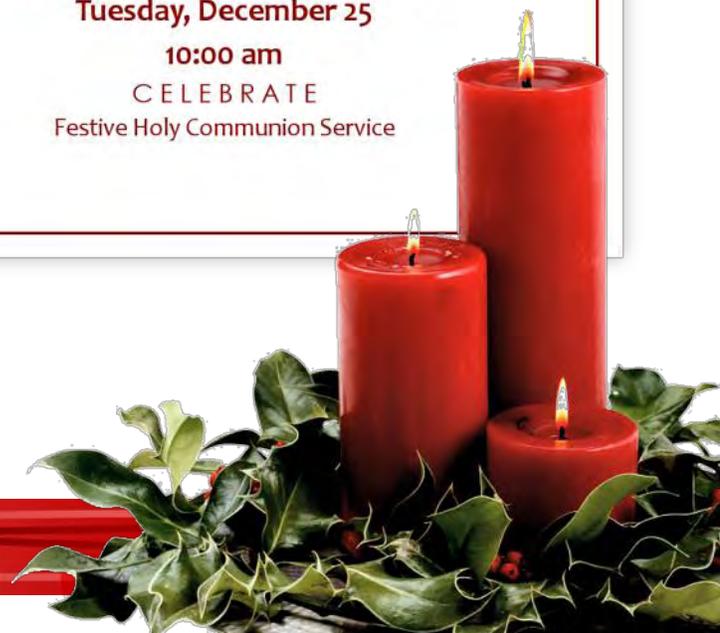
CHRISTMAS DAY SERVICE

Tuesday, December 25

10:00 am

CELEBRATE

Festive Holy Communion Service





Sounds of the Season

December Concerts at St. Mark's

- DEC 01 7:00 pm 🎵 San Francisco Lyric Chorus
- DEC 02 4:00 pm 🎵 San Francisco Choral Artists
7:30 pm 🎵 San Francisco Early Music Society
- DEC 07 8:00 pm 🎵 Volti
- DEC 08 2:00 pm 🎵 Sunset Youth Orchestra
- DEC 09 4:00 pm 🎵 Magnificat Baroque
7:30 pm 🎵 International Orange Chorale
- DEC 14 7:30 pm 🎵 School of the Arts
- DEC 15 8:00 pm 🎵 Young Women's Choral Projects
- DEC 16 2:00 pm 🎵 School of the Arts

Zerlang Piano Concert

Sunday, January 20 at 2:00 pm

Join us for a Piano Concert by our own Dr. Timothy Zerlang.



Christmas Decorations

Once again this year, we are asking for contributions to St. Mark's Christmas decorations in honor of, or in memory of, a loved one. Look for a bulletin insert in the coming weeks which will have more details. The insert may be completed and mailed to the church office or dropped it in the offering plate on Sunday morning. Your donations are put toward the cost of Christmas trees and poinsettias. Thank you for your holiday generosity!



Expanding OUR WELCOME

By Dale Loepp

I'm sure you've noticed the wide array of people that the Holy Spirit brings through our doors each and every Sunday: long-time attenders, guests, tourists, old friends—and people searching for a congregation where they can be at home and in which they can play a vital role.

In December we will observe the joyful celebration of five new people that are discerning a call to affirm their baptism and strengthen their relationship with God and our community. Those of us present will take on a particular responsibility during the welcoming liturgy: "Will you help them in their faith journey to hear the gospel of Christ and come into this household of faith?" And we will all respond: "We will, and we ask God to help us." What a challenging and awesome promise we make in the presence of God!

If you're an introvert like me, reaching out to people you don't know can be challenging—if not even a bit stressful. Because of our natural hesitations it's easy to slip into the delusion that welcoming others isn't all that important or maybe that it's someone else's job. Pastoral theologian Christine Pohl succinctly states it this way: "Christians sometimes see *hospitality as a nice extra if we have the time...but we rarely view it as a spiritual obligation or as a dynamic expression of vibrant Christianity.*"

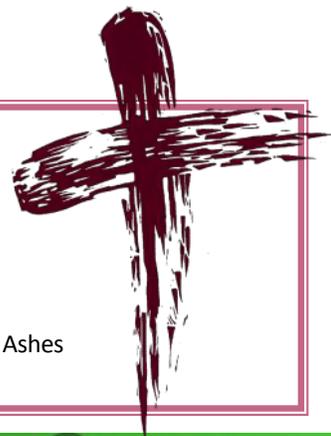
Fortunately, our congregation is blessed with some very special "welcomers" who constantly remind me that hospitality is not a one-off experience; it's a lifetime calling and one that we have to grow into. As someone who has attended St. Mark's for a number of years, I'm *still* touched by the spirit of people who continue to make me feel welcome every Sunday morning.

During the next few months, take time to seek out these new people that God has brought into our midst. Learn to know them. Pray for them. Watch for them during our communal blessings up to and through the Easter season. Take that one additional step to enrich and expand our welcome to those who are responding to the call of the Spirit.

Lent Begins with Ash Wednesday on February 13, 2012

12 noon and 7:00 pm

Worship Services with Imposition of Ashes





St. Mark's Honored for Going Green

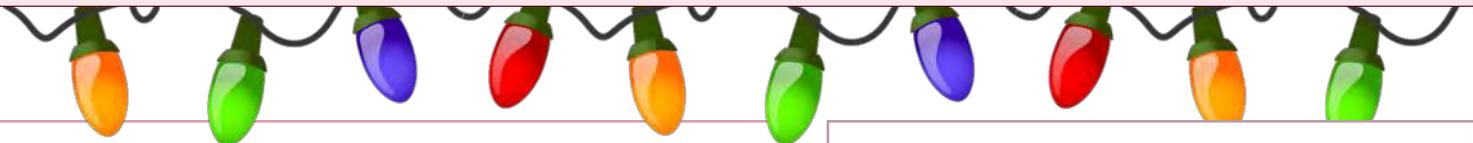
On Tuesday, November 20, 2012, the San Francisco Interfaith Council held its annual Interfaith Thanksgiving Prayer Breakfast. The theme was "Going Green: Honoring Congregations & California Interfaith Power & Light for Their Environmental Leadership." St. Mark's was honored and given an environmentally correct plaque. Some of the steps St. Mark's has taken to be greener are seen in the following description written by Gary Shilling, who spearheaded much of the environmental work around the church.

St. Mark's Lutheran Church made a green leap of faith six years ago when they recycled their 1895 building. Rather than demolish their seismically challenged brick structure and send it to landfill, they met the City's challenge to strengthen their

unreinforced masonry building and give it a second life, preserving the old-growth timbers in the roof and reducing the carbon footprint of the retrofit to a fraction of that associated with new construction. St. Mark's was also able to incorporate new energy-efficient building systems as part of the project and replaced antiquated electrical, mechanical and plumbing systems with new equipment and components such as: insulated piping for domestic water and hydronic heating; low-flow toilet and urinals; and lighting controls and dimming systems that reduce energy consumption and extend lamp life. The building's brick walls, now thickened with additional concrete, provide thermal mass that reduces heating and cooling requirements. The mechanical system captures hot air near the ceiling of the

sanctuary and recirculates it to reduce heating loads on cool days. Supplementing the original hydronic radiators with ducted air circulation brings fresh air into the building and improves the quality of the interior environment.

St. Mark's has containers throughout the building for recyclables and collect compostable materials. Outside, the congregation has planted trees and groundcover plants, installed a drip irrigation system, and with the help of congregants and primarily senior residents from the next-door Martin Luther Tower, developed a vegetable garden on the south side of the church building. In the coming months, St. Mark's will install bicycle racks and is researching options to replace incandescent lamps with LEDs that produce less heat and conserve energy."



Interfaith Food Pantry 2013 Dates

The Interfaith Food Pantry is held every Saturday at the Old First Presbyterian Church, and is a collaborative effort of five local churches: Calvary Presbyterian, First Unitarian Universalist Society of San Francisco, Old First Presbyterian, St. Luke's Episcopal and St. Mark's. The churches take turns hosting the pantry once every six weeks. The sixth week is a shared effort of all the churches. Food is purchased from the San Francisco Food Bank and delivered fresh on Saturday mornings.

All Faiths' Days are: February 9, April 20, June 22, September 28, December 7

St. Mark's 2013 Pantry Dates are:

- January 5
- February 23
- April 6
- May 18
- July 6
- August 10
- September 21
- November 2
- December 14

San Francisco Interfaith Council Monthly Breakfast

The San Francisco Interfaith Council has for 20 years brought people of different faith traditions together, bringing spiritual comfort at times of crisis, building understanding among various religious traditions, celebrating our diversity, and coordinating services to the citizens of San Francisco. The Council's breakfasts are held on the second Thursday of each month from 8:00 am to 9:30 am in Heritage Hall. All are invited and encouraged to attend this monthly breakfast.



The next breakfast is Thursday, December 13, 2012.

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:

DECEMBER 2

Report from the El Salvador Trip

Come and hear about the trip that members of our congregation made over the Thanksgiving week to visit El Salvador and our sister congregation, Cordero de Dios in Soyapango.

DECEMBER 9 & 16

The Luther-an Revolution

Dale Loepp

When it came to reading, translating, and interpreting the Bible, Martin Luther's approach was truly revolutionary—both in his time and even still today. Come learn about Martin Luther's encounter with the Bible and see how his approach continues to both free and challenge contemporary Christianity.

DECEMBER 23 & 30

CHRISTMAS BREAK: NO FORUMS

JANUARY 6

ELCA Malaria Campaign

In 2009, the ELCA launched a \$15 million campaign to eradicate malaria -- a disease which is both preventable and treatable. St. Mark's recently received an anonymous \$25,000 challenge grant from a member of the congregation that provides a dollar-for-dollar match for our members' gifts to the campaign. Come hear Edie and Denny Lott from the Sierra Pacific Synod Hunger Network and learn how St. Mark's can provide bold leadership and stand in solidarity with others in the fight against malaria.

JANUARY 13

It's quiz bowl time!

Come enjoy a fun-filled game of malaria Jeopardy! You'll learn more about the ELCA's \$15 million malaria campaign and leave amazed and hopeful about the work to eradicate malaria as we know it.



JANUARY 20

Preview Council Candidates & Annual Meeting Budget

Come and learn about the agenda and issues and Council candidates being presented at the congregational meeting the following Sunday.

JANUARY 27 AND FEBRUARY 3 & 10

Kairos Palestine – A Moment of Truth

This document, written by Christian leaders in Palestine, is Christian Palestinians' word to the outside world - especially to Christians - about what is happening to Palestinians living under the Israeli military Occupation.

JANUARY 27

Overview of KAIROS PALESTINE

How and why did this document emerge from Palestine's Christian community? Discover the urgency of its message. Explore Christian theology and Biblical interpretation in the context of Palestine today. What is the meaning for Palestinians of Faith, Hope and Love amidst the reality of military Occupation and international inaction?

FEBRUARY 3

The Daily Realities for Palestinians

The daily realities for Palestinians and effects on them of continuing oppression under Israeli military occupation are described in KAIROS PALESTINE. What is the Israeli government's justification for their policies? How do Palestinian Christians react? How do they understand the Church's mission, and Palestine's mission in the world, rooted in history, geography and Biblical theology?

FEBRUARY 10

KAIROS PALESTINE's Call to Action

What does the Lord require of us as Christians in light of these realities? What message is here for the international community? Consider the Boycott, Divestiture and Sanction movement and other nonviolent resistance actions working to bring about change, justice and peace for all in the Holy Land. How can we support our fellow Christians in Palestine?

FEBRUARY 17 & 24

Living Lutheran During Lent

Pastor Ekdale



Women's Monthly Study 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 • 6:30 pm-8:30 pm • 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's 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 winter are:

- December 4 *Mighty be Our Powers: How Sisterhood, Prayer and Sex Changed a Nation at War* by Leymah Gbowee and Carol Mithers
- January 8 *Any Brother Cadfael Mystery* by Ellis Peters
- February 5 *The Buddha in the Attic* by Julie Otsuka

Second Tuesdays • 11:00 am-1:00 pm • 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:

- December 11 *The Life of Women in Palestine*
- January 8 Epiphany Luncheon with a Presentation on Icons by Deborah Halladay
- February 12 *Gathered by God*

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

A Virtual Tour of the Holy Land

Wednesdays at 7:15 pm in Heritage Hall beginning January 9, 2013

Planning on traveling with the St. Mark's group to Israel/Palestine next year? Can't go with the group but would love to learn more about Holy Land anyway? If so, please join us on Wednesday nights after supper and worship for a new series, *Sacred Geography: History and Reality in the Land Called Holy*.

Beginning on January 9, we will embark on our virtual tour to places such as Bethel, Bethlehem, the Dead Sea, and Nazareth and discuss the history and religious significance of these and other sacred places. Dale Loepp will lead us using photos, videos, maps, and (of course) the Bible, as we explore how events in time have shaped these places into what they are today. During the Lenten season we will focus specifically on the city of Jerusalem and how the central narratives of Christianity—the death and resurrection of Jesus—along with events in Judaism and Islam have all impacted this fascinating and complex city.

Please join us!

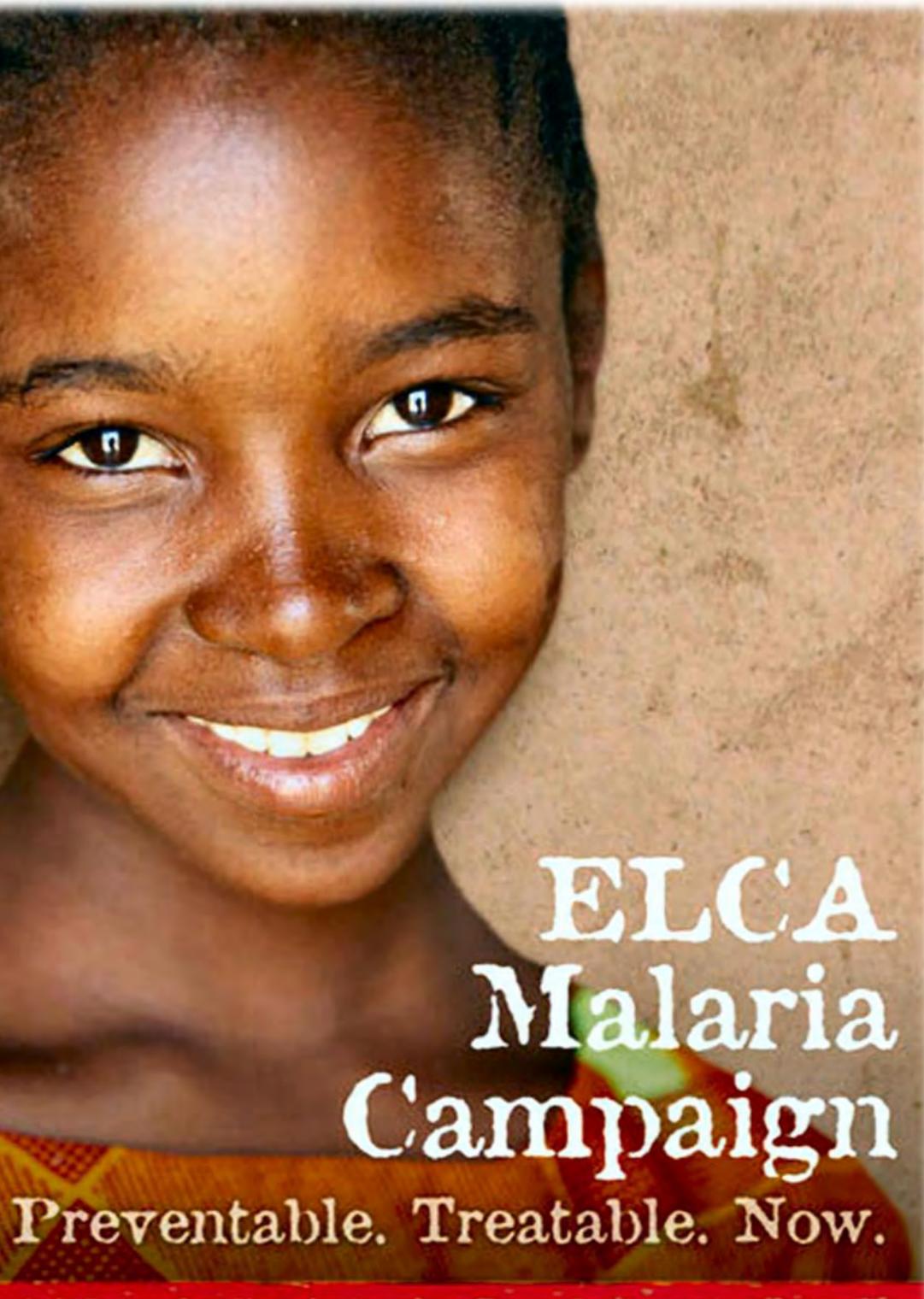
Pastor Elizabeth will be leading a group of parishioners to the Holy Land, April 19-29, 2013. Please contact her at ekdale@stmarks-sf.org if you are interested.



Holy Land Photos Courtesy of Pastor Elizabeth

Pastor Elizabeth giving a presentation on her trip to the Holy Land at the monthly Women's Gathering

ELCA Malaria Campaign: SAVING LIVES



ELCA
Malaria
Campaign

Preventable. Treatable. Now.

By Brandee Marckmann

The day our son Henry was born, my husband Bill and I nearly experienced every parent's nightmare. A nurse discovered him pulseless nearly an hour after he was born. "Code blue!" she shouted as she wheeled him out of our hospital room.

No, no, no! This isn't happening! I thought.

Henry was resuscitated by CPR. However, he did not regain consciousness when he started breathing. Our newborn was in a coma. We feared the worst.

Two hours after the incident occurred, we learned that Henry had gained consciousness and had yanked out his own breathing tube! We were lucky. Very lucky. Today, Henry is thriving.

A year ago I saw a brochure at St. Mark's about the ELCA's \$15 million campaign to eradicate malaria. The statistics I read were heartbreaking: Malaria kills 655,000 people each year, and most are children under five. That's a child every 60 seconds. I shook my head, thinking, it's not fair that my baby had access to state-of-the-art medical treatment while other babies die of a disease that is preventable and treatable.

5 top gifts with a purpose

The ELCA is joining hands with eleven Lutheran church bodies in Africa to become part of an historic global movement to say, “enough is enough!” and eradicate malaria. The campaign is saving lives. Recently, at an ELCA-sponsored medical center, a toddler with malaria received a life-saving blood transfusion and treatment to kill the remaining parasites in his blood.

That’s just one of many success stories. Grassroots strategies of the campaign include:

- Training community volunteers in malaria treatment and prevention methods
- Insecticide-treated mosquito bed nets to prevent the spread of the disease
- Water treatment projects to control the environments where mosquitoes breed
- Providing medicine to treat malaria and preventative medication to protect pregnant women and their babies

After learning that there was a \$25,000 challenge grant for the campaign from a member of St. Mark’s with a \$1-for-\$1 match, my husband and I made a financial commitment to the campaign. We are championing the campaign out of gratitude for Henry’s life and because we think that none of God’s children should have to suf-

fer from a disease that is preventable and treatable.

We can all make a real difference by giving of our treasure to this campaign. A gift of \$250 is enough to purchase anti-malarial medication to protect 125 pregnant women and their babies from malaria. \$100 trains a village health team to work with the community to help people learn how to prevent and diagnose the disease. Even a \$10-gift purchases a bed net to protect families from mosquitos while they sleep.

Members of St. Mark’s, please join me in taking advantage of the dollar-for-dollar match of the \$25,000 challenge grant! We can’t pass this up this opportunity to stand in solidarity with our brothers and sisters around the world in the fight against malaria.

Note: To have your gift matched dollar for dollar, please make checks out to St. Mark’s Lutheran Church and write “ELCA Malaria Campaign” in the memo line.

Look for more information in January about the St. Mark’s Malaria Campaign.



www.elca.org/goodgifts

St. Mark's Ministries

The Ministry Fair on Rally Day



Night Ministry's 2012 Fall Gala

Night Ministry's annual fundraiser, a red carpet event held in St. Mark's Heritage Hall and the Urban Life Center.



OKTOBERFEST 2012

"Prost!" was the familiar refrain at this year's Oktoberfest on St. Mark's Square, on Saturday, October 27. Over 200 attendees from St. Mark's, Martin Luther Tower, and the neighborhood enjoyed a delicious dinner of sausages, sauerkraut, and sides, with beer, cider, and German white wine. The family-friendly event was sponsored by Thrivent Financial for Lutherans, which donated a popular "bouncy house". Kids also enjoyed face-painting and pumpkin decorating. After our meal, we polka'ed into the night with music from Deutscher Musikverein (www.sfgermanband.org). Many thanks to our hardworking volunteers in the kitchen and on the Square!



Council Meeting Highlights

July 19, 2012

- ☑ Reported on success of St. Mark's Day Camp held in July, including the groundwork laid for increased participation of community children.
- ☑ Reported that trip to Palestine/Israel led by Pr. Ekdale is planned for April 2013.
- ☑ Chair of Call Committee Randy Schieber provided update on call process.
- ☑ Task Force for Square Development representative McClain reported on plan to send RFPs to potential developers: Bridge Housing, Christian Community Development Center, John Stewart Company, Mercy Housing, Related, and Tenderloin Neighborhood Development Corp.
- ☑ Discussed plans for Oktoberfest Oct. 27; German band was suggested.
- ☑ Adopted wording of policy related to homeless on the Square.

September 20, 2012

- ☑ Introduced Eric Huseth, Intern for 1 year sharing time with SF Interfaith Council.
- ☑ Announced planned visit of Father Stephen Privett on Reformation Sunday.

- ☑ Mentioned new trip to El Salvador in November led by Matt and Allana Helland; discussed ways to support travel for our future pastors and spouses.
- ☑ Huseth reported actively engaging at St. Mark's—preaching, Bible study, home calls, El Salvador trip, Crop Walk, Oktoberfest, and World AIDS Day service.
- ☑ Announced that Call Committee hopes to find candidates with good fit for St. Mark's and devoted to passionate service, and will seek new slate of candidates.
- ☑ Discussed plans for Oktoberfest, including food, activities, oompah band music, fun, fellowship, and extended outreach efforts.
- ☑ Discussed need to be attentive to mentally ill and homeless while balancing complaints related to encampments, as we reach out and seek solutions.
- ☑ Mentioned Homeless Shelter at St. Mark's November 18-December 16.
- ☑ Discussed new stewardship slogan, "Forward in Faith—Living in Gratitude" and the emphasis this year on ministries that benefit from our stewardship.

October 18, 2012

- ☑ Discussed interaction with homeless on St. Mark's Square.
- ☑ Announced Advent Fair Dec. 2 with project for families to make Advent wreaths.
- ☑ Announced generous gift by a member to ELCA malaria campaign and the plan to seek challenge gifts from other members.
- ☑ Announced MLT hire of social worker Hannah Bennet in partnership with Episcopal Senior Communities.
- ☑ Mentioned pregnancy leave of event coordinator Elizabeth Baldrige and the need for an interim hire.
- ☑ Decided to move forward with postcard marketing for Christmas 2012 outreach.
- ☑ Debbie Varian and Greg Jahnke of Endowment Committee reported on status of our Endowment Fund and plans for promoting endowment giving.
- ☑ Distributed copies of new Facilities Guide to be strategically placed around the Square for quick access to contact information, safety and emergency information, and equipment instructions.

Connect with the Sacred



January 27, 2013 12:15 pm
**ANNUAL
 congregational
 MEETING**

Please plan to attend our annual congregational meeting on Sunday, January 27, following the 11:00 am service.

Important actions at this meeting include:

- ☑ the approval of the 2013 budget,
- ☑ the election of new Council members
- ☑ reports by the Pastor and the President
- ☑ updates on activities and ministries occurring at St. Mark's
- ☑ Vote on proposed amendments to the Constitution of St. Mark's Evangelical Lutheran Church as recommended by the ELCA Churchwide Assembly

Enter the wonder of childhood again



St. Mark's Fall Stewardship Campaign

Living in gratitude. This phrase has been the central message of our stewardship campaign at St. Mark's this fall. Hopefully our stewardship efforts during this year's fall pledge drive have drawn your attention to the idea of living in gratitude. At St. Mark's we celebrate the fall season of thanksgiving by offering our gratitude for the many wonderful ministries that are present here. Yes, we certainly have much to be grateful for and as grateful stewards we need to express our thankfulness by supporting our church's ministries. A line from our stewardship theme song says, "May we show gratitude in the way that we live, move forward in our faith and be God's hands".

This year's fall stewardship campaign began on October 14th and ended on Celebration Sunday, November 18th. During each Sunday of the campaign our committee highlighted one of the ministries at St. Mark's that we are grateful for. We began our season of stewardship by teaching the congregation a campaign theme song and introducing our campaign slogan, Forward in Faith...Living in Gratitude. The following Sunday we highlighted the variety of ministries at St. Mark's by presenting a banner that depicted a large, multi-colored cross inscribed with a multitude of things that we are grateful for. The next week we highlighted the social ministry program and in particular the work being done at the winter homeless shelter. We interviewed a youthful volunteer who explained to the congregation why she participated in the homeless shelter and how she is grateful for the experience. The following Sunday our campaign highlighted the Sunday School ministry. We were treated to a delightful song by the Sunday School children, all of whom seemed eager to express their enthusiasm. Finally, we highlighted our most important and essential ministry at St. Mark's by publically recognizing the wonderful leadership and guidance provided by our clergy and staff.

Our fall campaign has ended, but the spirit of stewardship continues on with the support of the members of St. Mark's. The Stewardship Committee would like to express our gratitude to all of the members who have made a financial pledge of support to the ministry and missions of this community of faith. Thank you to all of the good stewards at St. Mark's. We continue to encourage you to live in gratitude.

Roger Ostrem
Stewardship Committee Chairperson



Your Gifts at Work

Annual Giving 2012

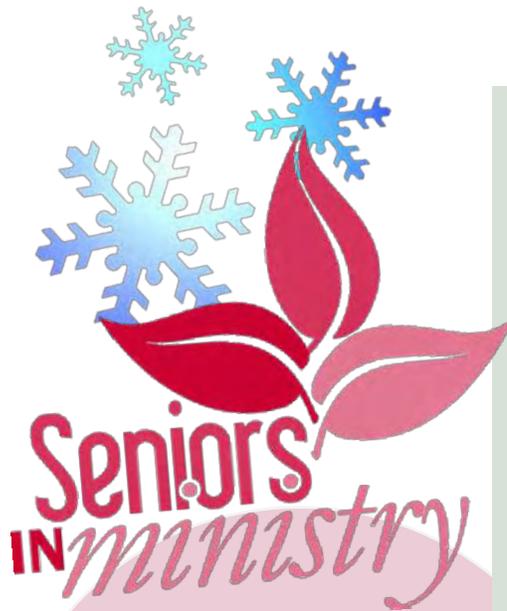
General Fund

<u>Pledges as of 10/31/12</u>	<u>2012</u>	<u>2013</u>
Number of pledges	123	93
Amount Pledged	\$ 360,864	\$ 311,162
Amount Received	\$ 303,849	n/a

Income vs. Expenses

<u>Jan-Oct '12</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budget</u>
Income	\$ 473,202	\$ 473,835
Expense	<u>\$ 425,230</u>	<u>\$ 490,757</u>
NET INCOME	\$ 47,972	(\$ 16,922)





Senior Center Trips

Senior Trips depart from the Brockie Lounge at Martin Luther Tower. All trips are offered on a first-come, first-served basis. The number of participants varies depending on drivers' availability. The trips generally take place on a Friday, and the usual departure time is 10 am unless indicated otherwise. Cost: \$3 (transportation fee). To RSVP please call the MLT office at 415.885.1084.

St. Mark's & MLT Senior Center Christmas Dinner

Friday, December 14 at 5 PM in Heritage Hall

Join us for holiday cheer! Join MLT residents, the MLT board, staff, pastors and friends and family for a wonderful evening of holiday cheer. We will hear beloved carols and sing along to familiar tunes. Enjoy a wonderful meal in the spirit of the season. Signups, as always, will be taken at the MLT Office.



Senior Center Luncheons

Senior Center Luncheons take place in Heritage Hall every third Thursday of the month from 12 noon to approximately 1:00 pm. Cost: \$4. To RSVP for lunches please call the MLT Office at 415.885.1084.

Upcoming Lunch dates:
January 18 & February 15



International Christmas Crèche Exhibit, Palo Alto Tuesday, December 7

Beginning in the 17th century, families in Naples, Italy welcomed friends and neighbors into their homes each December to share beloved crèches they had made and collected. In many countries this practice lives on. Echoing this tradition, all are invited see the crèches of different times and places.



After-Christmas Shopping in Livermore Friday, January 11

Join MLT and St. Mark's seniors for an after-Christmas shopping expedition to the new outlet mall in Livermore. A wide variety of stores are waiting for you. We will have an inexpensive lunch there.



Scenic Drive down the Peninsula with Chinese Lunch in Cupertino Friday, February 22

Join MLT residents and St. Mark's seniors on a scenic drive down the Peninsula. We will be having lunch at the Chinese Dumpling House in Cupertino which has become one of our favorite restaurants to eat. Bon Appetit!





Martin Luther in Our Midst

A picture of reformer Martin Luther (1483-1546) hangs in the gallery behind our altar thanks to Rune Heden, a member of St. Mark's since the late 1960's.

Young Rune remembers coming home one day to his boyhood home in Sweden and seeing the picture of Luther by his father's artist friend that had just been purchased at an auction. The picture hung for years in Rune's parents' bedroom. Rune later brought the painting to America, and a few years ago donated it to St. Mark's.

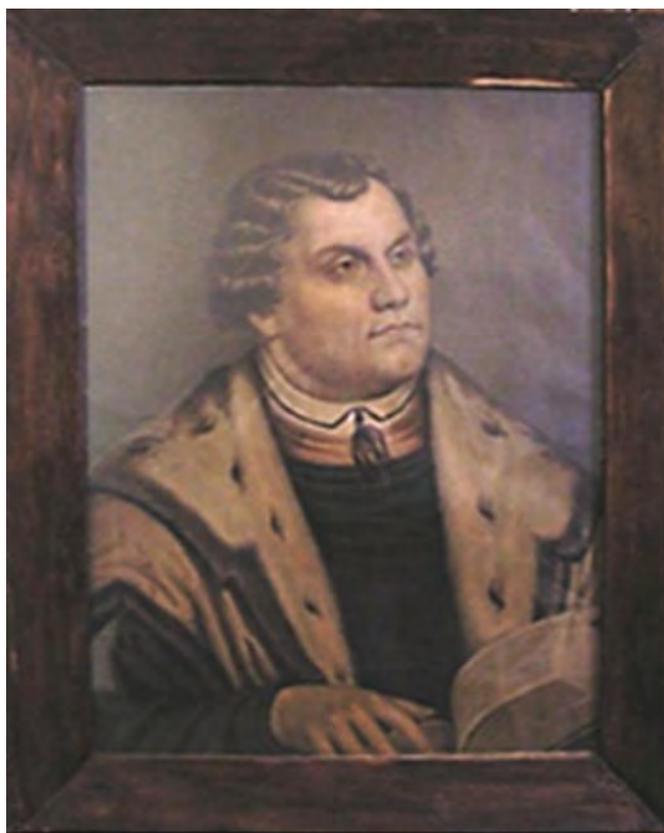
Lucas Cranach the Elder, artist and close friend of Luther, created many authentic contemporary portraits of him, ensuring that lasting images of Luther would survive that many painters have copied through the years.

The Protestant Reformation began with Martin Luther. In 1517 he published his Ninety-Five Theses, and we will celebrate the Reformation's 500th anniversary in 2017. Luther's translation of the Bible into German helped spread literacy and stimulated the printing and distribution of religious material—thus starting a 16th century-style media revolution.

The cradle of the Protestant Reformation, Lutherstadt Wittenberg in Germany, is best known for where Martin Luther lived, preached, and began philosophical discussions and theological debate. He is credited with starting a new denomination of Christianity and inspiring others around Europe to do the same.

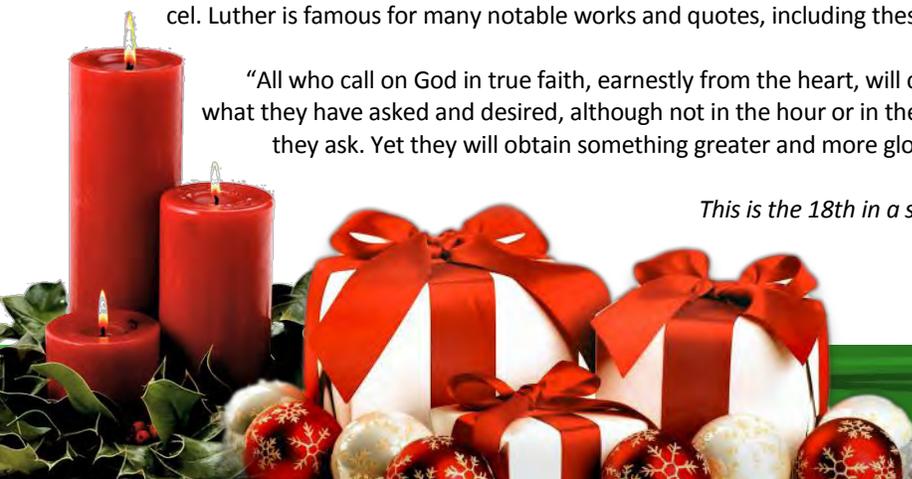
You can visit Luther's portrait in our gallery by passing through the swinging doors to the right of the chancel. Luther is famous for many notable works and quotes, including these inspirational words:

"All who call on God in true faith, earnestly from the heart, will certainly be heard, and will receive what they have asked and desired, although not in the hour or in the measure, or the very thing which they ask. Yet they will obtain something greater and more glorious than they had dared to ask."



Portrait of Martin Luther in the gallery behind our altar.

This is the 18th in a series of Tales from the Archives by Marge Jencks



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St. Mark's Worship Schedule

Sundays

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

Wednesdays

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

Church Office Hours

Monday through Friday
9:00 am to 5:00 pm

Church Office Closures

Monday, Dec 24 @ noon thru Wednesday, Dec 26
Monday, Dec 31 thru Tuesday, Jan 1
Monday, Jan 21 (Martin Luther King Day)
Monday, Feb 18 (Presidents' 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



Evangelical Lutheran
Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

