



St Mark's LUTHERAN CHURCH VOICE

QUARTERLY JOURNAL OF REFLECTION & NEWS

SUMMER 2011

Please keep these students in your prayers as they affirm their baptism.

*Coco Ocker
Erika Taylor
Astra Varian
David Wiese*

Come join us for worship on June 12, 2011 and support these young people in living out their faith.

Festival of Pentecost and Affirmation of Baptism of Four Confirmation Students June 12, 2011

Today's festival derives its name from the Jewish festival of Pentecost, observed fifty days after Passover. On the fiftieth day of Easter we celebrate the Holy Spirit as the power of God among us that heals, forgives, inspires, and unites. In the reading from Acts, images of wind and fire describe the Spirit poured out on disciples of all nations. In John's gospel the risen Christ breathes the Spirit on his followers on Easter evening. In the one Spirit we are baptized into one body and at the Lord's Table the Spirit unites us for witness in the world.

At our 11:00 service, four youth will be affirming their faith by Affirmation of Baptism. They have been participants in St. Mark's confirmation ministry in which they have been exploring their faith through bible study, reflection on the Small Catechism, servant projects, field trips and Confirmation Camp at Mt. Cross. Please keep these students in your prayers as they live out in a public way what it means to be a Christian in our world. Erika Taylor, Astra Varian, Coco Ocker and David Wiese will affirm their faith before the entire congregation at the 11:00 service. Come and support these young people in living out their faith not only here at St. Mark's but in their lives. Wear red – the traditional color of the Holy Spirit – as we affirm and witness God's spirit in their lives and ours! Come, Holy Spirit . . .



The Interim Process

"As you therefore have received Christ Jesus, continue to live your lives in Christ, rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving." Colossians 2: 6-7

We are in a time of transition at St. Mark's, and this time can be good, healthy, and helpful for us. We had a grand and glorious thank you and farewell party for Pastor Christian on May 1. We all said our "goodbyes" well, which is important as we move forward into the next phase of our life together at St. Mark's.

I've heard many people ask me and our council, "now what"? I hope to answer this question the best I can as your Lead Pastor.

Your Council President Jan Charter and I have been in contact with Pastor Nancy Feniuk Nelson, the Bishop's Associate in charge of Interim Ministry. With Pastor Nancy's input, we intend to interview and hire an Interim Pastor to assist with the pastoral workload and to provide an objective and outside point of view regarding our future staffing needs.

This Interim time will allow the Church Council to assess with Pastor Elizabeth the kind of staff configuration that will best serve St. Mark's, help us achieve our strategic planning goals and live out our mission as a vital congregation. We want to ask the questions now before we launch into a Call Process or Search Process. Do we call another Associate Pastor to work alongside Pastor Elizabeth? Or, should we consider calling a Rostered Leader to provide leadership in particular ministry areas in which we would like to grow, for example, youth, family and children's ministry? How should we staff our Senior Center? What ministries could be led and directed by volunteers, and what ministries need the support of staff? Asking these kinds of questions now will help us gain clarity as we move forward together in our discernment regarding staff.

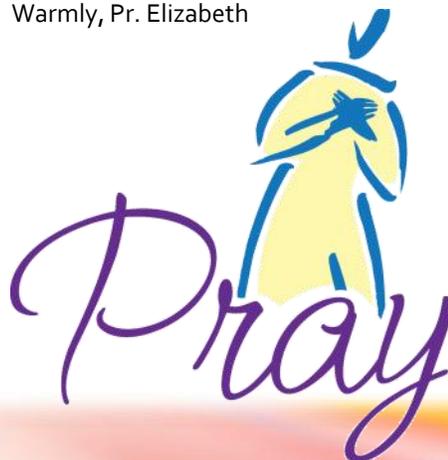
I believe this time is an opportunity for us to assess how we've been doing and how we want to move forward in ministry together. I encourage everyone to think boldly, ask questions, and participate in this time of prayerful

discernment. Your Church Council and I are eager to hear your thoughts and ideas about our next steps.

Finally, I ask you to consider the following guidelines below prepared by the Sierra Pacific Synod Leadership Discipling Team to help guide congregations during an interim time. I trust you will find them helpful during our transition period. I've modified the guidelines slightly to better fit our situation at St. Mark's.

As we move forward together, please know that I am excited and energized about serving St. Mark's in this time of change and growth. Thank you for your confidence in me and your input in this process. We are in a time of transition but also in a time of stability and growth – ministries are thriving, worship is joyful and meaningful, our senior ministries are busy, our leaders are engaged, and our church building bursting at the seams with activity. It is my hope this will be a healthy and spirit-led time for our community of faith.

Warmly, Pr. Elizabeth



Pray—first and foremost you should hold St. Mark's, your former pastor and your current pastor and staff, your congregational leadership, and yourself in prayer. Calling a new Associate Pastor or hiring new ministry staff is a spiritual process, so keep God in the conversation.

Maintain your spiritual discipline—continue to read the Bible, pray, worship regularly, and practice joyous generosity in your financial stewardship and your time resources.

Trust the interim call process—be patient, your congregational leadership, Lead Pastor and Bishop's office will be having a series of meetings. St. Mark's will be appointing a call committee to lead the call process or a search committee to hire ministry staff. Give them your support and prayers. They will be asking for your input. Please help them. Now is the time for you to help plan the vision for the future of St. Mark's.

Trust your leaders—you elected them to act on your behalf, and they will do this thoughtfully.

Consider volunteering for the call committee or search committee—now is a great time to help chart St. Mark's course for the future.

Step into leadership—our ministries continue to happen during this interim time and we are always looking for leaders with new gifts and vision. Volunteer when asked or step forward and participate in one of our many ministries. You will be welcome.

Pray—it's really impossible to pray too much. Trust that God is guiding us and be patient. God knows who our next Associate Pastor or Ministry staff will be. And soon we will too.

Strategic Planning Goals

Once again, the Church Council would like to call the congregation's attention to the strategic goals adopted last year. Along with each goal listed below are the particular council members who are focusing on that goal. Several members of the congregation have begun working on these with council members. There is always room for more, though, so please, if you are interested in working in one of these areas and have not already made your interest known, contact a council member. These goals will help St. Mark's be a more vibrant and healthy church, truly living our mission statement by "reaching out in service to the community and the world."

- Goal 1: Broaden Opportunities for Adult Education (Roger Ostrem and Dan Pharr)**
- Goal 2: Create Lay Ministry Program (Jan Charter and Jeremy McClain)**
- Goal 3: Improve Support for Clergy and Staff (Geri Bailey and Suzanne Smith)**
- Goal 4: Creating Healthy Communications (Jerrold Allen and Marisa Louie)**
- Goal 5: Expand Local and Global Ministry with Mission Partners (Liv Beck and Aron Bohlig)**
- Goal 6: Create a Marketing Strategy (Marge Jencks and Andrew Sallach)**
- Goal 7: Renew Commitment to Install an Elevator (all council members)**

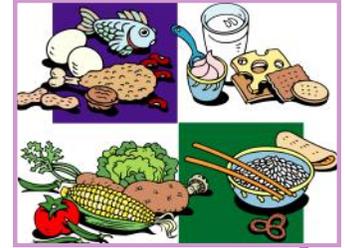
Active work is going on for each one of these goals, but, for many of them, we are still looking for people to lead. As we said at the time we announced the goals, although Council members will start the ball rolling, they should not be the leaders. Roy Oswald, the consultant who led us through the strategic planning process, was emphatic that congregational members other than Council members should be the leaders on these goals to make this a true congregational effort. So please consider whether you might be called to be a leader for one of these goals. Even if you cannot, however, we still need you. Please join us! One opportunity is coming up soon, as there is a meeting on Goal 4, Creating Healthy Communications, on Sunday, June 19 following the 11am service, in the Conference Room. All are invited to attend to find out more about the projects those working on this goal have going and how to be involved.

We will be having another Oktoberfest this year on Saturday, October 22, beginning at 6 pm in Heritage Hall, when we will talk about what has been done so far on the goals. So, in addition to a great meal and fellowship, you can learn about the direction our congregation is taking. Mark your calendars now so you don't miss this important event.

Oktoberfest
Saturday,
Oct 22, 2011
6:00 pm
Heritage Hall

St. Mark's Joins the Interfaith Food Pantry

Located at Old First Presbyterian Church at Sacramento and Van Ness



St. Mark's has been part of the Interfaith Council's Homeless Shelter for many, many years. And this year, as a result of a social ministry survey and a successful capital campaign, we decided to step up our level of commitment by joining the Interfaith Food Pantry. The Food Pantry, located at Old First Presbyterian Church at 1751 Sacramento St., serves fresh food – usually a mix of fresh fruits and vegetables, meat or fish and rice, pasta or bread – to those in the community hit particularly hard by the recession. And there is certainly a need: we've been regularly serving over 300 guests, and sometimes have to turn people away once we've run out of food. With all these guests, a lot of help is needed on the distribution side. St. Mark's staffs the pantry every 6 weeks, requiring 18-22 volunteers.

A typical Saturday morning at the Food Pantry looks like this: Volunteers arrive between 7:30-8:00 to unload the delivery trucks. Once all the food is set up, organized and everyone has been assigned a duty, we have a few minutes to get a treat from Bob's Donuts and cup of coffee and enjoy some fellowship. We take a moment for prayer – usually asking for patience, compassion, and the occasional loaves-and-fishes-style miracle. The guests have already lined up outside by 7:00 and greet us all with excited faces and empty shopping bags. At 9:00, the doors open and volunteers work like crazy ushering in guests, calling out lottery numbers, counting potatoes, cans of tomatoes and cartons of eggs until things slow down, around 10:00. Exhausted and elated, we clean up and go home to the rest of our Saturday, knowing that lots of San Francisco working families will eat a little better this week thanks to God's work through our hands.

You can join us in this great endeavor. The next dates to volunteer at the Interfaith Food Pantry are: June 11, July 16, July 30, Sept. 3, Sept. 10, Oct. 15, Oct. 22, Dec. 3, Dec.10

Sign up to serve in this ministry at www.interfaithfood.org. Or contact Joleen Jessen at 415-531-6322, or joleencaron@hotmail.com.

El Salvador Delegation & Sister Parish Visit to St. Mark's

On May 18-19, St. Mark's hosted a delegation of three visitors from the Lutheran Church in El Salvador, the companion synod to our own Sierra Pacific Synod. Pastor Norma Castillo of our Sister Parish, Cordero de Dios (Soyapango, El Salvador), was joined by her colleagues Pastor Guadalupe del Rosario Cortez and church lay leader Aracely Ventura. We shared a soup supper with the delegation before Wednesday worship. Pastor Norma preached on the Good Shepherd text and how we all are at times sheep and shepherds to each other, responding to God's love. The delegation later met to discuss the possibility of hosting a St. Mark's delegation in Soyapango in November 2011.

Linda Krauskopf reflected on the impact of the delegation's visit to St. Mark's: "I think they and we have surely succeeded in strengthening the relationships between our parishes on the personal level." If you are interested in deepening this relationship with our brothers and sisters in Christ in El Salvador, consider joining the delegation to Soyapango this November. **We will be meeting on Sunday, June 12 at 10am in Heritage Hall.** Contact Marisa Louie for more information at louie@stmarks-sf.org.

Many thanks to the Krauskopf, Knickerbocker, and Bohlig/Squires families for their hospitality during the delegation's visit.



Pastor Norma presented St. Mark's with the gift of a large El Salvador flag.



Aracely Ventura, Pastor Norma Castillo, Pastor Elizabeth, Pastor Guadalupe del Rosario Cortez



Other gifts from Pastor Norma included a map of El Salvador and a calendar from their violence prevention campaign.



Volunteers Needed

The Gay, Lesbian, Bi-sexual, Transgender Pride Parade is only three weeks away on Sunday June 26 and our local chapter of Lutherans Concerned/San Francisco Bay Area needs your help. We will be carrying placards bearing the names of the 34 Sierra Pacific Synod Reconciling in Christ parishes of which St. Mark is one. That's where your help is needed. Participate with our contingent, carry a placard and receive the applause and accolade of thousands as we proceed up Market Street. The parade is televised and last year's commentator proclaimed, "And here come the Lutherans. I didn't know that religion could be so much fun!"

Once again our Bishop, Mark Holmerud, and our Bishop's Associate, Nancy Feniuk Nelson, will be marching with us. In addition they will participate in a combined worship service with Oasis, the Episcopal support group for LGBT persons. Episcopal Bishop Gene Robinson will preach and Bishop Holmerud will preside at the 10:00 a.m. service at the parade site. As a result you can worship that Sunday and still be in the parade without missing a thing.

For more information and to volunteer your services call Chuck Lewis at (415) 956-2069.

Sauter Grand Piano is Officially "Ours"

The piano had been on loan to us for a year while the owner looked for potential buyers. Recently, the owner indicated to us that he planned on moving the piano with him while he relocated to another state. After hearing Tim Zerlang play the piano for our worship services for the past several months, it made good sense to make an offer on this instrument. We had the piano appraised and offered \$35,000 to the owner. To our delight, he accepted our offer and we can celebrate that this glorious instrument is now a permanent fixture in our sanctuary. We will continue to utilize the piano in worship and have it available for use by outside musical groups - American Bach Soloists and the California Bach Society.

We are extremely grateful to five wonderful and generous families of St. Mark's who contributed over \$27,500 to assist with the purchase of the piano. Thank you, thank you, thank you for responding to the invitation to give. Thank you for making this attractive and extraordinary instrument ours. Thank you.

In celebration, on Sunday, July 3, at 1:00 pm, Tim Zerlang, our Director of Music will give a 30 minute concert on the piano showing us its gifts and sensitivities. Everyone is invited to come and hear what this instrument can do in our worship space. We are also inviting you to consider a gift to close the gap between the current gifts of \$27,500 and the purchase price of \$35,000. Every gift - big and small will help. We did not have this expense in our current year budget and therefore are relying on your generosity and appreciation of this grand piano to help us close the gap. Gifts of every kind will be gratefully accepted. Note on your check, Sauter piano, and we will make sure it goes directly to our piano fund.

We have much to celebrate at St. Mark's - join us on July 3 for a festive and fun concert of celebration at 1:00 pm.



Hear the Sauter Sing! Sunday, July 3, 1 pm

Our Director of Music, Timothy Zerlang, will play a brief recital on our new Sauter piano, featuring music of Beethoven, Debussy, Copland, and Ginastera, works both familiar and unusual. This will be an opportunity to hear more of what the Sauter can do (and what Tim can do with it - did you know that he teaches piano at Stanford?), so enjoy the coffee hour and then come back upstairs!

Musical Offerings during Worship

Our faithful choir is taking a well-deserved break during the months of July and August. If you are an instrumentalist or singer, and would like to share your gifts in worship during July and August, please contact Dr. Zerlang (zerlang@stmarkssf.org). Opportunities are available at both the 9 am and 11 am services - students and seasoned professionals alike are welcome!

AGO Convention

The Taylor and Boody organ continues to create interest in the Bay Area organ world! On Thursday, July 7, the American Guild of Organists (AGO) Western Regional Convention attendees will come to Saint Mark's to hear Dr. Kimberly Marshall perform. Dr. Marshall is widely known and respected for her knowledge of historical organ performance practices. Formerly University Organist at Stanford University, she is now at the University of Arizona.

July 16 - ChamberMix in Concert

ChamberMix is an chamber music ensemble co-founded by Timothy Zerlang and his friend Martha Stoddard dedicated to performing contemporary works featuring various combinations of instruments. Their concert at St. Mark's, July 16, 7 pm, will feature Martinu's Sonata for Flute, Violin, and piano, along with works by contemporary composers, some from the Bay Area. Some of the works to be performed were written especially for ChamberMix.



Sacred Acts at St. Mark's

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

Baptisms

April 23, 2011 Eva Dober
Shawna Hershfield
Amari Seringer
May 29, 2011 Ryan Thomas Howard
Greig

Please contact one of the pastors to schedule a baptism for one of your children or yourself.

First Communion

April 21, 2011 Halle Bohlig Squires
Signe Bohlig Squires
Meghan Foster



Welcome
Our New
Members

New St. Mark's Members Received on April 23, 2011

Received by Affirmation
of Baptism
Fred Blickle
Matthew Dober
Richard Knobel
Kellie Seringer

Why We're at St. Mark's

We are very excited about joining St. Mark's. Eva was born in Hong Kong and moved to San Francisco with her parents and younger sister when she was three years old. Growing up in San Francisco was a wonderful experience with its diverse cultures and assortment of cuisines. Matthew grew up in an area known much more for its sports than its cuisine, raised in the Detroit area where he and his family were very attached to the local Lutheran church and school. Matt moved to San Francisco in 2001, allured by the high tech bubble that was about to burst.



Eva enjoys cooking for family and friends and is an avid reader of fiction, but these days, quick meals and children's books are all she seems to have time for. Matt attempts to be a good sous chef. We met while both working at Williams-Sonoma's headquarters in 2004 and were married in 2006. We welcomed our daughter, Jadeyn Siena, into our lives last October. It has truly been a blessed experience watching her grow over the course of the past seven months.

We started going to St. Mark's over three years ago when we decided to stop by one Easter Sunday, and we were immediately attracted to the active, diverse and welcoming congregation. Our lives have changed so much since that first visit, but St. Mark's has been a constant source of joy and inspiration. Our journey in faith at St. Mark's has been an incredible experience, and we are looking forward to Jadeyn growing up in such a wonderful community. Thank you for your care and spiritual guidance.

Matthew, Eva & Jadeyn Dober

In Memoriam The Reverend Robert H. Jacobsen December 12, 1927 - April 19, 2011

The Rev. Robert H. Jacobsen died Tuesday, April 19, 2011, at the age of 84.

Rev. Jacobsen was born in Racine, Wisconsin. He was a graduate of St. Olaf College, Northfield, Minnesota, and Luther Theological Seminary, St. Paul, Minnesota. He was ordained in ELCA predecessor church body, the American Lutheran Church, in 1956.

Rev. Jacobsen served the congregations of English, Lake Benton, Minnesota; Trinity, Yankton, South Dakota; and St. John, Cedar Falls, Iowa. During 1973, while without call, he served as Director of Lewis and Clark Health Education and Service Center in Yankton, South Dakota.

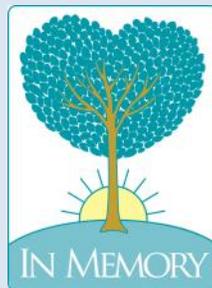
He retired in May, 1990, and for several years resided in

San Francisco, CA. His wife, Ramona, and he were members of St. Mark's, San Francisco, CA and lived in Martin Luther Tower for many years.

He is survived by his wife Ramona and four sons Mark, Paul, Timothy and Thomas and daughter, Mary Donatelli.

Memorials may be given to Luther Seminary or Kabekona Lake Foundation.

Condolences may be sent to:
Mrs. Ramona Jacobsen
1480 Applewood Court W. #329
Roseville, MN 55113



Blessed be the memory of this servant of God!



St. Mark's Columbarium

What is a columbarium? "Columbarium" is a term derived from the Latin word Columba, or dove, a symbol of God's spirit and peace. It is a structure, often a vault or wall, with niches for urns containing the cremated remains of the dead.

St. Mark's Columbarium was installed in late October 2009, and dedicated at the eleven o'clock service on All Saints Day, November 1, 2009. It is now a sacred space where family and friends can come to visit. A brass plaque with the name of the departed, together with birth and death dates, will be installed on the door of each niche when ashes are placed within.

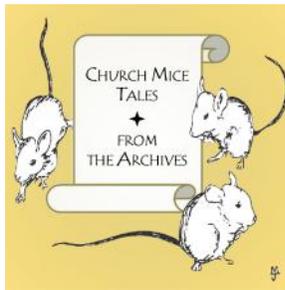
Placement of ashes at St. Mark's is available to all members and former members of the congregation. To reserve a niche simply request a Niche Reservation Form from the church office and fill it out. Please feel free to consult the pastors with any questions you might have.

"We do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's." Romans 14:7-8



Our Tissue Paper Window

About 48 years ago during Rev. Ross Hidy's tenure as pastor, Walter Schmidt, a German/American artist and parishioner at St. Mark's, created an artistic experiment—a "stained glass window" made of tissue paper laminated in layers of plastic. For over 10 years this Nativity Window was installed over the altar covering the Ascension Window as part of St. Mark's decoration during the Christmas season. A bank of fluorescent lights glowed behind it. To much acclaim, the window was on public view approximately 2 ½ months each year.



Tissue Paper Nativity Window created by artist Walter Schmidt on display above St. Mark's altar during Christmas season.

Black construction paper covered lines of the drawings to resemble the leading of true stained glass windows. Colors of tissue paper were pasted layer on layer until a suitable depth of hue was achieved. Finished renderings were covered with a layer of resin, then Mylar, then more layers of resin. As curing took place, pockets of air developed between the layers of tissue paper producing color variations and the illusion of hand-blown glass.

Sig remembers helping install the window during Advent by attaching it to the angel wings over the altar.

Over the years, the tissue paper window deteriorated and Walter created a new similar version using special stained glass obtained from Europe. Now in his 99th year, Walter resides near family in Canada.

This is the 12th in a series of tales from St. Mark's Archives, by Marge Jencks

Senior Center and Martin Luther Tower News

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.

Lunch dates for the next 3 months are:

JUNE	JULY	AUGUST
16	No luncheon. Instead, join MLT/EAH staff for their Annual Fourth of July BBQ on Tuesday, July 5th at 12 noon	18

Senior Center Trips

Senior Trips depart from the Brockie Lounge at MLT. 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.

Trip dates for the summer are:

June 24 - Muir Woods, Marin County



Conservationist John Muir declared, "This is the best tree-lovers monument that could possibly be found in all the forests of the world," when describing the majestic coast redwoods of Muir Woods. Join the seniors from Martin Luther Tower and St. Mark's Lutheran Church for a scenic day-trip to Muir Woods with its spectacular California Redwoods. We will have lunch in the park; you can either bring your own brown bag lunch or buy something at the Aramark Café and Gift shop. Please note that all 1.5 miles of paved or board-walked trails are wheelchair and stroller accessible. Wheelchairs and strollers are available for loan at no cost on a first-come, first-served basis at the Visitor Center. Cost: \$3.00 fuel surcharge. Entrance fee: \$3.00.

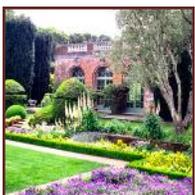
Friday, July 15 – SFMoma with Lunch



Founded in 1935, SFMOMA was the first museum on the West Coast devoted to modern and contemporary art. From the outset, the museum has championed the most innovative and challenging art of its time, and they continue to exhibit and collect work by both modern masters and younger, less-established artists. Join St. Mark's and MLT seniors for a visit to this landmark museum. Currently on exhibit is The Steins Collect, a collection of unparalleled holdings of modern art, bringing together, for the first time in a generation, dozens of works by Matisse, Picasso, Paul Cézanne, Pierre-Auguste Renoir, Henri de Toulouse-Lautrec, and many others. We will depart MLT's Brockie Lounge at 11:00 am, and plan to have lunch at the museum's café. Please RSVP for this trip by contacting the MLT office at 415.885.1084. General admission for seniors is \$12, and \$19 if

including The Stein Collect. If you would like more information, please call Pastor Elizabeth at 415.928.7770 x 230, or visit SFMoma's website at www.sfmoma.org.

August 26 – Filoli Gardens with Lunch



Join MLT and St. Mark's seniors on a trip to the Filoli Center, a California State Historic Landmark, and an outstanding showcase of early twentieth-century architecture and garden design. The gardens of Filoli were designed to include many of the elements you would expect on an English country estate. In addition to a formal garden, plenty of space was allocated for a large working kitchen garden with espaliered fruits, berry cages, vegetable garden, cutting garden and greenhouses. We will depart MLT's Brockie Lounge at 10:00 am, and plan to have lunch at the Café at Filoli. Please RSVP for this trip by contacting the MLT office at 415.885.1084. Admission is \$12 for seniors. For more information on the gardens and the café, visit their website at www.filoli.org. You may also call Pastor Elizabeth at 415.928.7770 x 230.



www.mlt-sf.org

New "Journeys in Faith" Group! Mark Your Calendars for June 19th!



Want to know more about "Journeys in Faith"? Whether you're thinking about baptism, or whether you're new to St. Mark's, or even if you are a long-time parishioner, "Journeys in Faith" provides a welcoming place for you to pause and reflect on the gospel and your life as a Christian in today's world. Find out more at a "no obligation" Journeys in Faith information session. Join us on Sunday, June 19th at 12:40 pm in the Fireside Room. We hope to see you there! For more information, or with any questions, feel free to ask a member of the Journeys in Faith team, or e-mail journeys@stmarks-sf.org.

St. Mark's Women's Group

Coming in September - St. Mark's Women's First Tuesday's Evening Study Group.

Although the group is on hiatus for the summer, some of us are getting ahead on our reading. We will be looking at Biblical women's stories, current compelling stories and sharing our own stories on the first Tuesday's of the month from 6:30pm to 8:30pm in the Fireside Room. All women are invited to come for dessert and fellowship for the first half hour and then discussion until 8:30.

The books for the autumn are:

September 6

I Am a Palestinian Christian by Mitri Raheb and the *Book of Ruth*

October 4, November 1, and December 6

Half the Sky: Turning Oppression into Opportunity for Women Worldwide by Nicholas D. Kristof and Sheryl WuDunn

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

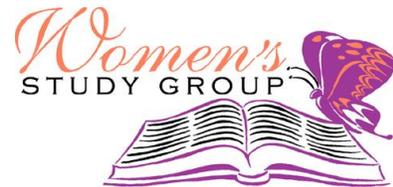
WELCA

The Women of the ELCA (W-ELCA) continue to meet on the second Tuesday of each month. The next meeting is June 14th. There will be bible study and fellowship.

The July meeting will be our annual WELCA Luncheon. Place TBA. Also in July, Nadine Robinson, Co-President and Marlo Tellschow, Program Chair will be attending the WELCA Eight Triennial Gathering. The triennial - Renew, Respond, Rejoice - will be held July 14-17 in Spokane, Washington.

As is the custom, there will be no meeting in August. Meetings will resume in September with a new bible study series.

We welcome all women to join us for bible study, fun & fellowship.



2012 ELCA Youth Gathering
citizens with the saints
Ephesians 2:14-20

St. Mark's High Schoolers

The ELCA Youth Gathering in the summer of 2012 will be in New Orleans. Save these dates: July 18 - 22, 2012.

Check out the website www.elca.org/gathering for more information.

This once-in-a-lifetime event is for all High School youth. Registration for the event opens in early October. Pastor Elizabeth will invite you to a information meeting in early September to answer questions, share additional information and sign you up to go as a part of the St. Mark's group.

The theme for the gathering is "citizens with the saints" (Ephesians 2:14-20) and will include lively worship, servant projects, sight-seeing, awesome bible studies, music, and much more. Speak with Pr. Elizabeth if you are interested and watch for the information meeting in early fall.

Sunday School

Thanks to Our
Sunday School
Teachers!



Writing Letters, "Thank you for helping hungry children around the world."



Celebrating Seder and learning about Passover.



Children's Chapel



On our way to Mt. Cross for a weekend gathering.

Meet Elizabeth Baldridge

St. Mark's Wedding Ministry Administrator

Elizabeth joined the staff in October 2010 as our new Wedding Administrator. She is thrilled to be a part of such a flourishing church and energetic staff team. Elizabeth can be reached by email at baldridge@stmarks-sf.org or by phone at (415) 928-7770, ext. 258.



A lifelong Christian, my earliest childhood memory is of eating cookies in the fellowship hall of the church my grandma attended on 19th Avenue. I remember being scolded for eating the cookies by a very tall older lady with scary red fingernails-but that is a whole other story! Since the cookie incident, I have developed a strong passion for both food and event planning.

Born in San Francisco, and raised mainly in Seattle and Annapolis Maryland, I graduated with a B.A. in Corporate Communication and minors in Music and Political Science from Lycoming College, a tiny Methodist liberal arts college in Pennsylvania. Throughout college I was active in community service and leadership, which influenced my decision to move to Washington DC. There I worked as a professional fund raiser and event planner for several years at organizations such as the National Trust for Historic Preservation and the American Red Cross National Headquarters. In 2008, after assisting with many weddings of friends and family, I followed my heart and transitioned into the wedding ministry. I am delighted to finally be working in a Christ-centered position, assisting couples as they take the first step of their exciting life journey.

Currently, my husband Tanner and I, along with our two finicky felines, reside in the Inner Sunset. On our days off you may find us off on a hike, playing in our kitchen, or working on a film project. In addition, I hold a degree in Culinary Arts, and teach private cooking lessons in my spare time.

I am excited to share that July 11th marks the first evening workshop in our Partnership Series. The Partnership Series was created with several intentions: to strengthen a couple's relationship with God, promote open and empathetic spousal communication, and assist in creating a firm and joyful foundation for the early years of marriage. Finances are the number one cause of divorce in America. The first workshop in our series will address this issue, by encouraging couples to tackle this difficult topic early on, with open hearts and minds; I hope to help prepare them for a long and prosperous marriage.

To date, twenty-one couples have been, or are scheduled, to be married at St. Mark's in 2011, this does not include current inquiries and couples in the process of reviewing the contract details. We also are starting to schedule for 2012, and have a goal of serving at least 30 couples in the coming year, if not more. Stay tuned, as we continue to reach out to couples, develop a St. Mark's Wedding logo, and introduce new and diverse workshops to our Partnership Series.

Thank you for the privilege of working for your wonderful congregation, I am thrilled to be serving at St. Mark's. And much gratitude for your prayers and support as we build this critical ministry, and spread God's love to all couples.

Partnership Series 2011: Workshop One

Engaged? Married a few months or a few years? Wondering about God's take on your household dollars? Join us for the first installment of our Partnership series, led by Antonio Accardo, fellow Christian and Lead Advisor at Accardo Financial Services.

You and your partner are probably on the same page in so many ways, but have you really gotten down and dirty with the tough money talk? Finances are the number one cause for divorce in America; if you haven't started a healthy dialogue about dollars already, or if you could use a refresher, please join us. This is a wonderful form of fellowship where you will meet other couples also starting out on their journey.

Date: July 11th
Time: 7 P.M.
Place: St. Mark's Lutheran Church, in the Heritage Hall
Cost: Free
RSVP: Please RSVP to Elizabeth at Baldridge@stmarks-sf.org by July 4th

Still need an incentive to attend?! A delicious home-style Italian dinner will be served, provided by Villa Romana Italian Restaurant.



St. Mark's at Synod Assembly

Council Meeting Highlights

February 12, 2011

- Slate of officers for 2011 approved: President--Jan Charter, Vice-President--Roger Ostrem, Secretary--Marge Jencks, Treasurer--Aron Bohlig, Member-at-large--Suzanne Smith.
- New Teaching Parish Student is Maria Anderson.
- Event master calendar for the year instituted.
- Lay delegates for Synod Assembly May 13-15 selected: Jeremy McClain and Jan Charter. Erin Horne was selected as visitor.
- Discussed opportunities for partnership with St. Paulus.
- Slate for Endowment Fund Committee approved: Brad Hubert, Debbie Varian, and Greg Jahnke (3 yr. terms); Margaret McLean, Stacy Cullison, and Aaron Greig (2 yr.); Marge Jencks and Roger Ostrem (1 yr.), with 1 new appointee (1 yr.) to be determined.
- Motion passed to provide funding for startup of Endowment Fund using \$20,000 gift from Golden Gate and \$5000 from bequest money to open account with LCF.

March 17, 2011

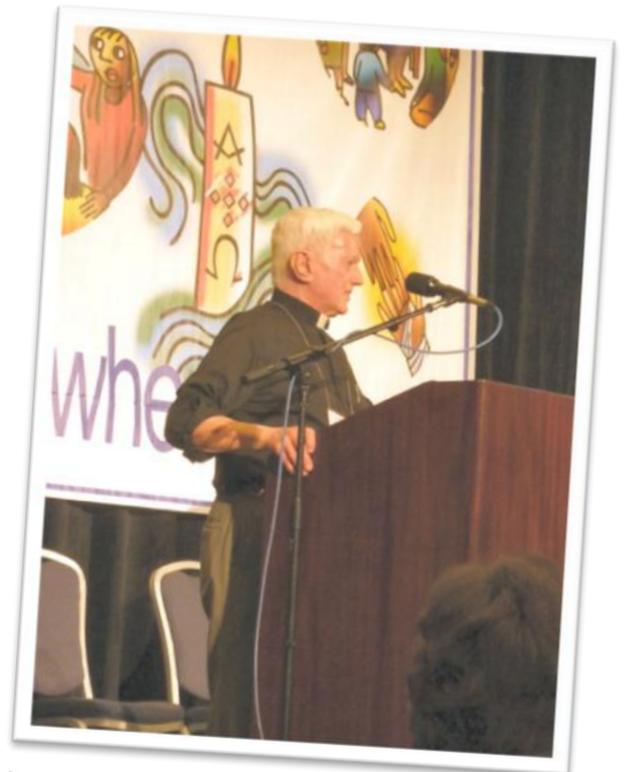
- Contingent from Cordero de Dios in El Salvador will attend Synod Assembly in May in Burlingame.
- Reservation system is now in place allowing for direct booking of space on website. Facilities are very busy, and wedding bookings have increased.
- Expect to soon pay \$180,000 on Thrivent debt. Balance of loan would be ~\$150,000.
- Discussed progress on Strategic Planning Goals.
- Four members agreed to join new Finance Committee: Brian Richards, Susan Munn, Kent Baum, and Mark Semonian, in addition to ex-officio members Aron Bohlig, Jan Charter, and Pr. Ekdale.
- Oktoberfest planning has begun. Suggested date is October 22.
- Sermons can now be listened to on website.
- Potential donors will be approached to make an offer on Sauter piano.
- Plan to place Nativity stained glass window in columbarium area approved in concept.

April 14, 2011

- Appreciation expressed for Pr. Jennert's seven years of service at St. Mark's. Congregational farewell pot luck celebration scheduled for May 1.
- Process to establish Endowment Fund in partnership with LCF is nearing completion.
- Discussed visit of contingency from El Salvador to Synod Assembly. Group is being formed to guide expenditures of Forward in Faith funds designated for this mission.
- Establishment of Stephen Ministry at St. Mark's is underway. Important need is to identify an overseer.
- Discussed need for an interim associate pastor to help with workload, due to Pr. Jennert's departure. Synod will be approached for assistance in this regard.



St. Mark's members attend the 2011 Synod Assembly in Burlingame, CA.



Rev. Chuck Lewis is honored at the Synod Assembly for his 50 years of ordained ministry.

Forward in Faith... Together in Mission, a Capital Campaign Update

At St. Mark's we are truly blessed. We have a wonderful congregation of faithful members, a dedicated assemblage of ministry and lay leaders and a beautiful church facility where we meet regularly to worship and celebrate God's message of love and peace.

Unfortunately, our church building was damaged by the Loma Prieta earthquake in 1989. After a major retrofit that began in June 2005, the church was able to return to good physical health in December 2006. The cost to restore the church did not come cheaply. The total cost amounted to approximately \$11,000,000. The funds required to pay this huge expense were not comfortably stashed away in the church's checkbook. Instead, it took a combination of creative thinking and faithful pledging from our members in order to tackle and eliminate this major financial burden. A large portion of the debt was reduced by converting Martin Luther Tower from a market rate housing facility to a low income senior housing facility. This allowed us to obtain, and then sell, tax credits which we received from converting the facility to its present use. Additionally, the members of St. Mark's stepped forward and made pledges to pay down a significant portion of the remaining debt through personal contributions to a building fund. In order to receive pledges from the congregation, two capital campaigns were conducted and were tasked with the goal of paying off \$1,200,000 in debt owed to Thrivent Financial. Pledges to each of the capital campaigns covered a three year period. We are currently 2 ½ years into the 3 year period of the second campaign.

Here is a recap of the financial progress of our current three year capital campaign, which is set to end on December 31st of this year:

Total pledges received in 2009:	\$188,335
Total pledges received in 2010:	\$123,225
Total pledges anticipated in 2011:	\$206,949

It is important that all of the outstanding pledges made to our current capital campaign be fulfilled. If all pledges are fulfilled as anticipated, our total outstanding debt will be approximately \$67,470 as of 12/31/2011. This is remarkable progress!

The financial stability of our congregation depends upon our member's ability to fulfill the pledges they have made to the building fund. By eliminating our debt we can concentrate on the exciting strategic goals that St. Mark's has established for its future mission and ministry to the local community and beyond. At the end of the second quarter of this year, each member will receive a personal accounting that will detail the amount each person has pledged and the amount still outstanding that needs to be satisfied prior to the end of the year. Please respond to this invitation to fulfill your pledge in the same manner that you originally intended your pledge to be – a pledge of love and support for St. Mark's Lutheran Church. If you have not previously made a pledge to the building fund, or if you are a new member, please consider making a pledge to the building fund during our fall stewardship campaign.

The financial pledges of our members are essential in providing the necessary support to our community of faith, thereby allowing St. Mark's Lutheran Church to be a focal point of faith in the heart of the City. Thank you for your support.



Your Gifts at Work

Through your financial gifts, we were able to and much, much more. Your gifts make a difference!

Annual Giving 2011

Forward in Faith

Three year pledge (2009-2011)

No. of pledges	108 out of 211 possible
Pledged	\$547,554
Received thru 05/31/11	\$380,114

General Fund

One year pledge (2011)

No. of pledges	128 out of 211 possible
Pledged	\$365,739
Received thru 05/31/11	\$151,103

Income versus Expenses

<u>Jan-May '11</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budget</u>
Income	\$241,012	\$210,994
Expense	\$230,679	\$212,414
NET	\$10,332	\$(1,420)

A Special Message for Summer Travelers



Would you find it helpful to have your pledges and offerings debited directly from your bank account as you probably do with other obligations? St. Mark's offers Simply Giving, an electronic giving tool for those of you who wish to have contributions transferred electronically to the church's account. If you have plans to travel this summer, Simply Giving gives you a convenient way to keep up with your intended pledges and offerings. We currently have 58 families using Simply Giving. Contact the church office for a paper form, or sign up securely online by clicking the "Donate" link on our website.

Staff

The Rev. Elizabeth E. Ekdale

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Dr. Timothy Zerlang

Director of Music
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Jun Ranches

Director of Church Administration
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Elizabeth Baldrige

Wedding Coordinator
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The Rev. Chuck Lewis

Visitation Pastor

Duc Huynh

Buildings & Grounds Supervisor

Carl Storey

Security

Elvira Markov & Johanna Najera

Nursery Attendants

Jenny Hart

Sunday School Coordinator

Jan Charter

Church Council President



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St. Mark's Worship Schedule

Summer Sundays at St. Mark's

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

Sacred Saturdays

Experience God in Scripture, Silence, Song, and Sacrament

June 11

July 9

August 13

In this quiet, meditative service you are invited to experience the Holy One in the singing of simple chants from Taizé, in prayer, in listening to the words of Sacred Scriptures, in intentional silence, in the fellowship with others and in the sharing of the Holy Communion.

Summer Office Hours



Starting Tuesday, May 31, church office hours will be:

Monday through Thursday, 9:00 am to 4:00 pm
Friday, 9:00 am to 12:00 pm

These hours will be in effect until Tuesday, September 6.

Office Closures

Monday, May 30 (Memorial Day)
Monday, July 4 (Independence 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