

St. Mark's Voice

Quarterly Journal of Reflection and News

Volume 1, Issue 1
Feb-Mar-Apr 2010

In the heart of the city for ministry to the world.

Lent begins on
Wednesday, February 17

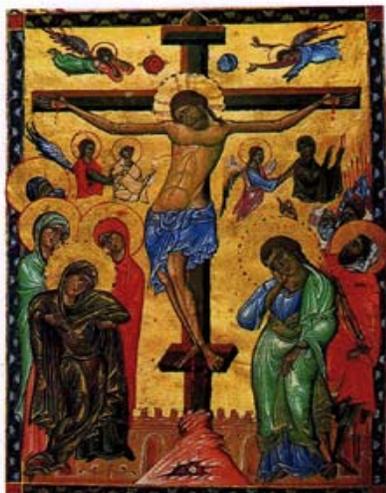
ASH WEDNESDAY
Join us for worship at
12:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m.

See our full Lent, Three Days
and Easter Worship Schedule
on page 2.

Lenten Reflection by Pastor Christian

Out of the depths I cry to you. *Psalm 130*

I love being part of a worshipping community. The seasons of the church year shape me and help me grow in my faith as I discover new things in my life of faith. The Lenten season starts with Ash Wednesday on February 17. For the forty days of Lent, we are invited to ponder and reflect, to ask questions and to learn, to forgive and to be forgiven as we journey towards the cross.



SEASON OF LENT

This year's Lenten theme comes from Psalm 130, "Out of the depths I cry to you..." On first reading, the Psalm text may sound depressing, sad, and dark. But on second reading, we may realize that the psalmist cries with all her being to God as she experiences her own anguish and pain. Lent is a season where we can bring all of us before God. God is able to stand our cries. God knows what it's like to feel abandoned, what it means to suffer. But, Lent is NOT all about pain and suffering. Rather, Lent reminds us that Jesus went on a thorny path to the cross so that we—in the end—can experience abundant life. The psalmist invites us towards the end of the psalm to "hope in the Lord. For with the Lord there is steadfast love, and with God is great power to redeem." (verse 7)

Martin Luther wrote a powerful hymn based on Psalm 130 (ELW 600).
(continued on page 4)

St Mark's
LUTHERAN CHURCH

1111 O'Farrell Street
San Francisco, CA 94109
www.stmarks-sf.org



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



2010 Wednesday Evening Lenten Series: Luther's Catechisms

Early in its history Lent became a time of education in the basics of the Christian faith for new converts seeking baptism at the Easter Vigil. Martin Luther encouraged preaching on the catechisms especially during Lent. Using both the Small and Large Catechisms as a basis for our midweek Lenten worship provides an opportunity to revisit some of the basic teachings of the Christian community. Some of Luther's hymns will be sung, words from his prayers and sermons heard.

Come and grow this Lent at St. Mark's as we journey towards the cross together.

During the Lenten season following Ash Wednesday we continue to gather on Wednesday evenings, with a simple soup supper starting at 6:00 p.m. and worship beginning at 6:45 p.m.

Lent, the Three Days and Easter, 2010

Lent

✠ **ASH WEDNESDAY WORSHIP**
February 17
12:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m.

Wednesday Lenten Suppers
February 24 and March 3, 10, 17 and 24
at 6:00 p.m.

✠ **WEDNESDAY LENTEN VESPERS WORSHIP**
February 24 and March 3, 10, 17 and 24
6:45 p.m. Luther's Catechisms

✠ **SUNDAY OF THE PASSION / PALM SUNDAY WORSHIP**
March 28
9:00 a.m. Procession with Palms & Holy Eucharist
11:00 a.m. Procession with Palms & Holy Eucharist
12:15 p.m. Coffee and Fellowship Hour

✠ **HOLY WEEK COMPLINE WORSHIP**
March 29, 30 and 31
7:00 p.m. Prayer and Reflection

The Three Days

✠ **MAUNDY THURSDAY WORSHIP**
April 1
7:00 p.m. Holy Communion, Stripping of the Altar & First Communion

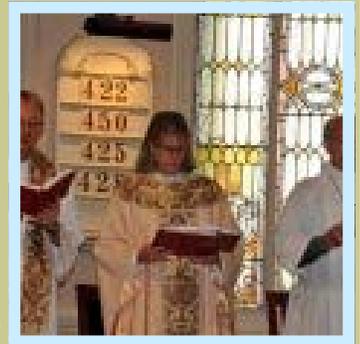
✠ **GOOD FRIDAY WORSHIP**
April 2
12:00 p.m. Stations of the Cross
7:00 p.m. Liturgy of Good Friday "Passion According to St. John"
by Heinrich Schütz - St. Mark's Choir,
Adoration of the Cross

✠ **EASTER VIGIL WORSHIP**
April 3
8:00 p.m. Service of Light, Service of Readings, Holy Baptism & Renewal of Baptismal Vows, First Eucharist of Easter, Festive Reception to follow in Heritage Hall (*Please note that incense will be used at this service*)

Easter

✠ **EASTER SUNDAY**
April 4
9:00 a.m. Festive Communion Worship with Children's Time
11:00 a.m. Festival Choral Worship featuring Jakob Handl's
"In resurrectione tua, Christe"

8:00 TO 10:30 a.m. Pancake Breakfast in Heritage Hall
10:15 a.m. Easter Egg Hunt on St. Mark's Square
12:15 p.m. Coffee and Fellowship Hour

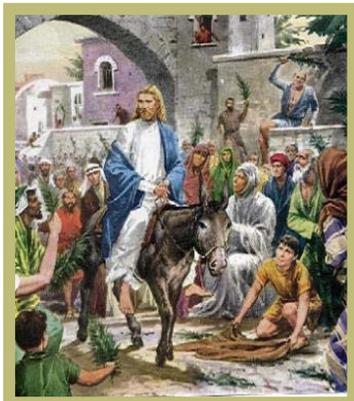


Holy Week

As Christians, our lives are shaped by the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Our Holy Week journey begins on Passion Sunday and concludes with the first celebration of Easter at the Saturday evening Easter Vigil Service. St. Augustine called this week, the Great Week. This week commemorates the last week of the earthly life of Jesus Christ. It is a week rich with liturgies filled with emotion, story-telling, tradition, mystery, ritual, ancient liturgy and music. We have included descriptions of each service from a resource titled, *Sundays and Seasons*. We hope that as you read the descriptions of each service, you will be drawn to worship at each liturgy and thereby experience more deeply the life, death, and resurrection of our Lord, Jesus Christ.

Peace,

Dr. Elizabeth



SUNDAY OF THE PASSION / PALM SUNDAY

The voice of the suffering savior, Jesus, can be heard in the prophet Isaiah's words and the pleading of the psalm. We are invited into the agony of our Lord in the extended reading of the story of Jesus' passion. In the second reading, we who have put on Christ in holy baptism are urged to let the mind of Christ be our own. Lent leads us to this holy moment. Embrace it.

MAUNDY THURSDAY

With nightfall our Lenten observance comes to an end, and we gather with Christians around the world to begin the Three Days during which we participate once again in the saving power of Jesus' passing over from death to life.

At the heart of the Maundy Thursday liturgy is Jesus' commandment to love one another. As Jesus washed the feet of his disciples, we are called to follow his example as we humbly care for one another, especially the poor and the unloved. At the Lord's table we remember Jesus' sacrifice of his life, even as we are called to offer ourselves in love for the life of the world.

GOOD FRIDAY

At the heart of the Good Friday liturgy is the passion according to John, which proclaims Jesus as a triumphant king who reigns from the cross. The ancient title for this day—the triumph of the cross—reminds us that the church gathers not to mourn this day but to celebrate Christ's life-giving passion and to find strength and hope in the tree of life. In the ancient bidding prayer we offer petitions for all the world for whom Christ died. Today's liturgy culminates in the Easter Vigil tomorrow evening.

EASTER VIGIL

This is the night! This is our Passover with Christ from darkness to light, from captivity to freedom, from death to life. Tonight is the heart of our celebration of the Three Days and the pinnacle of the church's year. The resurrection of Christ is proclaimed in word and sign, and we gather around a pillar of fire, hear ancient stories of our faith, welcome new sisters and brothers at the font, and share the food and drink of the promised land. Raised with Christ, we go forth into the world, aflame with the good news of the resurrection.

EASTER SUNDAY

"This is the day that the LORD has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it." God has indeed raised from the dead the one who was put to death "by hanging him on a tree." Alleluia! God allows Jesus to appear "to us who were chosen by God as witnesses" in holy baptism and invites us to eat and drink at the table of the risen Christ. Alleluia!



ST. MARK'S REGULAR SCHEDULE

SUNDAYS AT ST. MARK'S

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

WEDNESDAYS AT ST. MARK'S

Midweek Supper	6:00 pm
Midweek Holy Communion	6:45 pm
"Journeys in Faith" Gathering	7:20 pm
Adult Choir Rehearsal	7:30 pm

Deutscher Gottesdienst in der Osterzeit, 11. April um 15 Uhr

German Service in the Eastertide, April 11 at 3:00 p.m.

This Easter season we will celebrate a German language service at St. Mark's on Sunday, April 11 at 3 p.m. in our beautiful sanctuary. Come and celebrate the joy of Easter in the tradition of the Lutheran Church in Germany. Whether you speak German or not, all are welcome!

The Season of Lent



(continued from page 1)

He knew about the grace and mercy that comes from the cross.

So, even when we cry to God from our deepest pit, God will hear us. In God remains hope, even if everything else around us looks bleak. This is Lent, too. Knowing that from pain can come healing, and from sadness can come new joy.

Did you know that the word Lent comes from an Old English word for spring (or German Lenz)? Perhaps this serves as a good reminder that we journey from the depths to new life...longer days, more daylight, trees and flowers blossoming.

In the Lenten season a common question we often hear is, "What are you giving up for Lent?" I believe adding something can be much harder than giving something up. A few years ago I started adding a spiritual discipline and found it to be far more difficult, and I was stretched. In order to add something you have to give up something. When I add a discipline I give over to God control of one part of my life. I will tell you it is not easy.

As part of your Lenten journey I hope you will join the community on Wednesday nights as we pray and sing and reflect together on Luther's Catechisms. Lent offers lots of opportunities to cry out to God and to hear God's Word of grace, forgiveness, and healing.

This Lenten season, I encourage you to add a spiritual discipline to your life. See what happens when you come to worship every Sunday and every Wednesday evening. Your life will feel different. Plan to be at all three services in Holy Week...do the complete Triduum this year. It really is amazing how you look at the Lenten stories when you've walked the whole journey with Jesus.

Lenten Blessings to all, *Pastor Christian*



Strategic Planning Coming to St. Mark's!

This spring, St. Mark's will embark upon a strategic planning process – a series of events that will play a significant role in shaping our future as a congregation. The process will take place over 3 months, and is designed to build community, allow room for spiritual discernment, and turn our attention to a long-term vision for St. Mark's. At the end of the process, we hope to have more clarity and focus in how we can move forward and truly accomplish our mission of being a growing Christian community that reaches out in service and welcomes all.

The major planning activities will be led by Roy Oswald, a long-time consultant with the Alban Institute, who has authored 16 books on congregational life and has extensive experience working with Lutheran congregations in discerning their future.

Key congregational activities include:

History Night - 6:00 PM, Saturday, February 20: A special evening of food and fellowship where we will share memories and learn about St. Mark's history and how it has helped shape who we are today.

House Meetings – February/March: A series of small group meetings where all members of the congregation will be invited to share their thoughts on St. Mark's and their hopes for our future.

Norms Night – 6:00 PM, Saturday, March 13: An evening to reflect on our congregational norms – the “personality” of the congregation - including habits, both conscious and unconscious, that shape how we act as a faith community.

Goal Presentation – Noon, Sunday, April 18: A celebration luncheon following church where we will discuss new goals for the future and engage in planning for their attainment.

This process will be most successful with the energy and engagement of the entire congregation, so your participation in all planning events is strongly encouraged. We hope all share the excitement of the Pastors, Council and the staff as we move into this important period of reflection and renewal.

Randy Schieber

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Jenny Hart

Sunday School Coordinator

Randy Schieber

Church Council President

Carl Storey

Security

The Rev. Chuck Lewis

Visitation Pastor

Stacy Cullison

9:00 am Pianist/Organist

Elvira Markov &

Johanna Najera

Nursery Attendants

A letter from the Rev. Mark Hanson

Dear sisters and brothers in Christ,

"If one member suffers, all suffer together with it; if one member is honored, all rejoice together with it."

—1 Corinthians 12:26

Almost two weeks have passed since the devastating earthquake in Haiti. The outpouring of gifts from members of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) to ELCA Disaster Response has enabled a swift response on behalf of this church.

Thank you for your generous financial support which now totals more than \$1.6 million. Thousands of other gifts are still being counted. Our community-based partners are already providing:

- Two water purification systems to bring clean water to 25,000 people.
- Emergency food and medical supplies to thousands.
- Blankets and tents to shelter 10,000 people who are homeless.
- Funding, distributed through three partners, will increase as giving continues.
- \$300,000 has been sent to The Lutheran World Federation (LWF), a key responder and member of Action by Churches Together (ACT). The funds support LWF efforts to provide shelter to people left homeless by the quake.
- \$150,000 has been sent to Lutheran World Relief (LWR), Baltimore, for material aid.
- \$150,000 has been sent to Church World Service (CWS) for construction of temporary water systems and distribution of water purification materials. In addition, \$25,000 has been sent to Lutheran Services of Florida for initial support to refugees and Haitian Americans entering or returning to the United States.

We are pleased that Louis Dorvillier, director for International Development and Disaster Response in the ELCA Global Mission program unit, is part of a delegation to his country of origin with LWF and ACT.

Your generosity makes this life-saving work possible. As we celebrate this outpouring of gifts and prayers, we also know that we have a long road to travel together. There is so much more to be done. This church is committed to walking with our brothers and sisters in Haiti for years to come; your continued support is needed to provide ongoing care.

I encourage you to visit the ELCA Disaster Response (www.elca.org/disaster) Web site for updated information, worship resources, bulletin inserts and details on how to offer financial support. General mission-support dollars and gifts to ELCA Vision for Mission make it possible for 100 percent of your gifts designated for Haiti Earthquake Relief to be used entirely for this response effort.

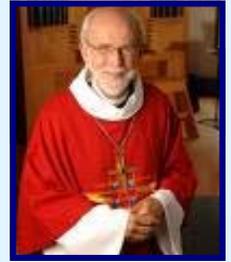
To give today, go online (www.elca.org/haitiearthquake) or call 800-638-3522.

In God's grace,

The Rev. Mark S. Hanson

Presiding Bishop

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America



“Global and Pastoral Connections”

*Pastor Christian is going on Sabbatical
April 18-July 17, 2019*

What is a sabbatical? You may remember not all that long ago, in 2007 to be precise, Pr. Elizabeth went on a sabbatical. Around that time St. Mark's church council also approved a sabbatical policy for St. Mark's clergy. Since I have served a continuous five years at St. Mark's, I have become eligible for a sabbatical leave. One publication notes that “a sabbatical is a time to focus in-depth on things that are important to a pastor's work and life with the church. Sabbaticals should include intentional times for reflection, rekindling the spirit, and deepening spiritual life and family relationships.”

At its last meeting in January, my sabbatical proposal was approved by the council. So what am I planning to do? My sabbatical's theme is *Global and Pastoral Connections*. I am planning to go on a cross-cultural immersion and spend time in Quetzaltenango, Guatemala to study Spanish and immerse myself in a different culture. I am also spending time away at Holden Village, an ecumenical retreat center in the Lutheran tradition in the North Cascade Mountains of Washington that can only be reached by boat. Many of us are familiar with Holden Village through the beautiful “Holden Evening Prayer” that we use during midweek worship in Advent. Apart from those two events, I am going to spend time reading and studying, time with family, exercise and short retreats.

All in all, I hope this to be a time of reflection, awareness of God's presence in my daily life, replenishment and assessment of my pastoral leadership and skills. Remember, it is not only I who will be going on sabbatical. It is all of us, the entire congregation, which is invited to experience Sabbath and retreat during this time. I am very excited about this opportunity and am grateful to St. Mark's for this gift!

Pastor Christian

An Adult Forum on Pr. Christian's sabbatical is scheduled for Sunday, April 11. If you have any questions for Pr. Christian on his upcoming sabbatical, please don't hesitate to connect with him.

Columbarium Installed



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

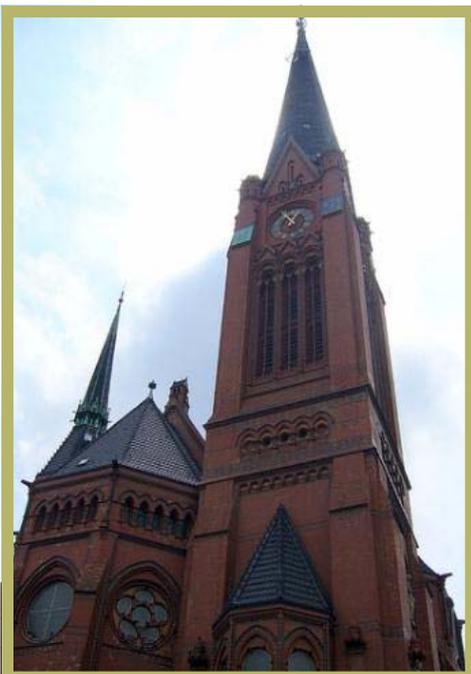




Berlin Service Trip

PARTICIPANTS: Kilian Benson, Ana Hurley, Martha Jin, Natalie Lehmann, Mina Ocker, Sigi Ocker, Coco Ocker

CHAPERONES: Tom Benson, Jon Ocker, Sharon Reinbott, Marlo Tellschow, Linda Krauskopf



The American Church in Berlin.

This trip will be a wonderful opportunity for St. Mark's senior youth to grow in Christian faith and Lutheran foundations. If you would like more information on the Berlin Service Trip, please contact Tom Benson at (707) 765-2775 or takeben-son@earthlink.net, or speak to one of the pastors.

"Learn and Serve" Senior Youth Trip to Berlin/Germany, June 2010

An old, red-brick church stands in the center of a culturally and ethnically diverse community, in the heart of a world-renowned metropolitan center; the church's congregation struggles to find ways to reach out to nearby communities of need as it also strives to nurture its own church family through worship bound in a Lutheran faith tradition.....sound familiar?

This is the American Church in Berlin; having shed its cold-war era mission to provide spiritual comfort to American "ex-patriots" (and having shed its suburban chapel church), it now finds itself in a reunified and tougher city, as a much larger international congregation. In this diverse city where poverty and true need are seen near the church doors, the American Church in Berlin has refocused its mission to offer Christian service, volunteerism and bridges of communication to the Turkish and other ethnic communities nearby. Now the church invites service groups from the United States to come and participate in this amazing ministry.

This is where our senior youth will go this June as part of our two-week "LEARN N SERVE" Senior Youth Trip to Germany. Service projects will be assigned to us later in the Spring, but will probably include working in the "Laib und Seele" (*Body and Soul*) food distribution program, helping in children's and senior facilities, graffiti removal in nearby parks, and participating in the church's "Learning Café" tutoring program for neighborhood children.

After a week of service, and a weekend of rest, we will venture south from Berlin to embark on the "LEARNING" part of our youth trip. In Wittenberg, we will see where Martin Luther took his first stand to launch the Reformation, and we will visit the Wartburg castle in Eisenach to see where he sought refuge from persecution. Back in Berlin, we will visit important historical sites like the Reichstag, Brandenburg Gate, remnants of the Wall and the new (and deeply moving) Holocaust Memorial.

Thank you for supporting our youth!

Ongoing fundraising efforts have already demonstrated the loving generosity of the St. Mark's community in support of our senior youth as they prepare for this service trip. Support through personal sponsorships for individual youth, and community fundraising events (*did you try a **Currywurst** after our congregational meeting?*) will make it possible for *all* senior youth who wish to participate to be able to do so. More fundraising events with opportunities to support our youth are planned in the next months. Watch for another babysitting fundraiser, special desserts at congregational gatherings, a silent auction, a pasta feast after a service and maybe more.

Tom Benson

Honoring Our Foremothers

Wednesday, March 10, 2010
 9:30am - 2:30pm
 Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary, 2770 Marin Ave., Berkeley
 Celebrate the contributions of four women who contributed significantly to full participation of women in church and society: Marge Wold, Fran Burnford, Elizabeth Bettenhausen and Christine Grumm. It will be a day of stories, memories, stimulation and fellowship. Lunch is included, and all are welcome!

For info call: 510-524-5264, or contact reception@plts.edu.

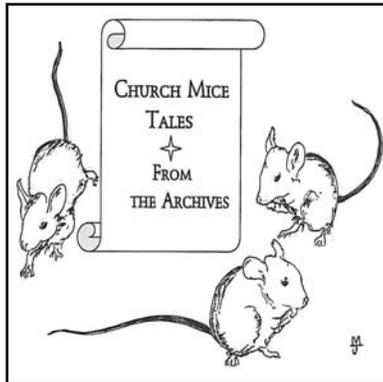
The annual McCoy Memorial Lecture on Religion, Ethics, and Public Life, April 27

Margaret R. McLean, Ph.D. GTU '97
 Associate Director and Director of Bioethics, Markkula Center for Applied Ethics, and director of the Applied Ethics Center, O'Connor Hospital in San Jose, and active member of St. Mark's Lutheran Church, San Francisco.

McLean will speak on health care reform and end of life medical decision-making. April 27 at 7:00 p.m. Pacific School of Religion Chapel of the Great Commission 1798 Scenic Ave., Berkeley Reception 8:00 p.m. Badè Museum. For more info, visit www.gtu.edu.

What is the Carillon Tower?

You've seen the tall round building near the parking lot, but do you know its history? During the urban



renewal project in the '60s when St. Mark's Square was born, two housing proposals were submitted to the Redevelopment Agency--one for the Martin Luther Tower affordable housing for seniors, and the other for the Carillon

Tower intended as living facilities for middle aged and younger. Seven members of St. Mark's formed a non-profit corporation to construct the Carillon Tower, planning it to be part of St. Mark's Square.

There was great elation when both housing proposals were accepted by the Agency. While Martin Luther Tower succeeded, unfortunately the St. Mark's group had to relinquish the Carillon Tower due to a financial squeeze while waiting for full occupancy. There is a wall-stone mounted near the front entrance which is divided into 4 sections, depicting a dove of peace, an eagle of freedom, a seal with the Golden Gate Bridge, and the Lion of St. Mark's. These symbols are surrounded by the words: St. Mark's Square at the top, with 1964 and Carillon Tower on the bottom. The distinctive round building is our close neighbor which shares the history of St. Mark's Square from its very beginning, 46 years ago.

This is the sixth in a series of historical tales from the archives

- Marge Jeneks



First Communion Class for children and their parents: Saturday afternoon, March 27 from 2:00 - 3:00

Please join Pr. Elizabeth at 2:00 in the church kitchen for conversation about Holy Communion. We will have the opportunity to bake communion bread and learn about the sacrament of Holy Communion. This class is especially appropriate for children who are not yet communing and their parents to attend. Children are invited to receive their first communion at the Maundy Thursday worship service at 7:00 pm. This worship service during Holy Week emphasizes Holy Communion and the Last Supper - it is a fitting service for anyone to receive their first communion. If you have questions about this process, feel free to speak with Pastor Ekdale.



Learning and Growing

Adult Forum

February 7 thru May 16



Members and friends of St. Mark's meet Sunday mornings at 10:10 in the Fireside Room of the Urban Life Center (or occasionally in Heritage Hall). We welcome all to join in learning and exploring together. Upcoming forums are:

February 7 - The Rwandan School Project with Pastor Karl Smith in Heritage Hall

You are 15 years old, live on the street because your parents can't care for you, and have never been to school. You cannot read or write or solve a simple math problem. You are often hungry. By now, you may think that you are a character in a Dickens' novel—but, no, you are a teenager in Rwanda. The genocide may be over but its effects linger. "Someone should do something!" you say. Well, The Rwanda School Project is! In partnership with the ELCA and Lutheran congregations, they are building the Rwamagana Lutheran School for street children, orphans, and others in need of education. Come and hear about the students, the bricks, and the books from Karl Smith, Treasurer of the Project.

February 14 – A Ministry to Those Coming Out of Prison with Chaplain Dora Ford

Meet Chaplain Dora Ford from Cornell Corrections and learn of her ministry to those leaving prison and living in the half-way house in the Tenderloin. Explore our Christian call to minister to those in prison.

February 21, 28, March 7, 14, 21 & 28 - Saints for Your Lenten Journey with Pastors Noel Ilagan, Elizabeth Ekdale and Christian Jennert

Feb. 21 – St. Barnabas with Pr. Noel

St. Barnabas was directly called by the Holy Spirit (he and St. Paul) to preach the Gospel and therefore has been referred to by early Church Fathers also as an "apostle". He joined Paul in his first missionary journey. Another interesting thing about him is that he was in the thick of things on the issue regarding the observance of Jewish rites by Christians. Later Barnabas and Paul had a "parting of ways" – one of the few incidents of interpersonal conflict among early church leaders mentioned in the Bible.

Feb. 28 - St. Therese of Lisieux (1873-1897) with Pastor Elizabeth

As a teenager, Therese desired to join some 20 nuns in a cloistered convent. When she wasn't permitted to enter, because she was only 15 years of age, she petitioned Pope Leo XIII personally to ask permission. Her spiritual memoir, *Story of a Soul*, has made her beloved by many. Generations have admired this young saint and found in her short life more inspiration for own lives than in volumes by theologians. Therese died when she was 24, after having lived as cloistered Carmelite for less than ten years. She never went on missions, never founded a religious order, never performed great works. But within 28 years of her death, the public demand was so great that she was canonized. Come and learn more about this beloved Saint who is called affectionately, the "Little Flower".

March 7 - St. Catherine of Siena with Pastor Christian

St. Catherine of Siena experienced what she described in her letters as a "Mystical Marriage" with Jesus. Catherine dedicated much of her life to helping the ill and the poor, where she took care of them in hospitals or homes. Her early pious activities in Siena attracted a group of followers, both women and men, while they also brought her to the attention of the Dominican Order, which called her to Florence in 1374 to interrogate her for possible heresy. She began travelling with her followers throughout northern and central Italy advocating reform of the clergy and advising people that repentance and renewal could be done through

"the total love for God."



March 14 - St. Elisabeth of Thuringia (also called St Elizabeth of Hungary) with Pastor Christian

St. Elisabeth of Thuringia was married at the age of fourteen, widowed at twenty, relinquished her wealth to the poor, built hospitals, and became a symbol of Christian charity in Germany and elsewhere after her death at the age of twenty-four. She perhaps best known for the legend which says that whilst she was taking bread to the poor in secret, her husband asked her what was in the pouch; Elisabeth opened it and the bread turned into roses. This miracle is commemorated in almost all images of the saint—prayer cards, statues, paintings.

March 21 - Archbishop Oscar Romero (1917-1980) with Pastor Elizabeth

The 30th anniversary of Romero's assassination is March 24, 2010. Romero spoke out on behalf of the poor and the victims of the Salvadoran civil war. In 1980, as he finished giving his homily during Mass, Romero was assassinated. He is considered by some to be the unofficial patron saint of the Americas and El Salvador and is often referred to as "San Romero" by those living in El Salvador. Come and learn more about this man of faith, his prophetic work in El Salvador, and how he has inspired the lives of millions working for justice and peace.

March 28 - Holy Week/Triduum with Pastors Elizabeth and Christian

We walk toward Holy week and Easter where we will remember, celebrate and participate in Christ's death and resurrection. Come and discover the rich liturgies St. Mark's will have during Holy Week, their meaning and why participation is so important. What is Triduum? What is the meaning of Maundy Thursday? Why should I come to an Easter Vigil service? All questions are welcome!



April 4 - EASTER BREAK - NO MEETING

April 11: - Pr. Jennert's Sabbatical

A conversation with Pr. Jennert about his upcoming sabbatical.

What is a sabbatical, what are the benefits and how can it lead to renewal for both pastor and congregation.

April 18-May 16 - Rereading Romans: "How can I find a

gracious community?" with Dr. Everett R. Kalin Come and reread the book of Romans with Dr. Everett Kalin, Christ Seminary-Seminex Emeritus of New Testament at Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary.

April 18 - Jews and Gentiles (Romans 12-16)

April 25 - All Israel Will Be Saved (Romans 9-11)

May 2 - All Are Guilty (Romans 1:1-3:20)

May 9 - All Are Innocent/Amnestied (Romans 3:21-4:25)

May 16 - Free at Last (Romans 5-8)

May 23 - Language and Ritual with Kyle Schiefelbein

The last couple of decades have seen an increased awareness of language in worship, especially with gender-inclusive language. What exactly do the words in our worship mean, and how do they relate the language in general? Are the rituals that are done in liturgy actually a language of their own? Come and explore the verbal and non-verbal language used in our worship services.



Joleen Jessen and Pastor Elizabeth share their experience at the sister Synod encounter in El Salvador at a November Adult Forum.



Senior Trips

Friday, Feb. 26 - Scenic Drive down the Peninsula with Chinese Lunch in Cupertino

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!*

Departure at 11:00 a.m.

Friday, Mar 26 - Trip to Yountville/Napa Valley with visit to Bouchon Bakery

We are going to beautiful Napa Valley and will visit the small town of Yountville, known for its cute little downtown and its many Michelin star-awarded restaurants. We

will stop at Bouchon Bakery, a must-stop when in Yountville for some French treats.

The boulangeries, the bakeries, of Paris are filled with the most extraordinary creations- the macaron, the croissant, the

tart and any number of exquisite chocolate confections. These staples of Parisian daily life can be found at Bouchon Bakery.

Departure at 11:00 a.m.



Friday, Apr. 9 - Jack London State Historic Park in Sonoma County

"The grapes on a score of rolling hills are red with autumn flame. Across Sonoma Mountain wisps of sea fog are stealing. The afternoon sun smolders in

the drowsy sky. I have everything to make me glad I am alive. I am filled with dreams and mysteries. I am all sun and air and sparkle. I am vitalized, organic." —Jack London

Enjoy the trip to beautiful Sonoma County and visit the famous Jack London State Historic Park and

museum. Jack London State Park is a memorial to writer and adventurer Jack London. We will explore the 1400 acre Beauty Ranch and visit the museum. A lunch will follow in Glen Ellen.

Don't miss this trip to beautiful Sonoma County!

Departure at 10:00 a.m.

Note: Starting in 2010 a fee of \$3.00 for all Senior Center Trips will be charged.

Senior Luncheons

Look for Senior Luncheons on the following days:

Thursday, Feb. 18

Thursday, Mar. 18

Thursday, Apr. 15

Watch for posted menus in the MLT Lobby!

Please sign up for Senior Trips and Senior Luncheons in the MLT Office, or contact Pastor Jennert at 415.928.7770 or at jennert@stmarks-sf.org.



Seniors enjoy a relaxing lunch in Inverness.

A note from the Rev. Dora Ford of Cornell Corrections:

Pastor Elizabeth,
Please thank everyone in your congregation who helped to make Christmas here at Cornell the best one ever. 159 men and women received gifts – made up of 318 pairs of socks, 25 pounds of candies and 75 pounds of hygiene products – all packaged in beautiful gift bags.

For some it was the only gift they received. Robert has “been away” for over 18 years. Family live near by but he wasn’t invited. The gift you helped make possible was the only one he received, yet he had a smile on his face – the first I had seen in a while.

Again, thanks,
Dora Ford



Dr. Timothy Zerlang, organist and director of music at St. Mark's Lutheran Church, San Francisco, give a bravura performance of "Your Favorite Hymns, circa 1700" on Sunday, January 24th. Showing off St. Mark's Taylor & Boody tracker organ, Dr. Zerlang played music of J.S. Bach, Johann Pachelbel, Dietrich Buxtehude, Johann Buttstett and others.

The Taylor & Boody organ at St. Mark's is very similar in style to the one J.S. Bach played at St. Thomas Kirche, Leipzig. It may be played either with the bellows powered by electricity or as they were in the time of Bach, "pedal power" where someone worked the bellows with their feet. For the first piece Dr. Zerlang played, Buxtehude's Toccata in F Major, youth church member Martha Jin worked the bellows.

Church Office Closures

For Presidents' Day

Monday, February 15 (office closed)

For Easter

Friday, April 2 (office closes at noon)

Monday, April 5 (office closed)



Dr. Zerlang takes a bow...



...and salutes the organ.



Church Council elections took place at the annual Congregational Meeting on January 31, 2010.

Elected to the Council for 3-year terms were:

Aron Bohlig, Jan Charter and Roger Ostrem (returning members) and **Daniel Pharr** (new member.)

The other 2010 Church Council members are:

Jerrold Allen, Dean Atkinson, Geri Bailey, Liv Beck, Pr. Elizabeth Ekdale, Marge Jencks, Pr. Christian Jennert, Adam Renslo, Susan Sall, and Suzanne Smith.

Officers will be elected at the Council Retreat on February 13-14.

New for 2010 at Mt. Cross

NEW summer camp opportunities...



Kinder Kamp: a Friday - Saturday camp for 4-5 year olds with a parent (or guardian)

Young Explorers: a Friday-Sunday camp for 6-8 year olds

Connections: Younger campers (8-13) can combine 2 one-week sessions of camp

The Freshman Challenge: For 9th Graders ONLY

Jr eXtreme & Sr. eXtreme: Adventure camps for Junior and Senior High youth.

Summer Camp Discounts

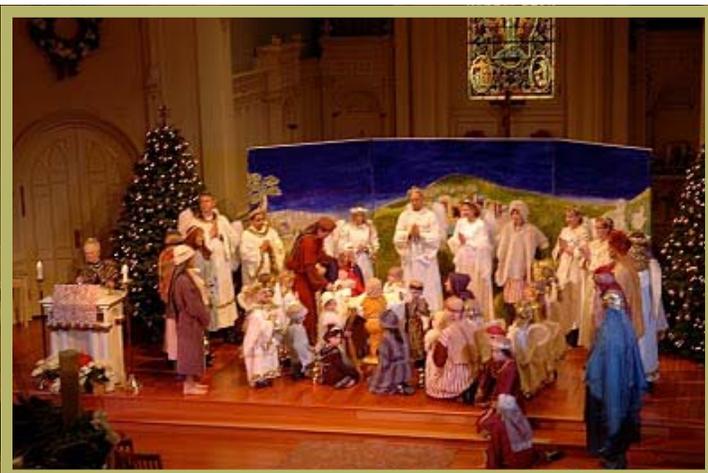
Bring a New Camper Discount: Past Mt. Cross summer campers may receive a \$25 discount per new camper brought. The new camper's registration and deposit MUST accompany the past camper's registration and deposit.

There are also Multiple Child Discounts...contact Mt. Cross for more information.

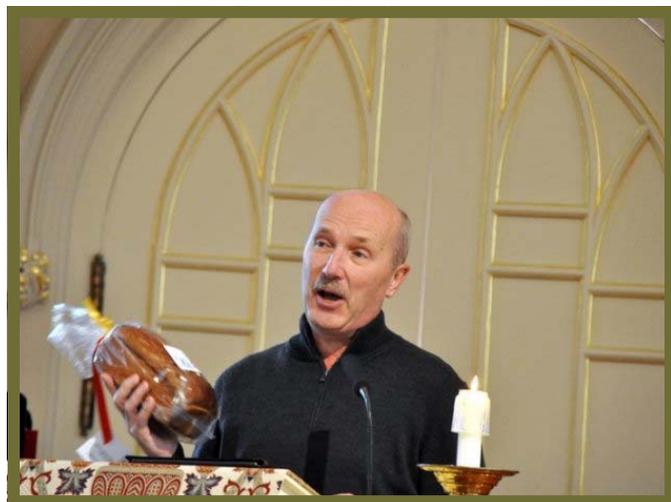
Contact Info:

For summer camp registration: registrar@mtcross.org

For general information contact: mtcross@mtcross.org



St. Mark's was a busy place on Christmas Eve! The Christmas Pageant took place at 5:00 p.m. There was a service of Lessons and Carols at 8:00 p.m. and a Choral Eucharist at 11:00 p.m.



Roger Ostrem shares bread with church members at the Forward in Faith stewardship presentation in November.

Council highlights from the November, December and January

Church Council meetings:

NOVEMBER 2009

- Council approved the Community Garden proposal presented by Social Ministry.
- Pr. Elizabeth's planned travel to El Salvador with Joleen Jensen to attend the sister Synod Encounter.
- Newsletter name change: St. Mark's Voice, Quarterly Journal of Reflection and News.

DECEMBER 2009

- No council meeting in December.

JANUARY 2010

- Council approved Pr. Christian's Sabbatical proposal.
- Council approved the proposed 2010 budget
- Congregational Meeting and election of Council members planned for 1/31/10
- Report on plans for annual council retreat February 13th & 14th.

TAKE A LOOK! The Council Bulletin Board is located in the hallway, across from the nursery. The Council minutes will be posted each month.



Annual Giving 2009

Forward in Faith

Three year pledge (2009-2011)

No. of pledges	95 out of 216
Pledged	\$529,763
Received thru 12/31	\$124,519

General Fund

One year pledge (2009)

No. of pledges	128 out of 216
Pledged	\$331,592
Received thru 12/31	\$311,841

Income vs. Expenses

Jan-Dec 09	Actual	Budget
Income	\$ 470,250	\$ 457,048
Expense	\$ 499,353	\$ 481,731
NET	-\$ 29,103	-\$ 24,683

Your Gifts at Work

Through your financial gifts, we were able to feed and house the homeless, teach Sunday School children about the love of God, support ministries for our seniors at Martin Luther Tower, build a columbarium for our loved ones, and worship in a beautifully retrofitted church building and much, much more.

Your gifts make a difference!

Baptism Sundays at St. Mark's

The church has established a series of Sundays throughout the year to be celebrated as "Baptism Sundays." Here are the dates of **St. Mark's Baptism Sundays** for the following year:

April 11, 2010 - Easter 2

May 30, 2010 - Memorial Day weekend (9:00 am service only)

September 5, 2010 - Labor Day Weekend

November 7, 2010 - All Saints' Sunday

January 9, 2011 - Baptism of our Lord

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

Sacred Acts at St. Mark's

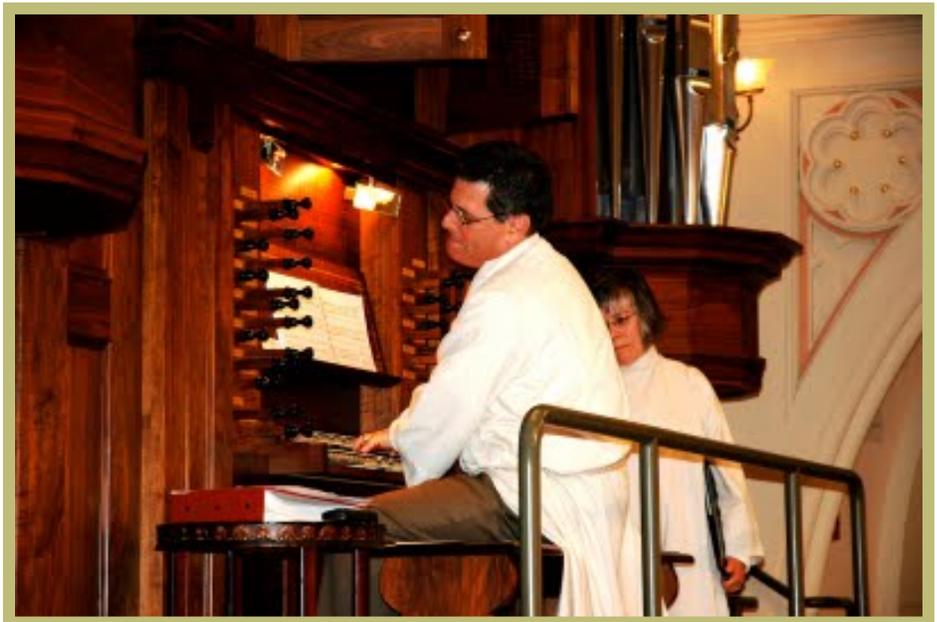
Join us in commemorating the recent sacred events in our parish:

Baptisms

Hazel Sol Battaglia, baptized on Nov. 1, 2009

Joseph Anthony Green, baptized on Nov. 1, 2009

Gordon Francis Brown, baptized on January 10, 2010



Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland *(Savior of the nations, come)*

Dr. Timothy Zerlang, Director of Music at St. Mark's Lutheran, San Francisco gave a special presentation of Bach's setting of Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland for the third Sunday of Advent.



St. Mark's once again hosted a homeless shelter in January for working men in San Francisco.

February - April, 2010

St. Mark's Lutheran Church
 1111 O'Farrell Street
 San Francisco, CA 94109



Church Office Hours

9:00 am to 5:00 pm, Mon-Fri

Phone: 415.928.7770

Fax: 415.928.8534

www.stmarks-sf.org

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.



Images from St. Mark's annual Congregational Meeting and Luncheon that took place on January 31, 2010.



New Name, New Look, New Content for 2010!

At a recent meeting of the Congregational Council, it was recommended that our newsletter be renamed:

St. Mark's Voice

Quarterly Journal of Reflection and News

The new name is intended to reflect an ongoing new direction for the newsletter to include more feature articles of interest, more St. Mark's news and photos, and to appear quarterly. The newsletter will be primarily distributed electronically. If you would rather receive a hard copy, please inform the church office.

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

www.elca.org