

December 25, 1970 – A Christmas gift



“We hope that the study and use of this Book will bring fulfillment and happiness to your life in the years ahead. Love Mom and Dad” I was nine years old when I received this gift from my parents – my own Bible. I still have it. It is one of those Bibles that have a cover around it which zips open. The words of Jesus are in the color red. I’ve received and purchased at least a dozen bibles since then but this one is priceless because it was given to me by my parents. Little did they know in 1970 that I would be called to serve in Word and Sacrament ministry in the Lutheran Church. But, I credit them in planting the seeds with the gift of this bible.

We are each invited to be “seed planters” – in small and mighty ways, we can share the gift of our faith with those around us. Far too often, we underestimate the power of the Holy Spirit who tends and nourishes those tiny seeds into a blossoming faith. We want instant results and are frustrated



"Alleluia! Christ is risen!"
Members Astra Varian and Coco Ocker of St. Mark's Confirmation Class proclaim the risen Christ at the April 3 Easter Vigil.

Christmas Gift

continued on page 2



1111 O'Farrell Street
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www.stmarks-sf.org



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

Christmas Gift

continued from page 1

when we don't see signs of any immediate growth or progress. A coworker turns down your invitation to worship with you. A grieving friend says, "thanks but no thanks", to the offer of being included in your prayers. Your lovely teenager, once again, questions why we worship together as a family when there are better ways to spend a Sunday morning. (Note: I asked the same question of my parents many times!)

Rather than giving up and keeping your faith completely to yourself, I encourage you to just go about planting the seeds. Allow the Holy Spirit to do her work on them. Remind yourself that we are the planters and let God be the grower. Plant those seeds of faith and watch what God can do with them. After all, in this season of Easter, we celebrate the power of Christ's resurrection and God's victory over death. Seeds can and will grow – just keep planting them! ◇

Easter joy to each of you,
Pastor Elizabeth

Pentecost

On Sunday, May 23, the paraments and vestments in the sanctuary change from the white of Easter to the red of Pentecost. Pentecost is the day on which the Church commemorates the coming of the Holy Spirit and the beginning of the Church's mission after Christ's resurrection. In the book of Acts, Luke describes the scene with tongues of fire resting on the apostles as they begin to speak in many different languages.

Pentecost, originally a Jewish harvest festival following the annual observance of Passover, in Greek means "fiftieth" and can either refer



to the fiftieth day after Easter (as in the Day of Pentecost) or the fifty-day period spanning the seven weeks from Easter to the Day of Pentecost (sometimes called Eastertide). In the early church, this fifty-day period was one of rejoicing, and every day was treated in the same way as a Sunday. In the fourth century, the fiftieth day itself came to be celebrated as the commemoration of the Holy Spirit.

Because of its emphasis on the Holy Spirit, it is fitting that Affirmation of Baptism (Confirmation) is celebrated on Pentecost at St. Mark's. In the rite the confirmands reject sin and confess the faith of the church. The presiding minister lays hands on each of the confirmands, praying that God would stir up in the person the gift of the Holy Spirit, which was already given in baptism. The congregation promises to pray for and support these young people as they continue their life of faith, for Confirmation is not a "graduation" from church but rather an important milestone in one's continual faith journey. Ana Hurley and Natalie Lehmann are our confirmands planning to be confirmed on May 23. ◇

Kyle Schiefelbein
Co-chair, Worship Team

Sacred Saturdays

Come for a time of Evening Worship—contemplative, sacred, and communal. We will receive the Living Word through the Scriptures and the Eucharist, chant sacred songs and remain in prayerful silence. Sacred Saturday Worship takes place on the second Saturday of each month at 5:00 pm in the Sanctuary. Upcoming dates are:

Saturday, May 8

Saturday, June 12

Saturday, July 10



ST. MARK'S REGULAR SCHEDULE

SUNDAYS AT ST. MARK'S

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

WEDNESDAYS AT ST. MARK'S

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



Please join us on Sunday, May 2 for the unveiling of our new strategic plan - six areas of focus for the next four years to guide us in living our mission of reaching out in service to the community and the world.

These new strategic goals will be communicated immediately following both the 9 and 11 AM services, and additional time will be set aside during coffee hour following the 11 AM service to engage members of the Strategic Planning Task Force on how the goals were developed and how we can move forward to make these goals a reality.

The goals are a culmination of a process that began in February with an evening of remembering the significant moments in St. Mark's history. It continued with a series of house meetings, where we received thoughtful feedback on what members appreciate about St. Mark's, and also what causes concern. In March, we reflected on our congregation's norms, articulating what makes us unique as a congregation, including some areas where there is still work to be done.

During this period, the Strategic Planning Task Force also gathered additional information about St. Mark's immediate neighborhood using demographic studies, and learned of the many needs of our neighbors through community interviews.

The initial output of these efforts was a list of 33 goal options that were distributed to the congregation for prayerful consideration.



Note: The Wednesday schedule will end on June 23 and resume on September 8.

Celebration

continued on page 4

Celebration

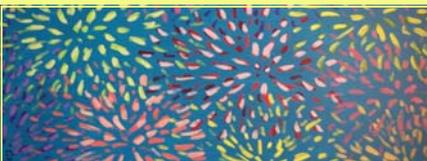
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Then, 32 members of the congregation met on a Saturday afternoon to reflect on these options, engage in a lively discussion, and ultimately narrow the goals to the six key areas of focus that will be communicated on May 2.

It has been an exciting, intensive, and eye-opening process, and the Strategic Planning Task Force is grateful to the many members of the congregation who have put their time and energy into this important effort. We look forward to the upcoming celebration, and moving forward as a community with renewed purpose, focus and energy. ◇

Strategic Planning Task Force

Pr. Elizabeth Ekdale
Pr. Christian Jennert
Tom Benson
Barbara Engmann
Marge Okuley
Randy Schieber
Scott Taylor
Martin Thompson



A Birthday Celebration

During 2010 there have been many concerts, festivals, exhibitions and other commemorations of the 325th anniversary of the birth of J.S. Bach. Some organists have performed or will perform J.S. Bach's complete organ works this year. Before some over-excite themselves, and others shudder with dread at the prospect of witnessing such an undertaking, depending on their musical tastes, allow me to announce that I will not be playing the complete works for organ by J.S. Bach on the Taylor and Boody organ this summer. I am proposing, rather, that we celebrate the 300th anniversary of J.S. Bach's eldest son, Wilhelm Friedemann (1710-1784) by exploring some of the surviving organ works of this very gifted musician.

Wilhelm Friedemann was born in Weimar, where his father was employed as organist and chamber musician to the Duke of Saxe-Weimar. J. S. Bach supervised Friedemann's musical education and career with great attention. The graded course of keyboard studies and composition that J. S. Bach provided is documented in the *Clavier-Büchlein vor Wilhelm Friedemann Bach*, with entries by both father and son. This education also included parts of the French Suites, the Inventions, the Sinfonias, the first volume of the Well-Tempered Clavier, and the six Trio Sonatas for organ. The scholar Peter Williams argues that J. S. Bach's so-called "Goldberg Variations" were in fact written to provide a display piece for Wilhelm Friedemann.

Wilhelm Friedemann was appointed in 1733 to the position of organist of the St. Sophia's Church at Dresden. In competing for the post he played a new version of his father's Prelude and Fugue in G Major, BWV 541. The judge described Friedemann as clearly superior to the other two candidates. He remained a renowned organist throughout his life. Wilhelm Friedemann ended his career in Berlin, where he struggled as a teacher and free-lance musician. In order to survive, he sold many of his father's musical manuscripts that he had inherited, and gave others to students. Most famously, perhaps, the manuscript to his father's St. Matthew Passion, which he gave to his student Sarah Itzig Levy, the great-aunt of Felix Mendelssohn.



I hope you enjoy getting a bit acquainted with the organ music of Wilhelm Friedemann Bach. Happy 300th! ◇

Tim Zerlang

LEARN 'N SERVE Senior Youth Trip to Germany

A huge, heart felt "THANK YOU" to the congregation and friends of St. Mark's for the amazingly generous support given to our Senior Youth in preparation for this summer's service trip to Berlin!!! The youth group has already raised over eight thousand dollars, which makes it possible for all of the youth who want to participate to do so. Thanks also to the local chapter of Thrivent for Lutherans, who has provided matching funds to significantly boost our fund-raising efforts.



We are getting ready to pack! Our excitement grows as we look at all the activities planned for our two weeks in Germany. Here's an overview:

On Sunday, June 13, we arrive in Berlin and crash for the night in our apartments on Grossgoerschenstrasse (try to say that three times) near the American Church in Berlin. That week, we will participate in a variety of service projects organized by the American Church. These may include helping with their "Laib und Seele" food-distribution program, helping with their "Learning Café" tutoring program, serving at a children's home or at a senior nursing home, or volunteering with local park renovation. We're planning a number of tours and visits to historical and cultural sites, including the Reichstag, Brandenburg Gate, Memorial of the Berlin Airlift, the new Holocaust Memorial and also some of the beautiful 18th century palaces in and around the city. Of particular interest is "Gleis 17" ("Track



This is where we are going!

17") the memorial railway site from which many Jews were deported during the terrible years of the Third Reich. You can see images of the memorial at <http://www.gleis-17.de/>.

After a weekend of rest, play, worship attendance...and laundry, our second week will take us by train to Wittenberg, where we will tour this exquisite "Luther-Town" and learn more about the origins of our Lutheran heritage. Then we pack up for Eisenach, where we'll be staying at the Youth Hostel. We'll climb the hill to the scenic and historic Wartburg Castle, where we'll carefully examine the exact (apocryphal) spot where Luther threw an ink-well at the wall when he saw the Devil (we'll try to pick up some actual history too).

If you want to follow the progress of our trip, we'll be logging on to the St. Mark's FACEBOOK page (search: "**St. Mark's Lutheran Church - San Francisco**") every day that we can, so you'll be able to read our updates from Germany.



Art Fundraiser in February.

Our LEARN 'N SERVE senior youth trip will be prayerful as we deepen our understanding of Christian service and the roots of our faith. We ask for your prayers as our youth enter into this journey of service and learning. ◇

Tom Benson

"If you spend yourselves in behalf of the hungry and satisfy the needs of the oppressed, then your light will rise in the darkness, and your night will become like the noonday." Isaiah 58:10

On March 10, 2010, approximately 200 people gathered to honor four laywomen at PLTS.

In this year when we celebrate the 40th anniversary of women's ordination we were reminded that it didn't begin with ordination. The women we honored represented the previous church bodies which formed the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA). Dr. Phyllis Anderson, president of Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary (PLTS) delivered the sermon at the worship service. The sermon is shared with you in gratitude for the past and hope for the future.

Jo Chadwick



Have you seen this around the Square? See Church Mice Tales of the last issue of The Voice for clues.

Honoring our Foremothers

Phyllis Anderson—March 10, 2010
PLTS Chapel of the Cross

Readings:

Luke 13:18–21; Psalm 13

In the summer of 1976, I was a seminarian fulfilling my Clinical Pastoral Education requirement at a state hospital in Philadelphia. I wasn't the only woman in our small, intense reflection group. The other woman was Southern Baptist. We had only been ordaining women for six years in the Lutheran churches in this country. The Southern Baptists not at all. The role of women in the church was always an issue simmering just beneath the surface. I don't remember a lot of conversations from that summer. But I do remember a Lutheran student in the group—a young man—saying to me once: "I don't care if you want to be a pastor. That's up to you. But I don't see why any woman would want to. Don't you know that you will always be the last dog in the litter?"

It was a great privilege to be present in January at the ordination of our presider for this service, Pastor Lori Eichmann. We celebrated her extraordinary gifts. We celebrated how the church has been blessed and how it will be blessed by her ministry. I was also privileged to see Lori Eichmann graduate in this chapel in the spring of 2005—nearly five years ago. She waited five long years for a call. Along the way she must have felt more than once like the last dog in the litter. We have gay and lesbian graduates too, waiting too long to be called. Too many leaders of color in our church are without a call at any time. Too many last dogs.

Today is a day of celebration—a day to HONOR our foremothers. But it is also a time of lament. It is a time to weep with the psalmist: "How long, O Lord? How long shall I have perplexity in my mind, and grief in my heart, day after day? How long shall my enemy triumph over me?" It is a time not only to celebrate the leaders chosen for today—Fran...and Chris...and Marty...and Marge—but also a time to acknowledge how hard their paths have been and to remember those who dropped out along the way because it was just too tough. We cannot forget the ones who were crushed.

We invited a fifth woman to be honored today: Elizabeth Bettenhausen. Dr. Bettenhausen was a lay leader at the very highest levels



Foremothers

continued on page 7

Foremothers

continued from page 6

in the Lutheran Church in America. She was a theologian—someone who was very important to many of us because of her brilliance and her audacity to challenge the system and help us imagine God in new ways. She held a faculty position at Boston University, a Methodist school. Her academic career ended abruptly. She never got another position. She tried to make it as a free-lance lecturer and writer, with help from her friends and supporters. She knew what it means to be the last dog in the litter.

We invited Elizabeth to be among those honored today. We prevailed upon her to come. She gave it serious thought, graciously thanked us, and finally declined. It was all too painful. Too long ago. She's done her ministry outside of the church for decades now. She didn't need to put herself through all that again by coming into this "churchy" place. I promised her that her story would be told. "Ok," she said, "but briefly."

As we follow Jesus during this Lenten season, he appears to all the world as the least likely to succeed. Stable-born. Refugee. Of uncertain paternity. Hounded by the Pharisees. Rejected by the priests. Betrayed by his followers. Stripped and flogged. Crowned with thorns. Nailed to a cross. Jesus is the last dog in the litter.

This fragile man is the one God chose. God chose Jesus—this Jesus—to usher in God's rule on earth. God took something as small and fragile as a human being—even a male human being—to bear in his finite body God's purpose for all humankind, for the whole creation. The ultimate truth about God and God's rule is revealed through the deeds of this Jesus: embracing, healing, feeding, washing their feet, suffering, dying.

The ultimate truth about God and God's rule is proclaimed through the words of this Jesus.

The Realm of God is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in the garden; it grew and became a tree, and the birds of the air made nests in its branches.

A seed: So small. So common. So fragile. A seed has to go underground, into the dark, cold earth, and die—before it will sprout. The mystery unfolds out of sight, below the surface. Time passes. A tiny green shoot pokes through the soil. So fragile, so small. But it grows

Foremothers

continued on page 10

Upcoming Adult Forums

**10:00 am Sundays in the
Fireside Room**

REREADING ROMANS:

"How Can I Find a Gracious Community?"

May 2, 9, 16

Dr. Everett R. Kalin

LANGUAGE AND RITUAL

May 23

Kyle Schiefelbein

REPORT ON THE SIERRA PACIFIC SYNOD

ASSEMBLY

May 30

Pastor Ekdale

Jan Charter,

Geri Bailey

Dan Pharr

St. Mark's Retreat

No Adult Forum

June 6

EVALUATION AND PLANNING OF ADULT EDUCATION AT ST. MARK'S

June 13

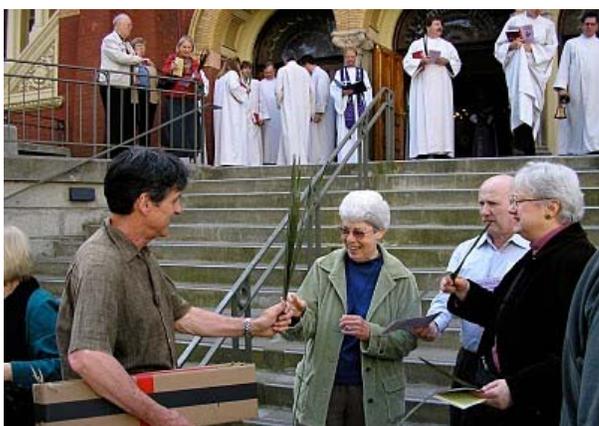
Summer recess until Rally
Day, September 12th.

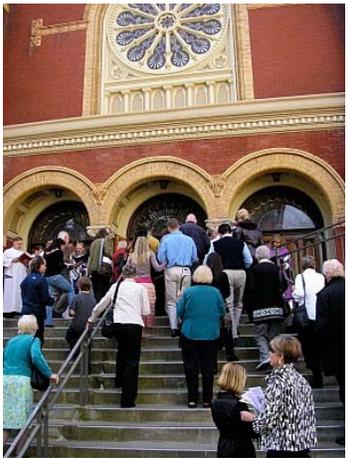
Enjoy your summer!

Holy Week and Easter 2010 at St. Mark's



Stacy Cullison is presented with an Easter bouquet in thanks for her dedicated work as St. Mark's 9 am pianist for the last two years.





Holy Week and Easter 2010 at St. Mark's

STAFF

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The Rev. Chuck Lewis
Visitation Pastor

Elvira Markov &
Johanna Najera
Nursery Attendants

Foremothers

continued from page 7

and becomes a great tree, a big, safe place where birds can build their nests.

The realm of God is like yeast that a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour until all of it was leavened.

Yeast: So small. So common. So fragile. So risky. Like seeds, yeast doesn't always work. Trust me. Sometimes your hot cross buns don't rise. I wonder how many of those mustard seeds never do sprout. A lot, I think. But it is in the very nature of seeds to grow into plants. It is in the very nature of yeast to rise. When all the conditions are right, yeast leavens the whole lump and increases the mass two, three, four fold. What was a small ball of dough in the bottom of the bowl fills the whole bowl and lifts the lid right off.

God uses what is small to make something very, very big. God's pure rule begins with one man, Jesus. It grows and spreads organically, mysteriously, in hidden ways until its ultimate, inevitable triumph, until God rules all in all. In that realm, everything that was fragile becomes strong. Everything that was despised is glorified. Everything that was excluded is drawn into the center. In that realm, there are no runts.

These women, as you have heard, are accomplishing great things—not only for the church but beyond the church. They challenge the church and expand God's rule on earth.

The place of God's rule grows every time Marty breaks through to students who feels alienated and helps them claim their vocation and shine in their own special way; every time she inspires her readers to practice the faith at a deeper, truer level; every time she tells the story of her great loss in a way that helps others live with theirs.

The place of God's rule grows every time Fran welcomes the marginalized, every time she practices radical hospitality to those who are different, and every time she confronts injustice and violence throughout the world.

The place of God's rule grows every time Marge touches a neighbor at Walnut Village with her uncommon wisdom and grace.

The place of God's rule grows as Elizabeth cares for her aged mother and tutors school children—beyond the church.

Foremothers

continued on page 11

Foremothers

continued from page 10

Today we celebrate how God has used the ministry of women to advance God's subversive, mysterious, expanding rule on earth. It starts with something small—at least as this world measures things. It begins with the least likely to succeed, the last dog in the litter by some accounts. It is full of risks and pain and apparent failure. And mysteriously it exceeds all expectations.

Until all hierarchies are overturned
Until the last dog becomes the lead dog
Until Christ's way of compassion becomes the rule
Until life conquers death and war is no more
Until the whole creation is transformed,
remade in God's own image,
the image we see most clearly in the death and resurrection
of Jesus the Christ. ◇

Ludemann Family Bible

Sometimes the tales of St. Mark's have long-ago beginnings. Such is the case with the gift of memorabilia representing many years of history from the family of Charlotte Ludemann, long-time member of St. Mark's. Several generations of Ludemanns were connected with St. Mark's for over a hundred years. One of the treasures received is an old family Bible dating from 1679 (from family information), which had been passed down through many generations of Ludemanns. A few weeks ago the book was carefully unwrapped and opened, revealing a large worn Bible in elegant German text. The title page and original cover are missing, making verification of the publication date difficult. The book is fragile, suffering from old age and attack by dampness, and perhaps mold and mildew. Nevertheless, the book's beauty shines



through, especially the remarkably attractive etchings within the text depicting Bible stories, and the artistic quality of the font. The ink of the printed text is amazingly vivid, after perhaps 330 years. The names of generations of Ludemanns are hand written on the inside of the front and back cover at least as far back as 1796.

This is the seventh in a series of historical tales from the archives.

Marge Jeneks

Sacred Acts at St. Mark's

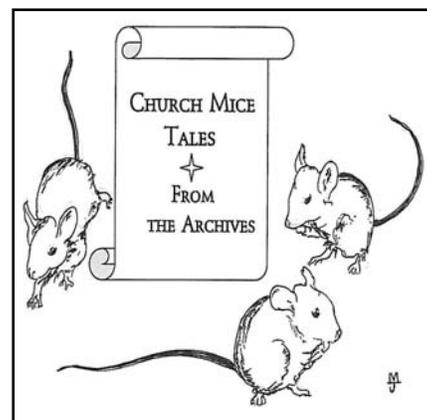
Join us in commemorating the recent sacred events in our parish:

Baptisms

Giavonna Bethleen Kerr
on March 21, 2010

Martha Jin
on April 3, 2010

David Lam
on April 3, 2010





Annual Giving 2010

Forward in Faith

Three year pledge (2009-2011)

No. of pledges	106 out of 225
	<i>(possible)</i>
Pledged	\$529,763
Received thru 3/31	\$201,886

General Fund

One year pledge (2010)

No. of pledges	124 out of 225
	<i>(possible)</i>
Pledged	\$351,946
Received thru 3/31	\$71,251

Income versus Expenses

Jan-Mar '10	Actual	Budget
Income	\$104,307	\$105,992
Expense	\$121,814	\$124,684
NET	-\$17,507	-\$18,692

Your Gifts at Work

Through your financial gifts, we were able to host and support missionaries Pr. Noel and Connie Ilagan, Rev. Arden Strasser and others, welcome new members through "Journeys in Faith", host concerts in our sanctuary including the American Bach Soloists, San Francisco Performances, New Esterhazy Quartet and others, support a Lutheran school in Rwanda and much, much more.

Your gifts make a difference!

Reflections on St. Mark's Parish Pilgrimage

June 4-6

What is a pilgrimage? This increasingly popular mode of travel might evoke a variety of images: medieval monks traveling long distances on foot to visit a religious shrine, or perhaps even English colonists sitting down for a Thanksgiving feast. In current parlance, the term is most often used to describe a particular type of group religious tourism—modern pilgrims fly to remote destinations to see the significant tourist sites on their itinerary, all while traveling together in the comfort of their air-conditioned coaches. But within the range of ideas that our society assigns to the term "pilgrimage," I tend to gravitate to the one provided by religion scholar Huston Smith: "to set out on a pilgrimage is to throw down a challenge to everyday life." From Smith's observation we can infer that a good starting point for making a pilgrimage is to simply begin thinking about the way we live.



When the alarm goes off in the morning and I finally decide to get out of bed, I confess that I tend to follow a pretty well established routine. I have a bowl of oatmeal, take a shower, put in my contact lenses and floss and brush my teeth—virtually always in that order. And good thing. My life would be extremely trying and inefficient if I were forced each morning to have long internal deliberations about whether or not I should brush my teeth. Fortunately (for everyone!) I just do it—I don't need to think about it.

Despite its usefulness for living, there is, however, an aspect of this "autopilot life" that seems to disturb us at our core. Henry David Thoreau famously went to live in a tiny cabin near Walden Pond, explaining that "...I wanted to live deliberately... and not when I had come to die, discover that I had not lived." Thoreau ironically saw something disordered in a seemingly orderly, yet unexamined existence. And so, one of the purposes of pilgrimage is to take a look at, or as Smith points out, actually challenge the part of our life that's on autopilot and say: "I'm going to try to live intentionally—even if it's only for a short time—I'm going to remove myself from familiar routines and surroundings to think about where I've been and where I'm going."

Pilgrimage

continued on page 13

Pilgrimage

continued from page 12

In some respects, pilgrimage resembles the spiritual disciplines practiced in many religions: fasting, attending religious services, praying, taking a sabbatical, or even the simple act of becoming aware of one's breathing. In the Israelite tradition we find the idea of Sabbath, the force of the word literally meaning "a time to stop." We take a very deliberate break; we focus on our everyday human actions and through that experience we hope to give our everyday, "autopilot" life renewed significance.

But in the case of pilgrimage, there is one additional, quite essential step: that of traveling outside of our physical and spiritual comfort zones. Going on a pilgrimage involves intentionally moving our bodies and intentionally upsetting our normal routines: we don't sleep in our own beds, we place ourselves in unfamiliar spaces and settings and we eat and converse at length with people with whom we don't usually eat and converse. We stretch ourselves a little—or maybe more than a little—knowing that by expanding our horizons we will help put the other 99.99% of our lives into a broader perspective. This is not to say that a pilgrimage can't be relaxing—in some cases being able to lower one's guard and set aside some intentional time for "just



being" can have its own rewards in terms of refreshment and renewal. But in making a pilgrimage we also don't travel simply to experience new creature comforts or to hit all the tourist spots or take a trip "just for fun." Pilgrimage is brimming with purpose, intention and

openness to the new, sometimes challenging, and sometimes even surprising work of the Holy Spirit in our lives.

I hope you will consider joining other St. Mark's parishioners for time away at the Bishop's Ranch on June 4-6 in beautiful rural Sonoma County. As part of our parish pilgrimage we will spend time reflecting on the moving story of the Journey to Emmaus—and the journey back to Jerusalem—in Luke 24. And if for some reason you aren't able to join us, I hope you will strongly consider designing your own pilgrimage this summer; give yourself the gift of some time away to reflect, stretch, grow and "just be." The other 99.99% of your life will be richer for it. ◇



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 year:

May 30, 2010

Memorial Day weekend

(9 am service only)

September 5, 2010

Labor Day weekend

November 7, 2010

All Saints' Sunday

January 9, 2011

Baptism of our Lord

May 1, 2011

Easter 2

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

Dale Loopp

Senior Luncheons

Look for
Senior Luncheons
on the following days:

Thursday, May 20

Thursday, June 17

Watch for posted menus
in the MLT Lobby!

Coming on Friday, July 2

MLT's Annual Independence Day Barbecue

for MLT and St. Mark's
Seniors!
12:00 noon to 1:30 pm
in Heritage Hall

Please sign up for
Senior Trips
and
Senior Luncheons
in the MLT Office,
at 415.885.1084.



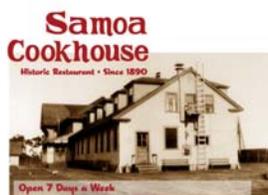
Barbara's Fish Trap on Friday, May 14

Join us for lunch at perennial favorite Barbara's Fish Trap in Princeton. We'll take a beautiful drive down the coast, followed by a scrumptious lunch at Barbara's, "a seafood lover's dream"! Renowned for its clam chowder, fish and chips, and a variety of seafood tempuras, Barbara's has a relaxed atmosphere and sits right on the water.

We'll depart from Martin Luther Tower at 11:00 am and return by 2:30 pm.



Senior Center Summer Road trip along the Redwood Highway to the Samoa Cookhouse & Humboldt Bay, Friday, July 30th



Just minutes from Eureka, California, the Samoa Cookhouse, the last surviving cookhouse in the

West, continues the tradition of serving lots of good food - lumber camp style! Serving all-you-can-eat breakfast, lunch, and dinner - you'll never leave hungry!

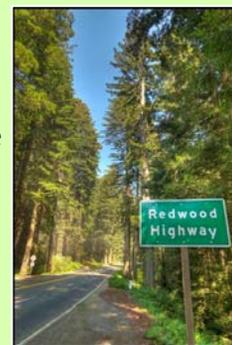
We are coming for lunch served family style, including entrée, soup, salad, bread, vegetable, potato, coffee, tea and dessert. After a hearty meal, take a step back in time - visit the Historic Logging Museum and gift shop full of relics and photographs from the old logging and Cookhouse days.

Please note that the Summer Road Trip to Humboldt Bay will take all day and requires an extensive time in the car or van. Please wear comfortable clothes-- a light jacket for the morning and evening. In addition please bring a bottle of water for the trip. We will stop occasionally for bathroom breaks, sightseeing and stretching.

The transportation cost for the trip is \$5.00.

The all-you-can eat lunch at the Samoa Cookhouse is under \$15.00.

We will depart from Martin Luther Tower at 6:30 am and return by 8:00 pm. Come and get away with us! ◇



News from the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Stay in touch with happenings in the ELCA! Visit

<http://www.elca.org/news>

and click on the News Releases button on the left side. Some recent news items include:

April 16, 2010

ELCA Provides \$50,000 for Earthquake Response in China

The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America is providing \$50,000 for response to the April 14 earthquake in Yushu, China. The magnitude 6.9 earthquake destroyed an estimated 15,000 homes in Yushu, left more than 1,100 people dead and hundreds more missing.

April 11, 2010

ELCA Council Adopts Significant Revisions to Ministry Policies

The Church Council of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) adopted a series of historic and sweeping revisions to ministry policy documents April 10, the result of months of extensive writing, comment and review by hundreds of leaders and members following the 2009 Churchwide Assembly.

April 6, 2010

ELCA Presiding Bishop Attends Easter Prayer Breakfast at White House

The Rev. Mark S. Hanson, presiding bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA), said he "very much appreciated" comments by U.S. President Barack Obama April 6, in which the president spoke of "the significance of Christ's death and Resurrection for his life and faith, and for our witness."

Hanson was among some 50 Christian religious leaders who attended an Easter Prayer breakfast hosted by Obama at the White House. Also attending were the Rev. David H. Beckmann, ELCA pastor and president of Bread for the World, Washington, and Jill A. Schumann, president and chief executive officer, Lutheran Services in America, Baltimore.

Lutheran Roots in America

The historical origins of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Behind every organization there's a fascinating back story—and the ELCA is no exception. In many ways, one could think of the ELCA's story as beginning over 500 years ago, during the time of the reformation in Europe or even 2000 years ago with the first followers of Jesus. Read about it by visiting

<http://www.elca.org/Who-We-Are/History>



Cooperative work began with the National Lutheran Commission for Soldiers' and Sailors' Welfare in WWI. Two chaplains in a car.

God's
work.
Our
hands.

Evangelical Lutheran
Church in America
www.elca.org

Church Council Highlights

February 2010

- Elected new officers:
President-----Jan Charter
Vice-President-----Roger Ostrem
Secretary-----Marge Jencks
Treasurer-----Aron Bohlig
Member-at-Large----Suzanne Smith
- Approved Friendship Banquets for HIV/AIDS patients to be held on Tuesdays in Heritage Hall beginning in April, organized by St. Paulus
- Heard Synod plans to establish an office in the 3rd floor suite of ULC
- Approved Congregational Retreat to be held on June 4-6 at Bishop Ranch in Healdsburg (Dale Loepf, Organizer).
- Expanded Music Director Dr. Zerlang's duties to include primary musician at 9:00am service.
- Agreed that Synod Assembly attendees at May 6-8 meeting will be Bailey, Pharr, Charter, and Pr. Ekdale.

March 2010

- Determined that scrolling announcements and photos will be displayed on the screen in Heritage Hall
- Established "Ministry Teams" as new name for "Parish Life Committees"
- Finalized plans for Dr. Zerlang to assume primary musician role at 9:00am service
- Approved motion regarding subscriptions to St. Mark's Columbarium, as presented by the Columbarium Committee

April 2010

- Wished Pr. Christian well as he leaves for his sabbatical
- Declared that volunteers are covered by the provisions of Section 3363.6 (a) of the California Labor Code
- Approved an expenditure to update St. Mark's audio system as recommended by the Property Ministry Team
- Encouraged members to attend the Strategic Planning Sessions

St. Mark's Voice

May-June-July 2010

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



Church Summer Office Hours

(Memorial Day to Labor Day)
9:00 am-4:00 pm, Mon-Thu
9:00 am-12:00 pm, Fri

Church Office Closures

Memorial Day
Monday, May 31, Office closed
Independence Day
Monday, July 5, Office closed

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



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