

Nov-Dec 2010,
Jan 2011



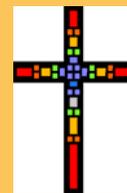
IN THE HEART OF THE CITY FOR MINISTRY TO THE WORLD.

St. Mark's Voice



Quarterly Journal of Reflection and News

Thanksgiving, Advent and Christmas Worship at St. Mark's



Thanksgiving Eve Service

Wednesday, November 24 at 6:45 pm

Community Service on World AIDS Day

Wednesday, December 1 at 6:00 pm

Midweek Advent Services at St. Mark's

Wednesday, December 8 at 6:45 pm

Magnificat! Advent Lessons & Carols with
St. Mary's Cathedral Choir

Wednesdays, December 15 and 22

Holden Evening Prayer at 6:45 pm

Christmas Eve

Friday, December 24

Christmas Pageant at 5:00 pm

Christmas Lessons and Carols at 8:00 pm

Candlelight Choral Eucharist at 11:00 pm

Christmas Day

Saturday, December 25

Festival Choral Eucharist at 10:00 am

New Year's Eve

Friday, December 31

Liturgy of New Year's Eve at 6:00 pm

Epiphany Eve Service

Wednesday, January 5 at 6:45 pm

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.

Magnificat! Advent Lessons and Carols

Wednesday, December 8, 6:45 pm

Special guests, St. Mary's Cathedral Choir, Chris Tietze, director

Mary sang "My soul magnifies the Lord, my spirit rejoices in God my Savior." Join your voice with hers; help us magnify the Lord as we await the birth of God's Son. Experience the beauty of Advent's message of hope, expectation and promise as expressed by carols of the season. This is your opportunity to sing favorites old and new like "Divinum Mysterium" and "Unexpected and Mysterious." St. Mark's choir will be joined by members of the St. Mary's Cathedral Choir in Dietrich Buxtehude's Magnificat in D, a charming and relatively brief setting of Mary's great canticle.



The chancel set up by Sacristan Richard for Sacred Saturday.

St. Mark's Regular Schedule

Sundays at St. Mark's

9:00 am HOLY COMMUNION
w/Children's Time

10:10 am Adult Forum

10:15 am Sunday School

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

7:30 pm Adult Choir Rehearsal

Every 2nd Saturday

5:00 pm SACRED SATURDAY



What is "Sacred Saturday"?

Every second Saturday everyone is invited to come for a different worship experience. People gather in the chancel area of the church (or at times in the Fireside Room) to experience a more quiet, meditative vesper service. The liturgy is simple and communal—we gather with an opening prayer and open ourselves to the presence of Holy Trinity. A singing bowl eases us into silence. A flute, beautifully played by Diana Gomez, leads us into song. The chants we sing are from the Taizé community in France, they are simple and repetitive and draw us ever more closely into God's mystery.

We then listen to words from the Scriptures. We use the ancient method of *lectio divina*, or "holy listening". The Bible text is read three times by different persons. Each time there is silence indicated by

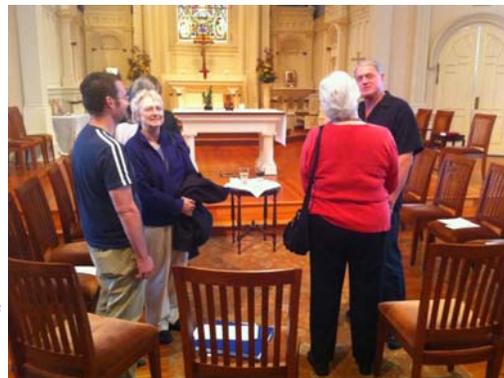
the ringing of the singing bowl to let the words of the Scriptures penetrate us deeply. We ask questions. What is the Spirit telling us?

"We use the ancient method of lectio divina, or "holy listening."

Prayers and a simple Eucharist conclude the service. We meet Christ in

the Word, Bread and Wine and in each other. Sacred Saturday is a wonderful way to become acquainted with ancient prayer and to get away from the frenzy of the week. It is intentionally quiet and meditative so that the Living Word may dwell in us richly and draw us closer to God. Come and experience Christ!

- Pastor Christian



People gather for conversation after Sacred Saturday Vespers.

Please mark your calendars for every second Saturday at 5 p.m.

Upcoming Sacred Saturdays:

November 13 in the Fireside Room

(following the SMART movie screening)

December 11 in the Fireside Room

January 8 in the Fireside Room

Forward in Faith, Growing in Grace Thanksgiving Luncheon

Sunday, November 21

Join fellow worshipers in Heritage Hall after the 11:00 am service for roast turkey and all the fixings. This is open to all—there will be a free will offering basket at the meal. Worshipers are invited to bring their pledge cards to worship in thanksgiving to God for all of God's blessings on this Sunday.





The Twelve Days of Christmas

“On the first day of Christmas, my true love gave to me...” I am sure most of you know this song, even if you cannot remember exactly what the true love gave on each of the twelve days of Christmas. This song has brought the idea of the 12 days of Christmas into popular culture. Yet, most people would ask why Christmas has 12 days.

The 12 days count from Christmas Day to the day before Epiphany, when our Eastern Orthodox brothers and sisters celebrate Christ’s birth. This discrepancy between East and West led to the count. Early Christians believed that Jesus must have lived on earth for an exact number of years, so his date of conception and crucifixion must be the same. Based on the Passion story narrated in the Gospels, Jesus was crucified on 14 Nisan (according to the Jewish calendar). In the Western Julian calendar this date was March 25, which we still celebrate as the Feast of the Annunciation; in the Eastern Julian calendar this date was April 6. Thus, placing the birth nine months after conception, Jesus’ birth was computed to be December 25 in the West and January 6 in the East.

These 12 days are filled with many festivals, most of which are overlooked during our joyous celebration of the Nativity. The first three days following Christmas Day reinforce the eschatological nature of the season, meaning that Christ’s birth into this time prefigures the “new heaven and new earth” mentioned in Revelation. Days two through four of Christmas are all lesser festivals of martyrs, with whom we will celebrate around the throne of

God. As such they are understood as “heavenly birthdays.” The second day (Dec. 26) is the lesser festival of St. Stephen, whose martyrdom by stoning is recorded in Acts 6-7. Often he is referred to as the “proto-martyr” since he is the first Christian martyr in Scripture. His role in the apostolic church was that of deacon, so he is also connected with the mission of service.

The third day (Dec. 27) is the lesser festival of St. John, apostle and evangelist. He is connected with the brothers of Zebedee (along with St. James), the author of the gospel and epistles that bear his name, and the author of Revelation. Tradition holds that John was exiled to the island of Patmos, where he wrote Revelation, and then moved to Ephesus in his old age. His martyrdom is in the technical sense of the word “witness,” not how it is often understood as sacrificial death.

The fourth day (Dec. 28) is the lesser festival of the Holy Innocents. These were the children whom Herod murdered in his tyrannical search for the infant Jesus in Matthew’s gospel. Although these children were not believers because of their age, they were nonetheless killed for the sake of Christ in place of him, and thus the early church recognized them as martyrs.

The other day of importance during the 12 days of Christmas falls on New Year’s Day, but not for that reason. January 1 (the eighth day of Christmas, also known as the “octave”) is the lesser festival of the Name of Jesus, commemorating the eighth day after his birth on which he was

named and circumcised in the temple as recorded in Luke’s gospel (older Lutheran hymnals referred to the day as the “Circumcision and Name of Jesus”). Besides the events of Holy Week, this is the only festival that retains the chronology of events as reported in Scripture. God’s Son being named Jesus (Hebrew for “Savior”) reinforces the Incarnation, that Jesus was not some abstract idea or spirit (as would be taught by the Gnostics) but both human and divine.

These days of Christmas remind us that death and birth are intertwined in Christian theology, which is also emphasized in the Triduum with death and resurrection. We are also reminded of the concreteness of the Incarnation, such that Jesus became just as one of us so that he might take on our sin and we his righteousness (Luther’s “happy exchange”).

- Kyle Schiefelbein, Co-chair Worship Committee

Oct. 3

Blessing of the Animals



Meet Teaching Parish Student Rose Beeson

While I rejoice at being a Teaching Parish student at St. Mark's, I must confess, that like some of you, I am not a life-long Lutheran. My journey to seminary, and through seminary, to St. Mark's, began in 2004 when I bought a house in Phoenix, Arizona. At that time, having come out as gay after being raised in a conservative Christian home, I wanted absolutely nothing to do with God or the church. God however had different plans.



I purchased a small townhouse in downtown Phoenix, and every day on the way to work, I would drive by a gorgeous, Spanish Colonial style church building with an amazing stained glass Rose Window facing the street. After spending a few months driving by and doing my best to ignore it, my love of architecture and older buildings got the best of me. One Sunday morning, after service had started, I snuck inside and sat in the back pew, determined to see the stained glass windows, and at the same time not wanting to engage with the ushers or greeters. That morning, sitting in church, I had an experience like Saul on the way to Damascus, where everything suddenly changes. The next Sunday I came back, not quite believing what I had experienced, and had a very exuberant man corner me in the back of the sanctuary and invite me to join the organ building team. This was an invitation that I, with my love of buildings, could not refuse. Spending almost every Saturday for the next year, with the group of guys who had already spent four years building organ chambers, an organ loft, and assembling a used 57 rank Moller pipe organ, grounded me in that Lutheran faith community and freed the small, quiet voice that had called me to ministry as a child.

In September 2009 I began working on my M.Div in the Graduate Theological Union in Berkeley, and hope to eventually become an ordained pastor in the ELCA. I look forward to spending the next year learning and worshiping with all of you, and thank you for welcoming me into your community.

- Rose Beeson

Pastor Elizabeth recognized by PLTS



On Founders' Day in September at the Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary, Pastor Elizabeth was recognized with the "**Distinguished Ministry Award for Parish Pastor**". This award is presented by the seminary to recognize outstanding achievements of its graduates in congregational ministry or special service. Shown at left are Pr. Elizabeth and Pr. Christian outside the PLTS chapel.

Sowing seeds of ministry

New Youth Minister

Welcome Meredith!

Meredith Gardner has recently accepted the role as St. Mark's Youth Minister, a part-time position.

She writes: "I am excited about working with the Senior and Junior High youth at St. Mark's. I want to help them grow in their faith, and grow together as a group. Feel free to contact me at meredithgardner87@gmail.com."

All Saints' Sunday

On Nov. 7th, we celebrate the baptized people of God, living and dead, who are the body of Christ. On this Sunday in both worship services, we remember saints known and unknown, particularly those at St. Mark's and Martin Luther Tower who have died in the last year. Please join us for this time of remembrance and celebration of all the saints in our lives.



Save the date!

Sunday, January 23, 2:00 pm
Organ Concert
by Timothy Zerlang

Did you know that our Director of Music is also a member of the piano faculty at Stanford University? Come hear Dr. Zerlang perform works by Tunder, Scheidemann, Scheidt and others (maybe even Bach) on the



Taylor and Boody organ, as well as some surprises on the piano. It promises to be a "very varied" concert in the Sanctuary. All are welcome.

Sunday School News

Once again we will make stockings for the homeless this January. Please bring in sample size toiletries, toothpaste, toothbrushes, razors, dental floss..... for the stocking stuffers. We will make the stockings on January 2nd, so please send in toiletries anytime before that. Your contributions will be appreciated by the men at our homeless shelter.

November 28th: Big Group, Advent Art Project. Children will meet as one group and make advent banners or wreaths.

December 19 and 26th: No Sunday School, Christmas break.

January 2, 2011: Big Group, Service

Project. Children will meet as one group and make "stockings" for the homeless shelter.

January 9, 2011: Big Group, Epiphany Sunday. Children will meet as one group and learn about Baptism with the Pastors.



Thanks!

A special thank you to Gail and Cal Culp for painting the Starr King entrance to the Urban Life Center. As well as repainting the walls a beautiful, bright blue they also hung artwork which they created. When our children and their families enter the building at this entrance they see a banner that the Sunday School children made themselves, displayed on a bright, freshly painted wall, surrounded by child inspired artwork. When motorists drive down Starr King and look into the Urban Life entrance, they know that children are welcome at St. Mark's. Thanks Gail and Cal, and Donna Dindia too, for sharing their time and talents and enriching our children's ministry at St. Mark's.

THANKSGIVING DAY INTERFAITH SERVICE *Sponsored by the San Francisco Interfaith Council*



November 25, 2010 at 10:00 a.m.

Third Baptist Church of San Francisco

1399 McAllister St, San Francisco, CA 94115

A free will offering will be accepted to benefit the SF Interfaith Winter Shelter.



Where is the Newborn King? Epiphany Eve Service

Wednesday, January 5, 6:45 pm

Epiphany means "manifestation." On this day we celebrate the revelation of Christ to the Gentiles—that is, to all nations. Some Christian traditions celebrate three great epiphanies on this day: the magi's adoration of the Christ child, Jesus's baptism in the Jordan River, and his first miracle, in which he changes water into wine. The word and sacraments are for us the great epiphany of God's grace and mercy. We go forth to witness to the light that shines brightly in our midst. On January 5, the eve of Epiphany, we will celebrate the journey of the three Magi as they searched for, and found, the baby Jesus. What sort of spiritual journey are we taking, what is our goal?

Join us as we celebrate the journey of the magi on January 5, Epiphany Eve. One feature of the service will be Andreas Hammerschmidt's wonderful "Where is the Newborn King?" sung by the St. Mark's Choir.

Knitting Ministry



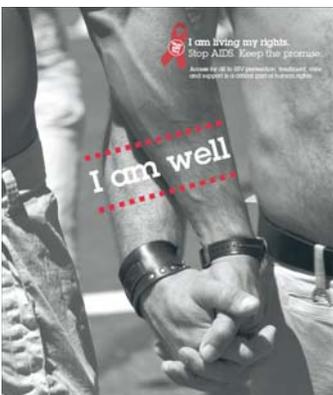
Worship at St. Mark's on Dec. 1, World AIDS Day, at 6:00 pm

According to UNAIDS estimates, there are over 33 million people living with HIV across the globe, including 2 million children. During 2008 almost 3 million people became newly infected with the virus and an estimated 2 million people died from AIDS. Around half of all people who become infected with HIV do so before they are 25 and are killed by AIDS before they are 35. HIV today is a threat to men, women and children on all continents around the world.



Started on December 1st 1988, World AIDS Day is about increasing awareness, raising funds, fighting prejudice and improving education. The World AIDS Day theme for 2010 is Act Aware. World AIDS Day is important in reminding people that HIV has not gone away, and that there are many things still to be done.

The ELCA's message, "AIDS and the Church's Ministry of Caring," states: "The church's ministry of caring is a grateful response to



God's caring for us. The undeserved love of God announced for all in the Gospel of Jesus Christ is our reason for standing with our neighbor in need...In the same way we are called to "be Christs" for all in our midst who suffer and are ill. Our calling summons us to compassion for, acceptance of, and service with people affected by AIDS both within and outside of our congregations."

That's why St. Mark's hosts on the first Wednesday night in Advent, December 1st, a Community Worship Service on World AIDS Day. As Christians we believe that God is active and alive in the world and calls us to make a difference. Amid the sobering realities of HIV and AIDS there is cause for great hope. We are seeing real progress in efforts to:

- halt the spread of HIV through effective prevention, treatment, and care,
- eliminate the stigma and discrimination experienced by those who are HIV-positive, and
- reduce the conditions of poverty that contribute to the spread of HIV.

(from the ELCA Strategy on HIV and AIDS)

Join Christians from various traditions and make your voice known as we observe World AIDS Day and heed the promise of Advent: "The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light." (Isaiah 9:2)



Members of St. Mark's serve dinner at the Interfaith Homeless Shelter in 2009.

Interfaith Homeless Shelter at St. Mark's

January 2 - 23, 2011

Beginning Sunday, January 2nd, St Mark's will host the SF Interfaith Council Homeless Shelter for three weeks. Overnight housing, breakfasts and dinners will be provided for approximately 60 men each morning and evening in the Urban Life Center Auditorium.

Please contact John Elford at j_elford@att.net if you can help. Be a part of St. Mark's Social Ministry...we look forward to serving with you!

District C Conference Meeting



Adult Forum for November, December and January



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) for our Adult Forum. We welcome all to join in learning and exploring together. Upcoming forums are. Our coming topics are:

Why Journeys in Faith?

November 7

Journeys in Faith Team

Come and learn about the state of church membership in the U.S. today and explore how the Lutheran Church and St. Mark's are working to address the needs of people to form Christian Community.

Meet Rose Beeson, our new Teaching Parish Student from PLTS

November 14

Meet and get to know St. Mark's teaching parish student from Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary.

Scripture and Worship

November 21, 28 & December 5

Dale Loepp

We will look at the connection between Scripture and Worship and how our liturgy draws from the Bible in a variety of ways. We will go over some passages such as "Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord..." basically showing where they come from in the Bible and how these stories connect with our worship and lives today. On the second and third Sundays we will look at Isaiah's Close Encounter with God (Isaiah 6) and Mary's Song of Justice and Hope.

In God's Name

December 12 and 19

Pastor Elizabeth Ekdale

This video explores the complex questions of our time through the intimate thoughts and beliefs of 12 of the world's most influential spiritual leaders. Our own ELCA Presiding Bishop, Mark Hanson, is one of those 12 along with The Dalai Lama, Ayatollah Muhammad Hussein Fadallah, a prominent Shi'ite Muslim Leader, Yona Metzger, Ashkenazi Chief Rabbi of Israel, and more. We will reflect on what these leaders share as well as learn about the different religions represented by these leaders.

These forums promise to be a fascinating and thought-provoking time of discussion and study.

**DECEMBER 26 & JANUARY 2
NO ADULT FORUM**

See Revealed Creation's Splendor: Christ, Communion & Creation

January 9, 16, 23

Dr. Christopher Evans

Come and explore the message of Christ for all creation:

- 1) With all that exists: Christ for Me, for Us and for All of Creation
- 2) With Earth and Sea and All their Creatures: All of Creation at Praise in Prayer and Song
- 3) Your Servant Too: Creation and All Creatures as Neighbor

Prayer

January 30 and February 6

Pastor Christian Jennert

Prayer is quintessential for all people of faith. One of the most common definitions for prayer is "a conversation with God". While we may be able to talk to God in our prayers, how is God speaking to us? We will look at the Scriptural foundations, explore different forms, and share how we are shaped by prayer. We will also explore why so many Christians are struggling with a meaningful prayer life. This Adult Forum is both lecture and lab!



Women of the ELCA...all are welcome

All women of St. Mark's and St. Paulus are invited to meet on the second Tuesday of each month from 11:00 am to 1:00 pm for Bible study, prayer, fellowship and fun. This year's study is "The People of God: Unity in the Midst of Diversity" and centers around the prophet Amos' question: "Can two walk together, except they be agreed?" (KJV) It is an important question for our time and merits investigation, using biblical texts, and intentional ways of communicating together about some important issues in our faith community. This study is based on the Book of Faith initiative and moves us into intentional conversation around issues that divide us from each other.

Our coming topics are:

November 9 - "The People of God: Gifts of the Spirit" and we will take our annual Thanksgiving offering.

December 14 will be our annual Christmas luncheon with Dean Atkinson preparing the food. Our Christmas program will be led by Darlyce Sandrock and Pam Dannenberg

January 11 - "The People of God: Worship"

Please call St. Mark's church office for more information. All are welcome!



Senior Center Christmas Dinner

Friday, December 10

5:00 pm in Heritage Hall

Join us for a sing-along of our favorite Christmas carols and holiday tunes. A gourmet meal will be planned and provided by Chef Dean Atkinson. Please watch the weekly bulletin for menu details!

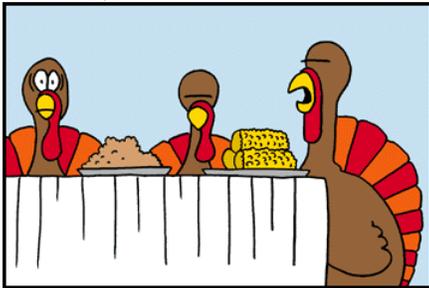
Signups, as always, will be taken at the MLT Office.

Join us on December 10 for holiday cheer!

After-Christmas Shopping in Gilroy, January 7

Seniors are invited to take part in some after-Christmas shopping at the outlets in Gilroy, which offer a wide variety of stores and a number of inexpensive restaurants.

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WE GIVE THANKS FOR ALL THE BOUNTY THAT FARMER BOB HAS BLESSED US ALL WITH THESE PAST FEW MONTHS

di Rosa Art Gallery, Napa, November 19

Considered the most significant collection of Bay Area art in the world, di Rosa provides opportunities for creative enrichment and enjoyment of art and the environment year-round. The di Rosa houses approximately 2,000 works of art by more than 800 artists. A gift to the public from passionate art collector Rene di Rosa, the gallery is located on 217 scenic acres in Napa Valley.

Seniors! Please come to St. Mark's Pre-Thanksgiving Luncheon on Sunday, November 21 at 12:15 pm in Heritage Hall! Look for turkey with all the fixings!



Senior Luncheon

Look for the next Senior Luncheon on

Thursday, January 20

Watch for posted menus in the MLT Lobby!



St. Mark's Property Ministry refurbishes the church sign at a recent Project Day. Pictured are Hans Hoch, Jerry Charter and Gordon Stevenson.

The Christmas Crèche Exhibit, Palo Alto, December 7

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

Church Mice Tales

Our Three Organs

Over the years, there have been three organs gracing the sanctuary of St. Mark's. The original was an 1891 Schoenstein Opus 7 installed at the site of our present altar. It was donated by an early benefactor, sugar tycoon Claus Spreckels, and was transferred from the old 1863 church on Union Square to the then-new St. Markus Kirche in 1895. The second organ was a Moeller installed in the chancel in 1947 at the time of interior renovations.



Felix F. Schoenstein's Opus 7 (1891), St. Markus Lutheran Church, San Francisco

Our beautiful current organ is a magnificent tracker organ made by Taylor and Boody Organ-builders of Virginia. It was installed in the balcony following the 2005-06 major renovation and earthquake retrofit of the church. This organ, dedicated on March 25, 2007, is the culmination of many dreams and fills our sanctuary with golden music each Sunday.



This is the 10th in a series of tales from St. Mark's Archives—Marge Jencks

Christmas Decorations

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



A Little Night Music
**Round
M
ABOUT
Midnight**

Oct. 16
SF Night Ministry Annual Benefit

Church Council Highlights

September 2010 Council Meeting

- ▶ Discussed ways to encourage greater attendance at Sunday worship services.
- ▶ Reported that Pr. Jennert will identify with three Strategic Planning Goals of Marketing, Global Mission, and Lay Ministry, while Pr. Elizabeth will identify with Adult Education, Clergy and Staff Support, and Healthy Communication.
- ▶ Discussed showing of documentary "Race to Nowhere" on Sept. 23 in the Sanctuary, as a community outreach event.
- ▶ Reported that due to closure of Golden Gate Lutheran Church, funds will be distributed to each Conference church.
- ▶ Reported that plans to establish an office in ULC have been abandoned by Synod due to projected expense of office space renovations.
- ▶ Reported that office spaces are available for rent in ULC.
- ▶ Described plan to move Conference Room to newly painted/carpeted larger room across the hall.
- ▶ Reported on the dedication of newly renovated Fireside Room planned for Oct. 3, expressing gratitude for donations that made renovation possible.

October 2010 Council Meeting

- ▶ Discussed challenges of understaffing due to demands of events that have vastly increased since the retrofit.
- ▶ Reported attendance of pastors at recent Professional Leaders Conference for Lutheran pastors.
- ▶ Reported that recently posted Wedding Administrator position received much interest, and interviews with candidates are underway.
- ▶ Discussed proposal to hire a Youth Minister with stipend paid from youth-restricted line in budget.
- ▶ Reported receipt of \$20,000 due to closure of Golden Gate Lutheran Church. Discussed designation of these funds toward the required startup amount for proposed Living Heritage Endowment Fund.
- ▶ Endowment Fund development team presented update on effort to establish planned giving mechanism for St. Mark's. Discussed the proposed scheme for endowment fund and selection of agent, drafts of Gift Acceptance Policy and policy for Disposition of Bequests. Reported that approval by congregation should occur at Annual Meeting January 30, 2011.

- Submitted by Marge Jencks

Your Faith Journey starts HERE!

Each and all of us are on a journey. With the highs and lows that life brings, you are invited to take a break, knowing that you are not alone. You have a community to lean on, friends who accompany you and support you in prayer. Want to find out how?

Come to St. Mark's "Journeys in Faith!" This is a ministry for all who are curious about the faith they have been baptized in, for those who have no idea at all about the Christian faith, those who feel drawn to become members of the church or anyone who wants to take their faith to the next level. The Journeys in Faith Team invites new-comers, late-comers, long-timers and folks brand-new to the church (and everyone in between) to discover Christianity, learn about the church and explore how you can plug in and connect.

If you are curious about becoming a member, if you or someone you care about wants to be baptized, "Journeys in Faith" is the first stop for all of your questions. Come and see and let your life be changed by the love of Christ.

The winter cycle starts in Advent. For more information, dates and time come to the "Journeys in Faith" Info Night on Wednesday, November 17 at 7:30 pm, or check St. Mark's website: www.stmarks-sf.org. For additional information on membership or baptism email journeys@stmarks-sf.org or speak to one of the pastors.

Staff

The Rev. Elizabeth E. Ekdale

Lead Pastor
ekdale@stmarks-sf.org

The Rev. Christian Jennert

Associate Pastor
jennert@stmarks-sf.org

Dr. Timothy Zerlang

Director of Music
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Jun Ranches

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Cheryl Garcia

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Duc Huynh

Buildings & Grounds Supervisor

Jenny Hart

Sunday School Coordinator

Jan Charter

Church Council President
charter@stmarks-sf.org

Carl Storey

Security

The Rev. Chuck Lewis

Visitation Pastor

Elvira Markov &

Johanna Najera
Nursery Attendants

Rose Beeson

Teaching Parish Student

Meredith Gardner

Senior and Junior High Youth Minister
meredithgardner@gmail.com



Annual Giving 2010

Forward in Faith

Three year pledge (2009-2011)

No. of pledges	106 out of 205 <i>(possible)</i>
Pledged	\$532,363
Received thru 9/30/10	\$275,290

General Fund

One year pledge (2010)

No. of pledges	125 out of 205
Pledged	\$351,048
Received thru 9/30/10	\$225,001 <i>(possible)</i>

Income versus Expenses

Jan-Sep '10	Actual	Budget
Income	\$337,960	\$341,600
Expense	\$370,629	\$374,822
NET	(32,669)	(33,222)

Sacred Acts at St. Mark's

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

Baptisms

Sara Anne Knickerbocker
Phoebe Joy Jessen
Alicia Marie Calvo
Carly Anne Lillie Kemp-Malone

Memorials

Bob Cook
Pat Anderson

Your Gifts at Work

Through your financial gifts, we were able to gather together around Word and Sacrament on Sunday mornings and Wednesday evenings, support an adult choir and hire instrumentalists for special services, send youth to Mt. Cross camp, baptize adults and babies, serve meals at the Bernal Gateway Apartment complex, 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 upcoming

Baptism Sundays

January 9, 2011
Baptism of our Lord

May 1, 2011
Second Sunday of Easter

May 29, 2011
Memorial Day weekend

September 4, 2011
Labor Day weekend

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

St. Mark's is a growing Christian community rooted in tradition and open to new expressions. Responding to God's compassionate love, we reach out in service to the community and the world. With openness of heart and spirit we welcome all.

St. Mark's Fall Stewardship Season

The fall season is making itself known in the Bay Area with a change in the weather and the beginning of our much needed rainy season. The rains are needed to support and grow God's beautiful garden, which we are privileged to live in. Fall is also a period of anticipated growth at St. Mark's, as the season is traditionally our time of stewardship. Our congregation members are asked to make financial pledges to support the mission and ministries of St. Mark's. This year we are using the concept of a 3-legged stool to symbolize stewardship at St. Mark's. Each leg of the stool is important to the financial well being of the church and each leg contributes to the mission and ministries of St. Mark's in its own unique way. The three legs of the stool are the General Fund (annual giving), the Capital Campaign Fund (major building projects) and the Endowment Fund (legacy giving). Together the three legs provide a solid foundation for the church to rest upon; if one of the legs is missing, the foundation becomes less stable. Our fall stewardship campaign slogan is "Forward in Faith...Growing in Grace". The Stewardship Committee encourages you to plant a seed with your financial resources during this year's fall campaign and then delight in the beauty of growing in grace. Look for these upcoming stewardship events at St. Mark's:



November 7: Pledge packets will be distributed to the congregation and a temple talk will be made.

November 14: A "grace-filled gift" will be given to the members of the congregation from the Stewardship Committee. A temple talk will be made.

November 21, Celebration Sunday: The congregation will be invited to present their pledges at the altar during the Sunday service. Thanksgiving dinner with live music will follow the 11:00 am service.

Please join us as we respond to God's call for Christian stewardship. Consider planting a seed from the bountiful gifts that God has given you. Join with us as we go Forward in Faith...Growing in Grace.

- Roger Ostrem



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

Regular Church Office Hours
Monday through Friday, 9:00 am to 5:00 pm

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 people of all sexual orientations and gender identities 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 Office Closures
Thanksgiving: Nov. 25 and 26
Christmas: Dec. 25
New Year: Jan. 1
Martin Luther King, Jr: Jan. 17



Oct. 2

Oktoberfest



St. Mark's Annual Congregational Meeting

January 30, 2011 at 12:15 pm

We encourage all members to attend and participate in our Annual Meeting. The meeting will include highlights of St. Mark's ministries, election of Church Council members, approval of the Church's annual budget, a Martin Luther Tower report, a vote to establish an endowment fund and more! (Please note that the usual Sunday schedule will take place on that day.)

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