

# Advent through Epiphany

November 2009 - January 2010

*St Mark's*  
LUTHERAN CHURCH

# The Evangel



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

## Savior of the Nations, Come

**Don't miss two very special events during Advent!**

**Service of  
Lessons and Carols**  
featuring Hugo Distler's  
"A Little Advent Music"  
Wednesday, December 9, 7 pm  
*In the Sanctuary*

and

**J.S. Bach cantata  
"Savior of the Nations, Come"**  
BWV 61 at Adult Forum,  
Sunday, December 13, 10 am  
*in the Sanctuary*

Midweek Advent Services at St. Mark's  
Wednesdays, December 2, 16 and 23  
Holden Evening Prayer at 6:45 pm

Wednesday, December 9  
Advent Lessons and Carols Service at 7 pm  
*"A Little Advent Music"*

Christmas Eve Services  
Thursday, December 24  
Christmas Pageant at 5 pm  
Lessons and Carols at 8 pm  
Candlelight Choral Eucharist at 11 pm

Christmas Day  
Friday, December 25  
Festival Choral Eucharist at 10 am

New Year's Eve  
Thursday, December 31  
Liturgy of New Year's Eve at 6 pm

Epiphany Service  
Wednesday, January 6 at 7 pm

## FOR THE CHILDREN

The rising hills, the slopes,  
of statistics  
lie before us.  
the steep climb  
of everything, going up,  
up, as we all  
go down.

In the next century  
or the one beyond that,  
they say,  
are valleys, pastures,  
we can meet there in peace  
if we make it.

To climb these coming crests  
one word to you, to  
you and your children:  
*stay together*  
*learn the flowers*  
*go light*  
—Gary Snyder

## Advent Reflection

Advent reminds us: be on guard, travel light. Gary Snyder's beautiful poem, "For the Children", paints an image of a journey and encourages us in our journey to stay together, learn the flowers, go light. As we journey together over familiar Advent terrain, I encourage you to come and worship on Sunday mornings. Come and worship on Wednesday evenings. Come and worship on Sacred Saturday. Worship is how the people of God stay together during the journey. While we stay together we will "learn the flowers". In other words, we will hear the stories of how God's people journey together, we will discover sacred wisdom in listening to one another, we will discover the presence of Jesus Christ who accompanies us on this journey. Finally, go light. Leave behind your impatience, your skepticism, your prejudices and travel as a child . . . curious, full of wonder and anticipation, open to surprises. Your faith will shine ever new as we marvel how God has chosen such a birth.

Stay together, learn the flowers, travel light . . .

See you on the journey, Pastor Elizabeth

### Lessons and Carols Service to feature "A Little Advent Music"

Continuing our season of Advent theme, "Savior of the Nations, Come," our Lessons and Carols service at 7 pm on Wednesday, December 9, will feature Hugo Distler's "A Little Advent Music," Op. 4. The chorale on which the work is based, Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland, is Luther's German version of the ancient Latin hymn, Veni, Redemptor gentium, attributed to St. Ambrose. Distler conducted the first performance at the St. Jakobikirche in Lübeck in 1931. "Little" only in the forces it employs, the Advent Music features choral settings of six verses of the hymn, Savior of the Nations, Come, interspersed with readings from the Gospels of Luke and John. The service will also include other beloved carols of the season. Be sure not to miss this and the other mid-week services during Advent - a great way to slow down and savor preparations for the Nativity of Our Lord.

## SACRED SATURDAY IN NOVEMBER

Saturday, November 14 at 5:00 p.m.

Our service of Sacred Saturday continues in November. 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. Come and experience the Living Christ!



# St. Mark's Thanksgiving Eve Service

Wednesday,  
November 25 at 6:45 p.m.  
(note: no 6:00 p.m. dinner)

If you stay in the Bay Area for Thanksgiving this year, please join St. Mark's for a

**Thanksgiving Eve Worship Service  
with Holy Communion**

The service will be followed by a **pumpkin  
and apple pie dessert** and coffee!

We look forward to seeing you there!



## Thanksgiving Interfaith Service

**Thursday, November 26 at 10:00 am**

Join others from the interfaith community for a time of prayer and thanksgiving at

**Calvary Presbyterian Church  
2515 Fillmore Street  
San Francisco**

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

## Wednesday Evening Worship

*Even better in 2010!*

Wednesday evening has become "church night" here at St. Mark's, with a delicious meal starting at 6:00 pm and worship beginning at 6:45 pm. Starting in January the format of the Wednesday night worship will change slightly. We will still gather around Word and Sacrament in a quiet, relaxed atmosphere, but we will explore other worship styles. Each Wednesday of the month will have a different format.

**The first Wednesday** of each month will be Evening Prayer with Holy Communion. Evening Prayer is based on the monastic prayer office of *Vespers* that was eventually brought into the cathedral. This liturgy is characterized by its chanting of Psalm 141 and Mary's *Magnificat*. After a short meditation the congregation chants the prayers, which transitions into the celebration of Holy Communion

**The second Wednesday** will be the brief liturgy of Holy Communion that is the current practice. This liturgy begins and ends with hymns and includes the reading of the weekly psalm and gospel. After a short meditation the congregation joins in intercessory prayer and then comes together to celebrate the sacrament

**The third Wednesday** will be a healing liturgy with Holy Communion. The healing liturgy, from *Evangelical Lutheran Worship*, provides an opportunity for the laying on of hands and anointing with oil. The liturgy concludes with Holy Communion, that place where Christ's presence provides healing and forgiveness.

**The fourth Wednesday** will be Taizé Holy Communion, based on the meditative chants of the ecumenical Taizé community. These chants are characterized by their repetitive phrases and simple melodies, which provide for quiet contemplation and silent prayer. After a brief spoken meditation, the congregation joins around the altar-table for the Lord's Supper.

We hope that you will be able to join us for worship services, for they provide a time of respite and community in the midst of a busy week.

### ST. MARK'S REGULAR SCHEDULE

#### SUNDAYS AT ST. MARK'S

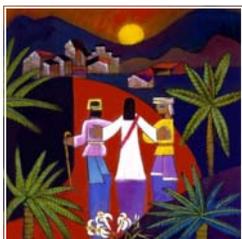
HOLY COMMUNION w/Children's Time	9:00 am
Sunday School	10:00 am
Adult Forum	10:00 am
CHORAL EUCHARIST	11:00 am
Coffee and Fellowship Hour	12:15 pm

#### WEDNESDAYS AT ST. MARK'S

Dinner	6:00 pm
Midweek Holy Communion	6:45 pm
Adult Choir Rehearsal	7:30 pm

## ***Journeys in Faith* Starts Another Cycle**

As we welcome our newest members on All Saints Sunday with the rite of Affirmation of Baptism, we conclude another cycle of *Journeys in Faith*. *Journeys* is not a program, per se, but rather a way of making Christian community and welcoming people to our congregation. Based on the ancient practice of the Catechumenate, as revised in the Roman Catholic Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA), *Journeys* is a time for those wanting to explore the Christian faith to gather for Scripture, prayer, and mutual conversation. Even though *Journeys* replaces "pastor's classes," it is much more than a class; it is a time to make community. *Journeys in Faith* is open to all people, whether you would like to join our congregation for the first time or you are a seasoned member who would like to continue your faith journey.



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Inquirers gatherings meet in Heritage Hall every Sunday between the two worship services. These year-round gatherings comprise an open-ended period of time and are often a time for conversation about the Sunday's gospel reading. Once a person wishes to commit to the weekly gatherings that meet on Wednesday evenings (for the Advent-Easter cycle), he or she participates in the rite of Welcome of Inquirers, which takes place on the Second Sunday of Advent (12/6). The Wednesday gatherings, called the *Journeys* gatherings, go deeper into the theological questions that people may have, such as: who is Jesus, what does the Holy Spirit actually do, how is Christ present in the sacraments, etc.

If you would like to participate in these gatherings, or are interested in becoming a member at St. Mark's, join us on Sundays between the worship services for the inquirers gatherings or e-mail [journeys@stmarks-sf.org](mailto:journeys@stmarks-sf.org).

## **Thanksgiving Buffet**

**Sunday, November 22**

**J**oin fellow worshipers in Heritage Hall after the 11:00 am service for roast turkey and all the gourmet fixings, prepared by our own Le Cordon Bleu-Paris-trained chef, Dean Atkinson.

**T**he Forward in Faith...nourished by Living Bread Committee is hosting this special pre-Thanksgiving event.



Mark your calendar for St. Mark's

## **Annual Meeting**

**January 31 at 12:15 pm**

We encourage all members to participate in our Annual Meeting on Sunday, January 31, following the 11:00 am service.

Important actions at the meeting include:

- approval of the 2010 budget
- election of new Council members
- reports by the Pastors & the President
- updates on activities and ministries at St. Mark's.

Please note that the usual Sunday schedule will take place that day.

## **St. Mark's Christmas Photos**

During November following the 9 & 11 AM Services gather yourself, maybe your family or friends (Pastors, Council Members - who knows), and have a "St. Mark's Christmas Photo" taken for your holiday card, letter, tree ornament for yours or friends/relatives trees, coffee cups which you know you owe others, whatever. Paul Cruce and Bob Brouhard with their large Nikons on tripods will try hard to accommodate the setting (front doors, altar, pew, choir loft, garden, etc.) of your choosing. Should you decide to make a donation it will go to our General Fund. After all "It is The Season ...

- Bob Brouhard & Paul Cruce

**Senior Activities**

## **St. Mark's and MLT's Annual Christmas Dinner**

**December 18 at 5:00 pm in Heritage Hall**

For this and other St. Mark's and MLT Seniors events, watch the weekly announcements or contact the MLT office at 415.885.1084.





## Adult Forums

Members and friends of St. Mark's meet Sunday mornings at 10:00 in the Fireside Room of the Urban Life Center (or occasionally in Heritage Hall). We welcome all to join in learning and exploring together. Some upcoming forums:

### Churchwide Assembly Report November 1

Pastor Jennert, Jo Chadwick and Steve Krefting in the Fireside Room

**Privileging Difference: A Framework for Understanding Racism & Heterosexism**  
November 8  
Pastor Jennert  
In the Fireside Room

**Report from the Philippines**  
November 15  
Pastor Noel and Connie Ilagan  
In Heritage Hall

**Global and Theological Issues of HIV Prevention**  
November 29  
Pastor Jennert  
In the Fireside Room

**A Lutheran Response to Pandemic Flu**  
December 6  
Dr. Margaret McLean  
In Heritage Hall

### Savior of the Nations, Come December 13

J. S. Bach with Timothy Zerlang  
In the Sanctuary

**The Power of Forgiveness  
Coming in January**  
with Pastors Ekdale and Hoch



## Ecumenical Service on World AIDS Day Tuesday, Dec. 1 at 6:00 pm

As we enter the Advent season of waiting and hope join us for an evening service of remembering those who have died of AIDS, those who are living with HIV/AIDS and their family and friends. Leaders and clergy from various communities will be present for this service.



## MEN'S FALL RETREAT AT ST. MARK'S

Saturday, November 21

9:00 AM - 2:00 PM

Men of St. Mark's, mark your calendars for Saturday, November 21st and join us for our annual fall retreat. Come together with us in Christian fellowship and celebrate the camaraderie that exists between the male members of our congregation. This year's retreat will be led by Pr. Hans Hoch, who so very capably led our group during our last men's retreat. We will initially gather in Heritage Hall for a continental breakfast at 9:00; lunch will also be served. At the conclusion of our last retreat, we came away with a renewed sense of togetherness and joy. Join us on November 21st and you, too, will have your spirit renewed.



## KEEPING THE FAITH FOR EQUALITY

November 2, 7:00 PM

Join us on Monday, November 2 for a "Keeping the Faith for Equality" worship service at 7:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary. At the one year anniversary of the passage of Proposition 8, people of faith throughout the state of California will stand with our friends in Maine and Washington State as they face ballot measures which would strip same-sex couples of relationship protections. Through interfaith prayer, song, and reflection, we are "Keeping the Faith" for equality for all people. The San Francisco interfaith event is hosted by St. Mark's.

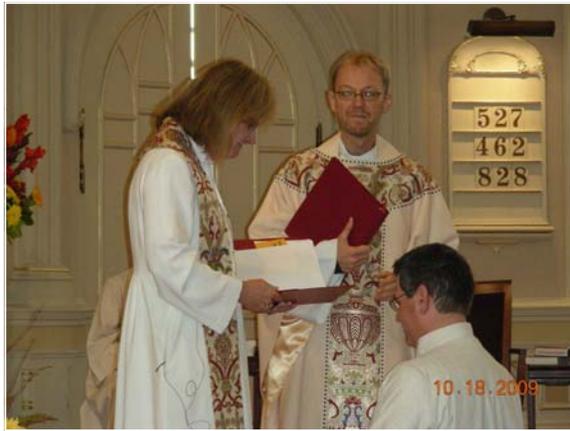
Come hear Bach's meditation on Advent, the cantata **Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland, BWV 61**, during a special Adult Forum on December 13. We will discuss the text Bach uses and hear the musical means he uses to bring the text alive.



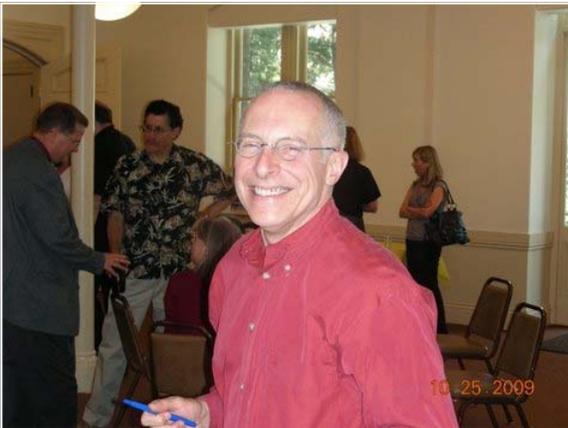
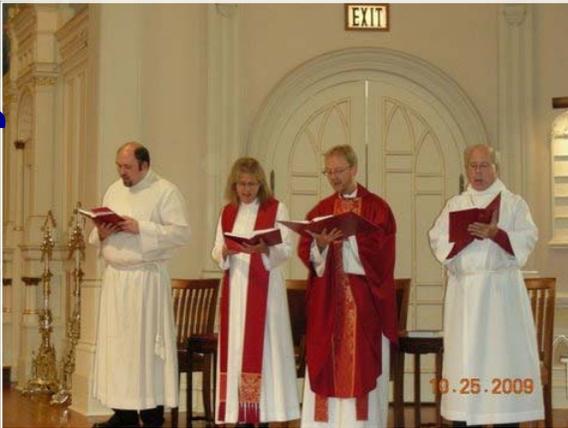
**WELCA**

**Blessing of the Animals**

# Installation of Tim Zerlang



# Reformation Sunday



## Teams Forming! Captains Needed!

**W**ere you ever not asked to be on “The Team”? I know I was! Well ... now’s your chance not only to be “on “The Team” but to be a real winner!

Your *Ministry of Welcome* is morphing into a Team concept and Captains have been chosen. Beginning in January, each of the five Sundays (in some months) will have a Captain who will lead his/her Team in staffing the usher positions for that particular Sunday. Teams #1 thru 4 will staff only Sundays and Team #5 – *since there are only four or so months with five Sundays* – will also staff special services such as Tenebrae Wednesday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, World Aids Day, Midweek Advent, Christmas Eve & Day, New Year’s Eve and the occasional funeral.

**O**ur 9 AM Service needs a minimum of two to serve and our 11 AM four, but each Team should have more than the six minimum members. Team members can play for more than one Team, and a Captain could potentially just do scheduling and not serve (not likely). Team schedules of “players” will be emailed by the Captains directly to Ann Dayton in the church office for posting in the weekly announcements and e-blast.

Our pool of players is growing with many new (and often “young”) faces. It’s exciting that “Teams are Forming” and “Captains ” are being announced. They are as follows:

**Charlene Loen, Week #1**

**Gordon Stevenson, Week #2**

**Debra Varian, Week #3**

**John Elford, Week #4**

**Jerry Charter, Week #5**

Congratulations and thank you to them. Certainly you will be picked for a “Team” or better ... play for more than one!

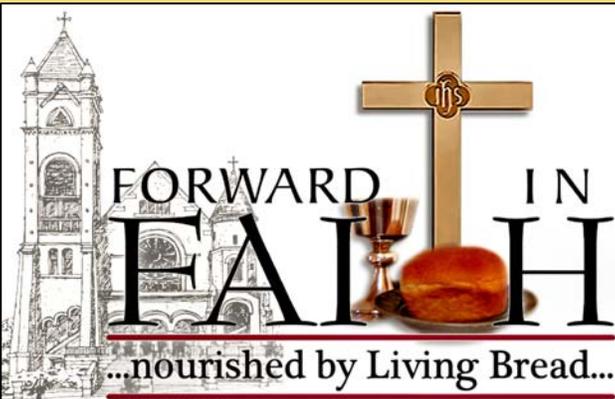
We all are very grateful for your good ministry at St. Mark’s and your all-important first impressions to our visitors and Sunday guests. Blessings to our new Teams and their Captains ... as well as to you, our new recruits!

*Bob Brouhard*

[bobbrouhard@sbcglobal.net](mailto:bobbrouhard@sbcglobal.net)

## St. Mark's Fall Stewardship Season

As we enter the beautiful season of Fall, we are reminded of the bountiful harvest that God has so richly bestowed upon us. It is



only right that we acknowledge God's gifts to us by also heeding His call to be good stewards of all that He has given us. In

the spirit of good stewardship, St. Mark's Fall Stewardship Season began on October 18th. The slogan for this year's campaign is: "**Forward in Faith... Nourished by Living Bread**". Our campaign slogan is based upon the beautiful promise that God gives us in John 6:35, "Jesus said to them, I am the Bread of Life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty".

Following is a brief description of the events that are happening at St. Mark's during this season of stewardship:

**October 18, Kickoff Sunday:** An announcement of the start of the fall pledge drive made by the Pastor.

**October 25:** An announcement made by the Stewardship Committee chairman to further explain the purpose and intent of the campaign.

**November 1:** A gift from the Stewardship Committee will be distributed to the congregation. A temple talk will be presented by Dan Pharr.

**November 8, Invitation to Prayer Sunday:** Pledge packets will be distributed to the congregation. A temple talk will be made by Marisa Louie.

**November 15:** Pr. Noel Ilagan, visiting pastor from the Philippines, will be invited to preach. A temple talk will be presented by Dale Loepp.

**November 22, Commitment 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 service.

Please join us as we respond to God's call for Christian stewardship. As a loving community of faith, let us all go "**Forward in Faith... Nourished by Living Bread**".

## St. Mark's Christmas Photos

**D**uring November following a 9 or 11 AM Service, gather yourself, maybe your family or friends (Council or Choir Members, Pastor(s), Acolytes, who knows?) and have a "St. Mark's Christmas Photo" or two taken for your holiday card, letter, tree ornament, calendar or even gift coffee cup which you know you owe others - whatever? Paul Cruce and Bob Brouhard with their large Nikons on tripods will attempt to accommodate your choice of setting (front doors, altar, pew, choir loft, garden, wherever?). Should you decide to make a suggested donation it will go to our General Fund. After all ... "Tis the Season ..."

- Paul Cruce & Bob Brouhard



## Sacred Acts at St. Mark's

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

### Memorial Services

Trudie Knight  
Alma DeSpain  
Kenneth Hohl

### Baptisms

William Fligor  
Amelia Haller  
Teddy Irvin  
Naomi Jackson  
Dylan Leader  
Peter Semonian  
Ymaan and Zaakr Thomas  
Griffin McCoy  
Kazuya Renslo  
Zane Ridley  
Seneca Moeller  
Hazel Battaglia  
Joseph Green

# A Big Welcome to St. Mark's New Members!

On November 1, St. Mark's welcomes five new members into its congregation through affirmation of baptism: Cherrie Calvin, Joe and Mindy Harmeyer, Nate McDonald, and Kacie Meyer. A bit of information about each one of them follows, along with photos (courtesy of Bob Brouhard, of course) to help everyone in the congregation recognize, greet, and get to know them. Cherrie usually attends the late service, Joe and Mindy (along with their baby boy, Karsten) usually attend the early service, and Nate and Kacie, engaged to be married next June, may be found at either. Please look for them!

What a joyous time this is for these new brothers and sisters in Christ, who have "traveled" with the Journeys in Faith team for several months, as well as the entire congregation who has prayed over them and blessed them as they made their faith journey. Here is a little about them:

## Cherrie Calvin

Hello my Brothers and Sisters in Christ. My name is Cherrie Calvin and I have learned and come to respect that my first love is for our God and Jesus who so sacrificed himself for the salvation of us all. Then for me come the children, all of those precious beings. I myself have 3 children; the first is a very successful 28 year old son named Anthony who, together with his wife Ubee, are the proud parents of 3 (Fee, Sam, and Jaden). My oldest daughter Julia, who is 24, and her husband Jeremy have 2 children (Sean and Essence); and Mercedes, my youngest, is 20. I am both grandmother and father to our son Joe. My strongest goal in life is to have my grandchildren grow up to be strong in Christ. I work for Martin Luther Tower as a Maintenance Technician which means I do everything – patching holes, painting, plumbing, gardening, cleaning, etc. I derive a tremendous amount of pleasure in knowing that I can bring any measure of comfort and support to the lives of my tenants.

I have been to churches that have tried to make me fake falling down in a faint, and I have been to a church where the Pastor had a CEO in his title...it was a corporation more than a church. It has been very refreshing to find a church with an honest love of our Lord and God, and very caring and loving people who have the same desire and longing for the written word of our God.

Thank you everyone for your help with the training and growth of my soul. *Sincerely, Cherrie Calvin*

## Joe Harmeyer

Dear members of St. Mark's,

I was born and raised in a small town in Iowa called West Point. My mom and dad still live there, but their 5 children have all moved to the West coast, spanning from Seattle to San Diego. I stayed in Iowa to attend Iowa State University. After graduation I accepted a sales position with a company called Montgomery Elevator, which was a provider of elevators and escalators. The company is now owned by a Finnish company called KONE, and my role is the Director of Business Development for the West region. I've been working there for 17 years and have lived in Sacramento, Brussels and Stockholm, and finally landed here in San Francisco in 1998.

Luckily for me I became a San Francisco Giants fan, as I met my wife Mindy at a game. Five years later we have a fantastic little boy named Karsten, who has brought us nothing but joy. He's only 8 months old, but I'm looking forward to the days when we can go to games together and enjoy the park. (Another World Series would be nice, too.)

I've already met some wonderful people here at St. Mark's, and I'm looking forward to meeting more members here soon. Thanks for accepting me and my family into your parish. - *Joe Harmeyer*

## Mindy Harmeyer

Hello congregation of St. Mark's!

I am very excited about becoming a member of this great community. I was born and raised in Valparaiso, Indiana. I grew up Methodist, but all of my mom's relatives went to Lutheran churches, which is where my interest in Lutheranism was born. I still miss the Midwest - my father and brother still live there. My mom passed away many years



ago from breast cancer.

I studied German at Northwestern University. After working at Old Navy stores for a few years, I finally got the opportunity for a corporate position with Gap Inc. in London (during which I actually got to use my German), which led to my promotion at the Gap headquarters here in SF in 1999. I now work in IT as a business consultant in store and customer experience.

I was fortunate enough to meet my husband Joe at a Giants baseball game in 2004. We got married in 2006, and now we have a wonderful son Karsten who was born this past February. I love living in San Francisco. There is so much this city has to offer, and I feel blessed to be able to renew my faith in Christ at St. Mark's. God's Blessings. - *Mindy Harmeyer*

## Nate McDonald

Born and raised a cheesehead in Southeastern Wisconsin, I would have never thought I'd live in SF - let alone the West Coast. While my parents and younger sister still reside in Wisconsin - I accepted a job with Quad/Graphics, a large printer of catalogs/magazines/direct mail, in 2003. The position was part of a Training Program that lasted 4 years and had me trying on various hats throughout the company's various locations. Prior to finally accepting a sales position in San Francisco, I was able to live in upstate New York, Washington DC, Los Angeles and, of course, Wisconsin. Less than a year after moving to SF, I moved into a Presidio apartment. It was through my soon to be good friends and roommates that I met my incredible soon to be wife, Kacie.

Kacie and I found St. Mark's after we got engaged back in March of this year. As both of us had Lutheran roots, we sought a Lutheran church with a strong community. St. Marks was our first and last stop. We are excited to both become (officially) a part of the St. Mark's congregation and also say our vows here in June of 2010. From our very first visit, everyone at St. Mark's has been so welcoming and outgoing.

Kacie and I have been busy planning the wedding in between hosting visitors, trips to see our families and work. I still make time to hop in the pool (I grew up a swimmer) and also help coach the SF Sea Lions (Special Olympics) during the Aquatics Season. When not involved in the aforementioned, you'll probably find us at a local venue checking out the next up and coming band! - *Nate McDonald*



## Kacie Meyer

Dear Members of St. Marks,

I was born and raised in Pennsylvania near Philadelphia (Go Phillies!). I went to Ursinus College, a small liberal arts school outside of Philly, which led me to work at ActiveStrategy - a software and consulting firm. Three years ago they moved me out to San Francisco to start our West Coast office, and I still work for them as a Client Engagement Services Manager. I ran track throughout college and coached for two years, but living out here with beautiful trails and so many active people has really increased my love of running - enough to run the SF marathon this past summer.

While my stay out here was supposed to be temporary, I fell in love with the city and my future husband. I met Nate 2.5 years ago through a mutual friend out here, and back in February he proposed! We began to search for a church to start our life together. I was baptized Lutheran and grew up Methodist while Nate grew up Lutheran, and our search led us to St. Marks. The congregation has been so welcoming since our first visit, and I am thrilled to be joining such a wonderful community. We will be married at St. Marks on June 27th! - *Kacie Meyer*

These new members will continue with the Journeys in Faith team for a few more weeks as they learn more about the various ministries at St. Mark's, and are blessed one more time by the congregation as they affirm their vocation to follow Jesus, the living Christ.

**A big thank-you to their sponsors:** Connie Nahnsen (Cherrie), Joe Haller (Joe), Shauna Malone (Mindy), Aaron Greig (Nate), and Erin Horne (Kacie).

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If you or someone you know is interested in taking this Journey in Faith and becoming a member of St. Mark's, or if you are interested in being a sponsor for someone on that journey, please contact the team via email at [journeys@stmarks-sf.org](mailto:journeys@stmarks-sf.org) or call Suzanne Smith at 415-285-7438.



# The Birth of St. Mark's Square

*During the 1950's the neighborhood around St. Mark's was declining, but the congregation refused to be discouraged. It elected to stay in our present 1895 church rather than move to the suburbs. Pastor Ross Hidy came to St. Mark's in 1957 and became instrumental in the redevelopment and urban renewal of twenty-eight blocks of the Western Addition. Beginning in 1964, bulldozers and wreckers took over, and the dilapidated Victorian residences in the vicinity were demolished, including the houses right next door to the church. Exciting plans then replaced the rubble, and the street pattern was changed to allow for creation in the late 1960's of St. Mark's Square. A gem in the heart of the city, The Square includes St. Mark's Lutheran Church, Martin Luther Tower (the affordable residence for seniors), Urban Life Center (with auditorium, meeting rooms, and offices), open plaza area, and parking lots. St. Mark's Square is a busy place almost 24/7, providing church services, and hosting wedding ceremonies, musical performances, receptions, dinners, community services, and meetings of Alcoholics Anonymous and other groups.*



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

*- Marge Jencks*

## Council highlights from the September and October Church Council meetings:

### September

- ◆ Council approved the seeking of a designated gift to cover consulting expenses related to the installation of audio-visual equipment in Heritage Hall. If the designated gift is not provided, Council authorized the expenditure of up to \$760 for this purpose.
- ◆ Discussions regarding strategic planning have been started with Roy Oswald. Planning sessions will start in February.

### October

- ◆ The question of whether The Evangel was still relevant, in it's current format, given the email updates and the calendar and other event announcements on the Website. This will be a continuing discussion.
- ◆ Pastor Elizabeth announced that she and Joleen Jesson will represent St. Mark's at the Sister Parish Conference in El Salvador. The event will be held in November.

**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	110 out of 235
Pledged	\$527,963
Received thru 9/30	\$133,911

### General Fund

*One year pledge (2009)*

No. of pledges	128 out of 235
Pledged	\$331,592
Received thru 9/30	\$233,022

### Income vs. Expenses

<u>Jan-Sep 09</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budget</u>
Income	343,303	335,992
Expense	370,704	367,883
NET	-27,401	-31,891

## 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:

**January 10, 2010 - Baptism of our Lord**

**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**

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

## STAFF

**The Rev. Elizabeth E. Ekdale**  
Lead Pastor

**Jun Ranches**  
Director of Church  
Administration & Operations

**Ann Dayton**  
Administrative Coordinator

**Cheryl Garcia**  
Bookkeeper

**Jenny Hart**  
Sunday School Coordinator

**Randy Schieber**  
Church Council President

**Carl Storey**  
Security

**The Rev. Christian Jennert**  
Associate Pastor

**Timothy Zerlang**  
Director of Music

**Duc Huynh**  
Buildings & Grounds  
Supervisor

**The Rev. Chuck Lewis**  
Visitation Pastor

**Stacy Cullison**  
9:00 am Pianist/Organist

**Elvira Markov &  
Johanna Najera**

Nursery Attendants



# The Evangel

November 2009 – January 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](http://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](mailto:krefting@stmarks-sf.org) or 415.826.3124 or*

**O**n Sunday, January 24 at 2 pm, our Director of music, Timothy Zerlang, will present a recital featuring settings of favorite hymns on the Taylor and Boody organ. Among the works featured will be Pachelbel's setting of "All Glory be to God on High" in which Pachelbel uses the organ to depict the fluttering of the angels' wings as they sing this hymn of praise. There will also be works by other 18th and 20th century composers, and yes, there will be Bach.



## Church Office Holiday Closures

**For Thanksgiving:**  
November 27 & 28  
(office closed)

**For Christmas:**  
December 24 (office closes at noon)  
December 25 (office closed)

**For New Year:**  
December 31 & January 1  
(office closed)

## Homeless Shelter at St. Mark's (January 3 through January 24)

**B**eginning on Sunday, January 3rd, St Marks will host the SF Interfaith Council Homeless Shelter for **three weeks**. If you can find a morning or evening during those three weeks to volunteer, let the Social Ministry folks know. If you don't have the time, a donation of any amount will go a long way to making the winter warmer for the guests we welcome and nourish.



This year you will find your offerings, whatever they are, will have an immediate and uplifting impact. Please mark your calendars for **January 3-24**. Be a part of St. Mark's Social Ministry... we look forward to serving with you!

### 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. Steve Sabin, Dean, San Francisco Conference

**Sister Parish**  
Cordero de Dios Lutheran Church in Soyapango, El Salvador



Evangelical Lutheran  
Church in America  
[www.elca.org](http://www.elca.org)