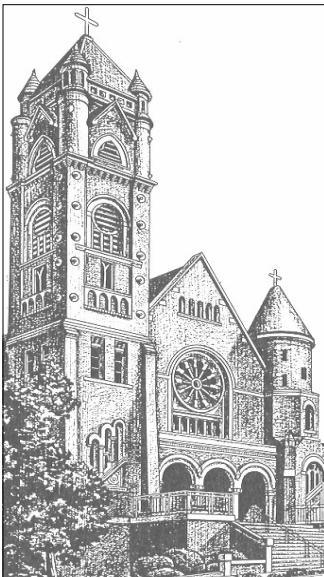


JANUARY—FEBRUARY 2008

ST. MARK'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

THE EVANGEL

IN THE HEART OF THE CITY FOR MINISTRY TO THE WORLD



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St. Mark's Homeless Shelter Returns!

Friday, January 18 to Saturday, February 2

St. Mark's will again be hosting the Interfaith Homeless Shelter for men this winter. Overnight housing, breakfasts and dinners will be provided for approximately 60 men each morning and evening in the Urban Life Center Auditorium. This is your chance to make a

difference in the lives of these men. They greatly appreciate being served a warm breakfast and dinner by folks who care about them. Please consider volunteering for the meals we serve to the men. Volunteer signups will be available after services and during coffee hour. Look for the white binder marked St. Mark's Interfaith

Homeless Shelter. You may also speak to John Elford and Pam and Bob Ruh. For more information please contact the Ruh's at **pambo-bruh@ hotmail.com** or 415.292.4496.



Annual Meeting

and Special Meeting to Amend St. Mark's Constitution

January 27, 2008 at 12:15 pm

Please note that the usual Sunday Worship will take place on that day.

This past year has been one of reflection and renewal for many in our St. Mark's community. As we enter the new church year, we eagerly anticipate the opportunity to explore new ways to reach out in service to the community and the world. Each of you plays an important role in the life of St. Mark's and we hope you will continue to seek out ways to be an active contributor to our mission. One important way for you to help shape the future of St. Mark's is your attendance at our annual congregational meeting on January 27, following the 11 AM service. Important actions at this meeting include the approval of the 2008 budget, the election of new Council members, reports by the Pastors and the President, and updates on the many activities and ministries occurring at St. Mark's.

In addition, the Church Council is recommending a series of changes to the St. Mark's Constitution that will be considered by the congregation on January 27. In accordance with St. Mark's amendment procedures, the congregation will be asked to approve these amendments at a Special Meeting that is being called for January 27 immediately prior to the Annual Meeting, and then to ratify these amendments at the Annual Meeting.

A brief explanation of the amendments, and the reason for Council's recommendation, is included as an insert to this newsletter.

Ash Wednesday Eucharists

Wednesday,
February 6
12:00 noon
and 7:00 pm

Imposition of Ashes at
both services



Mid-Week Lenten Worship

Wednesdays
February 13, 20, 27;
March 5 and 12
12:00 noon Worship
12:30 pm Light Lunch
6:00 pm Soup
Supper
6:45 pm Worship

Lenten Catechumenate Meetings

Wednesdays Evenings after Lenten Services

The Catechumenate, historically speaking, is the process of initiation for those who are preparing to be baptized at the Easter Vigil. The people engaging in this process are *catechumens*. The root word behind these two terms is catechism, the material that is studied by the catechumens, often in question and answer format. The preparation for Baptism and for renewing one's baptismal covenant lies at the heart of the Lenten season. The Church has rediscovered the baptismal character of Lent, especially through the restoration of the *Catechumenate* as a process of preparation for Baptism or affirming one's

baptismal covenant. At St. Mark's, the Catechumenate is especially for, but not restricted to, those preparing to formally affiliate with the community here. We view the Catechumenate as a life-long process of learning to articulate those things that we in the Lutheran communion of the one, holy, catholic and apostolic faith hold dear. Please join the Catechumenate meeting as we deepen our Lutheran faith by reading the Scriptures and Luther's Catechism together.

For more information on these meetings email the Catechumenate Team at catechmenate@stmarks-sf.org or speak to Pastor Jennert.



ISAIAH Epiphany Bible Study

Wednesdays
7:00 - 8:00 pm
January 9, 16, 23, & 30
Fireside Room

Many of the verses of Isaiah are familiar as beloved passages we read and sing each Christmas and Easter season. But Isaiah is more than just holiday seasonal reading. Isaiah speaks of God's relationship to the prophet, the people, the kings, and the servant. Isaiah's message invites us to explore God's personal character and develop a deeper understanding of the living God. Come and explore this fascinating and challenging book from the Hebrew Bible with Pastors Ekdale and Jennert, and fellow parishioners.



St. Mark's members Pr Jennert, Dean Atkinson, Liv Beck (4th from left) and Jan Charter (right) at the N. American Forum on the Catechumenate.

Candlemas on February 2

The Bay Area Chapter of Lutherans Concerned/North American invites you to attend a Candlemas Service (a celebration marking the Presentation of our Lord in the temple at Jerusalem).



The Service will take place on **Saturday, February 2 at 5:00 pm** here at St. Mark's.

The Executive

Committee for Lutherans Concerned/San Francisco will host a Festive Fellowship Reception in Heritage Hall after the service.

The Right Reverend Mark Andrus, Bishop of California, Episcopal Diocese will preside, and the Reverend David G. Mullen, Lutheran Bishop of the Sierra Pacific Synod will preach.



Forward in Faith Update

We have enjoyed one full year in our newly retrofitted church building. Thank you to everyone who supported the work of the retrofit through their Forward in Faith pledges. We are grateful for all the gifts contributed to our building fund. We are continuing to pay off the construction loan and therefore we encourage everyone to keep current with their building fund pledge. Every dollar contributed helps us to quickly pay down the loan and avoid unnecessary interest charges. If you have not yet pledged to the building fund, please know your gift would be greatly welcomed. Please also note that if you are working on 2007 tax planning issues we have the ability to accept gifts of securities as well.

Thank you to everyone as we celebrate our second year of flinging wide the doors!

In Christ,
Forward in Faith leadership team

Forward in Faith 2005-2008

Pledged:	\$760,460
Contributed:	\$525,628
Shortage:	\$234,832



In attendance at the 2007 Reformation Day services are (from upper left) Pr. Lyle Beckman, Pr. Jan Womer, Pr. Jack Lundin and (lower left) Pr. Christian Jennert, Pr. Elizabeth Ekdale, Dr. Jane Strohl, Pr. Charles Lewis, and Bishop Stan Olson.

Please note that the Church Office will be closed on **Monday, January 21** for **Martin Luther King, Jr. Day** and **Monday, February 18** for **Presidents' Day**

Thank You from St. Mark's

The Staff and Pastors thank the congregation for your generous Christmas gifts, cards and remembrances to us at this time. It is a joy for us to serve St. Mark's in our various roles. Blessings to you in this New Year!
Thank you. - *Pastors and Staff*

Time Capsule Sealed for 50 years

Many thanks are extended to all who participated in the lively and entertaining sealing ceremony of our new time capsule on



Pr. Elizabeth adding the personal messages from us to our friends in 2057.

Reformation Day, October 28, 2007, by adding their lovingly prepared items one by one with such flourish and verve!

Also placed in the time capsule to be sealed for 50 years were 38 personal messages from current members and friends of St. Mark's to our future sisters and brothers in Christ. Do you remember the old time capsule found during the renovation tucked in an arched brick recess under the foundation? In that 1863 time capsule, which we opened in October 2005, the German heritage of St. Markus Kirche was dominant, and many of the items were in German, even some

local newspapers. Today, our roots are more varied and many languages besides German and English are represented by St. Mark's parishioners such as Swedish, Norwegian, French, Spanish, and others. Even one of the messages to future members was written totally in Japanese! The contributor of this message explained that the last line of his note reads: "I hope someone at St. Mark's opening this capsule can read Japanese". He then remarked, "Do you think

I should have written it in German instead?" Now, we can truthfully respond that German is no longer necessary, because the welcome mat at St. Mark's extends to all, and everyone is embraced by Christ's love.

We hope the members in 2057 will be as entertained at the reopening of our 2007 time capsule, as we were at the spirited sealing ceremony, and that they will be interested in and respectful of what they find about our church, our faith, our lives, our hopes, our concerns, and our wishes for the future. - Marge Jencks



Items ready for placing in the time capsule to be sealed for 50 years.



The unveiled dedicatory plaque and time capsule ready for sealing.

Baptism Information

We will be baptizing many infants during the season of Epiphany in our worship services.

If you are interested in knowing more about baptism either for yourself or a family member or would like to schedule a baptism during January, please contact Pastor Ekdale at 415- 928-7770, ext. 230.



New Organ Stop Arrives!

I am thrilled to announce that one of the five prepared organ stops will arrive from Taylor & Boody and will be installed the first week of January. It is another reed stop: a 16' Fagott (German for Bassoon) for the Great division (main bottom keyboard). It is in effect a small trumpet pitched one octave below "piano" pitch. It will create a wonderful "bottom" to the sound of the main keyboard and add an extra thrilling color to our wonderful organ.

The pipes have been built and pre-voiced and will be shipped to arrive around January 2. Two men from Taylor & Boody will arrive on January 6 and stay for a week. They will remove the Trumpet pipes and their support racks from the back of the Great, then install a new support system that will accommodate the new Fagott pipes as well as the Trumpet (the Fagott will be

just past the Trumpet near the back of the case - a rather tight fit!). A week later another worker will arrive to voice each pipe, as the men did last January until March with all the other 24 stops. The new stop should be heard by the third Sunday in January and will definitely be heard prominently in my next recital on February 10.

I am extremely grateful to Jonathan Ocker and Diane Wynne, who have donated the entire cost of this stop. I am still hoping more of you might be willing to donate toward the remaining four stops, the sum total cost of which is \$97,000. I look forward to all of the prepared stops being in and the organ's complete personality heard. That will be a spectacular day!

- Rodney Gehrke

Roadside BBQ with SMART on February 1

Friday, February 1 6:30 pm

Roadside BBQ opened its doors in San Francisco in 2006 and is a restaurant where folks can go to enjoy a fine

BBQ meal in a comfortable, friendly, and "down home" atmosphere. Roadside BBQ uses a combination of Apple,



Hickory, and Mesquite woods to smoke all their meats. Start the New Year with some Southern Charm and

friendly folks from the SMART group! Roadside BBQ is located at 3751 Geary Blvd (2nd Ave.) in SF. please reply to your evite or call Pr Christian if you want to join!

St. Mark's Organ Recitals January through June

JANUARY

Sunday, January 6 at 2:00 pm
Susan Jane Matthews Organ Recital

FEBRUARY

Sunday, February 10 at 2:00 pm
Rodney Gehrke Organ Recital

APRIL

Sunday, April 6 at 2:00 pm
Ron McKean Organ Recital

Sunday, April 27 at 2:00 pm
Emanuele Battisti Organ Recital

MAY

Saturday, May 17 at 7:30 pm
James David Christie Organ Recital
This is a free event.

JUNE

Sunday, June 1 at 2:00 pm
John Karl Hirten Organ Recital

For more information, contact the church office at 415.928.7770.

Senior Activities . . .

Bay Model

Friday, January 25

At two acres, this indoor scale model of the San Francisco Bay and its tributaries is one of the largest models *in the world*. Used by the Army Corps of Engineers for testing the environmental impact of shoreline development and of weather conditions, it is open to the public and an impressive sight. It is exciting seeing the Bay Area reduced to a scale of 1000 to 1 horizontal feet. There is also an exhibit on the Liberty Ships that were built in this area during World War II. Join us for some local geographical science and history! *Free admission.*

Brunch follows at Fed's Coffee Shop in Sausalito—founded 40 years ago by a German immigrant named Fred Peters! Departure will be at 11:00 am.



Bay Model Visitor Center

Please sign up for Senior Trips and Senior Center Luncheons at the **MLT Office**, or contact Pastor Jennert at 415.928.7770 x. 226 or at jennert@stmarks-sf.org.

Upcoming Senior Center Luncheons

There will be Senior Center Luncheons on the following days:

**Wednesday
January 16
and
Thursday
February 14**

Watch for posted menus in the MLT Lobby and in the weekly bulletins!



Please sign up at MLT Offices.

French Cheese

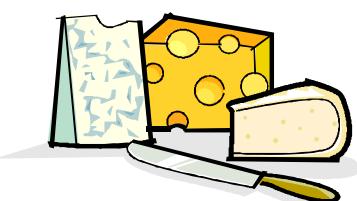


Friday, February 8

Marin French Cheese Co., also known as **The Cheese Factory** is not just the oldest cheese manufacturer in the country, but a vacationers and day trippers destination as well as a unique part of American History. Located north of San Francisco, east of Napa County, west of Pt. Reyes and Olema and south of Sonoma County, Marin French has produced hand crafted Artisan soft ripened cheese since 1865. Rouge et Noir cheeses are similar to French and Euro-



pean varieties but reflect the characteristics of Northern California, producing its own regional style. Discover local gourmet history and enjoy a cheesy lunch and a scenic drive in beautiful Marin County! Departure will be at 10:30 am.



WELCA Women of the ELCA

As 2007 ends, we are looking forward to an exciting 2008.

In November 2007, Nadine Robinson, Suzanne Smith and Geri Bailey attended the Sierra Pacific Synod Biannual Convention in Fresno. The theme of the convention was “Mind-Body-Spirit: It is well with my soul!” It was two days of worship, fellowship and business. In December our festive Christmas Luncheon had Mary as the theme. Dean Atkinson planned and prepared the wonderful lunch. Jan Charter and Pastor Christian entertained with Christmas music and Pastor Elizabeth discussed the importance of Jesus’ mother Mary.

JANUARY 2008 will be exciting as our St. Mark's/St. Paulus WELCA is inviting women from all San Francisco ELCA churches to join our next meeting on Tuesday, January 8th. The speaker will be Christine Grumm, President & CEO of the Women's Funding Network. She is a leader effecting social change through women's

philanthropy. Previously, Ms. Grumm served as Deputy General Secretary of the Lutheran World Federation in Geneva. We hope this will be the beginning of many other joint WELCA meetings.

**Next WELCA meeting
is Tuesday, January 8!**

We invite all St. Mark's women to share in the fellowship of WELCA.
Yours in Christ,
*Nadine Robinson
Geri Bailey
Co-Presidents*



Ladies of WELCA and friends join in a carol singing at the recent WELCA Christmas Party.



Chef Dean Atkinson displays a variety of delectable offerings he created for the WELCA event.

Watch Out!

Watch out! Easter comes so early this year that Lent starts before Valentine's Day. So, maybe you should start thinking about Lenten disciplines that don't involve giving up chocolate this year. Instead, you could take up a more positive experience. Something along the lines of deepening your sense of community. But what exactly can you do? Hmm...

Well, why not come to one of the new series of **House Meetings** starting the second Sunday in Lent here at St. Mark's. A House Meeting is a special time to deepen our sense of community by sharing stories about our lives. Throughout the season of Lent, we can learn, together, in an interesting way, about who we are as a faith community.

Watch for upcoming announcements and opportunities to sign up.

Feel free to contact Aaron Darden at darden_aaron@yahoo.com or Liv Beck at beckliv@gmail.com or 415.205.3292 for more information.

ADULT FORUM

January - February 2008

Members and friends of St. Mark's meet Sunday mornings at 10:00 in the Fireside Room of the Urban Life Center. We welcome all to join in learning and exploring together. Forums for the coming Sundays are:

The Brain and the Dynamic of Forgiveness

Dr. James Emerson

January 6: News about the Brain and How We Know

January 13: The Process of Forgiveness

January 20: The Practice of Forgiveness

Jim Emerson returns this year with a series which is as much about good mental health as a biblical topic. Forty years ago, he wrote on this topic from a psychological standpoint. In recent years, he has returned to ask the question, "What do modern studies of the brain tell us about the process of forgiveness?" He has just written the book, *Forgiveness: Key to the Creative Life – Lessons from Brain Studies, Scripture and Experience*. He will build on the question, "How we know?" to explore the area of cognitive theory – not usually discussed in theological writings.

Reconciling in Christ at St. Mark's

Karl Breice

January 27

On this Reconciling in Christ (RIC) Sunday we remember what it means for St. Mark's to live a theology of reconciliation. Karl Breice will facilitate a discussion on our history as an RIC Congregation.

Nonviolence for the Church Community – and Beyond

John Cummings

February 3

John Cummings, a student at Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary and intern with Pace e Bene will introduce us to the world of conscious nonviolent living, especially as it relates to our church communities.

Through an interactive role-play exercise and group reflection, we will explore the ways in which we perceive and relate to each other, and how we can foster nonviolence in understanding each other's truths. If you are interested in building a nonviolent church and fostering nonviolence in our world, please join us.

Lenten Book Study

Pastors Elizabeth Ekdale & Christian Jennert

February 3, 13, 17, 24

March 2, 9, 16

Lent starts early this year, with Ash Wednesday on February 6. Pastors Ekdale and Jennert will lead a book study at the Adult Forums during Lent and invite you to take time to deepen your faith and re-discover Christian spirituality in community with others at St. Mark's. "How do we experience God in our lives and how can we connect with the sacred in the busy-ness and ordinary-ness of everyday life?" is one of the guiding questions of this book study. Join us during this time and stay tuned as we announce the book we are going to read for these Adult Forums.

A Letter from our New Intern!

Hello! My name is Katharina Schulze. I am studying Religious Education at the Lutheran University of Applied Sciences in Hannover/Germany. My goal is to be a Diaconal Minister in the Lutheran Church. One of the requirements is a five-week internship in a parish to get practical experience and to explore what life is like and how to do church in a different environment. I am really happy about this opportunity and I am even more excited and thrilled that I get the chance to get to know not only a different church than my own but also in another country!! I am looking forward meeting new people and I would like to let you know a bit about me:

I was born in Hanover/Germany. I am 22 years old. In my free time I love to spend time with my friends, travel (which is necessary since so many of my friends study at different Universities all over Germany) and read. I also play the

flute which is a lot of fun. After confirmation our diaconal minister asked me whether I would like to join the group of young people who led the "Church for Kids". I joined this group and with three or four other young girls I led the "Church for Kids" for six years.



Katharina Schulze

After completion of my internship, I will have to prepare a presentation about my time at St. Mark's. I look forward to finding out what we can learn from each other, and to answer such questions as: How and where does diaconal work take place at your parish? Why don't/do we need a diaconal minister?

I am so much looking forward to getting to know St. Mark's, getting to know what life is like in San Francisco and experiencing a different kind of service and worship.

See you in February,
Katharina Schulze

Short-Term Housing Needed For St. Mark's Intern

St. Mark's will be hosting a diaconal intern from the Lutheran Church in Germany this February. Katharina

Schulze, who is currently studying Religious Education at the Lutheran University of Applied Sciences in Hanover/Germany, will do a five-week diaconal internship at St. Mark's. Kathy will need housing while she is staying here. If you or somebody you know has a spare bedroom or an in-law unit and is able to give (or rent it for no more than \$300) to Kathy from February 1, 2005 –March 5, 2007, please contact Pr. Jennert at 415.928.7770 x. 226 or email jennert@stmarks-sf.org. Thank You!

Children of St. Mark's sister parish, Cordero de Dios pose in costume for the traditional Pastorela performance in El Salvador.



Zambia Mission

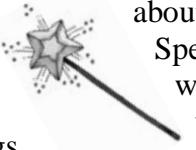
Check out the Missionary section of St. Mark's website to read the November 2007 Letter from Pastor Arden & Susan in Lusaka, Zambia. It's all at [www.stmarks-sf.org!](http://www.stmarks-sf.org)



Pastors Strasser & Chana in Zambia

Sunday School News

Sunday School children at St. Mark's have been learning Bible stories which follow the lessons from the weekly sermon. Thanks to our Chapel leaders, Susan and Jeff Sall and Karl Breice, the children learn Christian songs, share in Christian fellowship and collect weekly offerings for our sister parish in El Salvador. Chapel still collects used batteries. Last year 165 lbs of used batteries were collected and recycled, keeping them out



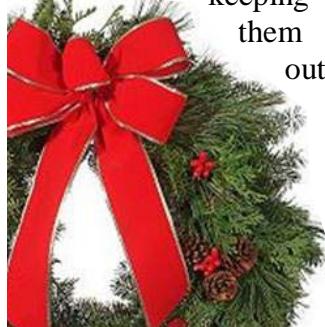
of landfills.

During November, Pastor Christian lovingly prepared communion for the children as they learned about the sacrament.

Special booklets were purchased which will be used for future lessons.

Over Advent we made Wreaths and decorated Christmas Star wands to be distributed at our Christmas Pageant. Special thanks to all who purchased Christmas videos.

The Sunday School staff (Lisa Grey, Jenny Hart and Gail Culp) welcome all children to learn about God's love in a nurturing and caring environment.
- Jenny Hart



100 Midwife Kits Sent!

They're confirmed!

Our St. Mark's Midwife Kits arrived safely for redistribution--all 100 of them in their seven big boxes. THANK YOU to everyone for donating your time and your funds, and for participating in the collection, washing, and preparation of these important and meaningful kits. Many hands made light work of the assembly and packing, too. Blessings and thanks to all.
- Social Ministry Committee



Nancy Mattison packing a kit



Loretta Litke's Knit Cap Collection

Sacred Acts at St. Mark's

Baptism of James P. Rumsey
on Sunday, November 4



Memorial Service for James H. Liu
on Saturday, November 17



Funeral of Tony Franusich
on Saturday, December 1

Reminder: the deadline for the March - April Evangel will be Saturday, February 10.
Thank you!

New Year's Reflection

Watchword for 2008: Jesus says, "I live and you shall live also." John 14:19

365 days a year I read the Daily Texts (or *Losungen* in German) by the Moravian Church. The Daily Texts come to me by email every day and I also have a little booklet. The Daily Texts are an annual, globally distributed publication of the Moravian Church. The Moravians are a small, worldwide church of the Reformation with roots going back to the 15th Century reformer John Hus. The ELCA is in full communion with the Moravian Church.

I chose the Watchword for the Year 2008 to acquaint you with the beautiful devotional of the Moravians which is now published in 50 languages, making it the oldest and most widely read daily devotional work in the world. But, I also like this saying by Jesus in John 14. The words fill me great hope. Jesus, the Son of God, was born to live among us and to make the ways of God known to us. This Jesus invites us to follow him and with that comes the promise of life. In this day and age where many look for a meaningful life, where many listen to the empty promises of the various voices in the world, the words of Jesus seem trustworthy, profound and truthful.

As we enter the New Year with our dreams, our anxieties, our hopes, our questions may this Watchword accompany us and be a constant reminder that we do not have to do it alone. The promise of life--a life worth living, a life that is not futile but full of meaning is waiting for us. 2008 is still an unwritten page, but Jesus the Christ, the living Word of God, invites each and all of us to walk this year with him in daring, dreaming and hoping. For Christ lives and we shall live also.

A blessed and spirit-filled New Year 2008!

Pr. Christian+

To learn more about the Daily Texts and to subscribe for *free* please visit:
http://www.moravian.org/daily_texts/

Church Council Highlights October - November

The following are highlights from the October and November Church Council meetings:

- Recommended a series of Constitutional amendments for a congregational vote to conform the Constitution to the Synod Model and update rules related to Council meetings
- Adopted changes to the Nursery Policy including a requirement that the nursery cannot be used by outside groups and an increase of the age limit to 8
- Approved moving St. Mark's unpaid liability to Plant Construction into a structured note
- Discussed and made recommendations related to possible new staff positions

Our Church Council

Margaret McLean, President
mclean@stmarks-sf.org

Geri Bailey, Vice President
bailey@stmarks-sf.org

Randy Schieber, Secretary
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Aron Bohlig, Treasurer
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THE EVANGEL

JANUARY—FEBRUARY 2008

St. Mark's Lutheran Church

1111 O'Farrell Street
San Francisco, CA 94109



Church Office Hours

9:00 am to 5:00 pm, Monday-Friday

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.

THE EVANGEL

NON-PROFIT
ORGANIZATION

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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.

Staff

The Rev. Elizabeth E. Ekdale, Lead Pastor
The Rev. Christian Jennert, Associate Pastor
Rodney P. Gehrke, Director of Music and Liturgy
Jun Ranches, Office Manager
Ann Dayton, Administrative Assistant
Cheryl Garcia, Bookkeeper
Duc Huynh, Buildings and Grounds Supervisor
Carl Storey, Weekend Custodian
Elvira Markov and Gladys Pozo, Nursery Assistants
Jenny Hart, Sunday School Coordinator
Jeremy Fuerst, Teaching Parish Student

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	x. 222



St. Mark's is a congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

The Rev. Mark S. Hanson, Presiding Bishop
The Rev. David Mullen, Bishop, Sierra Pacific Synod
The Rev. Daniel Solberg, Dean, San Francisco Conference

Sister Parish:

Cordero de Dios (Lamb of God) Lutheran Church in Soyapango, El Salvador

