

The Evangel

In the heart of the city for ministry to the world

July - August 2008

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Pastor's Reflection

For All the Saints who from their labors rest . . .

In the last few weeks, we have celebrated the lives and mourned the deaths of four saints at St. Mark's: Hilda, Nedra, Grady and Charmaine. I have been deeply inspired and moved by these four women, their lives and their strong faith. They have been steadfast in their service to Jesus Christ, their support of the church and their love of God.

Each of them experienced deep suffering and struggles in their lives. They have buried children or experienced debilitating disease at an early age. They have lost spouses or have had to be the sole breadwinner in their household. Their faith sustained them through each trial and tribulation. In fact, all four shared with me that their faith grew stronger as a result of what they had experienced. They truly are an incredible witness of abiding trust in God. They remembered their baptism and sought the nourishment from Christ's table throughout their lives. I never heard any of them ask, "why me, God?"

What about us who continue our journey of faith? Can Nedra, Grady, Charmaine and Hilda teach us to trust in and cling to the promises of God when we are experiencing the inevitable challenges in life? Can we seek consolation and comfort from one another in this body of Christ at St. Mark's knowing that there may be disagreements among us? Can we remember that what unites us as a faith community is our baptism and the joy and freedom of serving Christ out in the world?

We have been blessed as a congregation with an abundance of gifts to share. We are passionate about feeding the hungry, sheltering the homeless, singing the liturgy, teaching the faith to our children, welcoming the stranger. Nedra, Hilda, Charmaine, and Grady lived deeply into those promises of Easter life. So can we in these days ahead.

With gratitude for all the Saints at St. Mark's,

Pastor Elizabeth



Inspiring banner display in Sanctuary on Pentecost Sunday

The California Heritage Council recently presented St. Mark's with a **Certificate of Recognition** in appreciation of the Restoration and Preservation work recently achieved through the hard work and generosity of our congregation and leadership.

SOCIAL MINISTRY NEWS

Missionary Letter

Our missionary, Pastor Arden Strasser, and his family have sent another colorful letter telling about their activities in Zambia. They describe their work with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Zambia. They are building self-reliance in the villages through micro-credit projects – projects like household carpentry, potato farming, caterpillar collecting and selling, etc. Susan Strasser works with children and families with AIDS.

Read about them at our website:
www.stmarks-sf.org.



Zambian school children enjoying the monkey bars in a new play park which Chloe Strasser helped to bring to life.

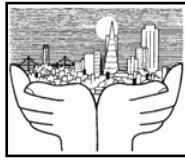
SMART at St. Mark's

Keep an eye on the weekly announcements and your evites for news of upcoming SMART events. If you would like to sign up to be part of the SMART grouplist you can do so at www.stmarks-sf.org/SMART.

For more information, contact Allana Helland at allanahelland@yahoo.com or at 415.673.0484, or Pastor Christian at jennert@stmarks-sf.org or at 415.928.7770 x. 226.

Knit for the Streets

St. Mark's knitters are continuing to knit colorful scarves for distribution by the San Francisco Night Ministry and the Welcome Ministry to people on the streets of San Francisco. We also plan to knit for the St. Mark's homeless shelter in January 2009.



All knitters are welcome to participate. We hope to knit 600 scarves. Come to the "Knitting Closet" on Sunday mornings, or contact Marge Okuley, or Mary Ritter for more information.

We can bring warmth to the folks on the streets!

Thanks for Writing Letters to Save the Hungry!

St. Mark's members, more than 45 in all, responded to the call to write for the Bread for the World Offering of Letters, asking Congress for improved assistance to the hungry in the United States and around the world. Nearly 70 letters were written on June 1st to both senators and several representatives, then blessed and sent on June 8th. Watch for updates as Congress addresses legislation to help end hunger in the world.



This is one of the most effective things we can do for the poor. Good work!

Food News

For many children, the last day of school means facing empty refrigerators and even emptier stomachs. These kids rely on school lunches. When they're home for the summer, there just isn't enough food to go around. The Summer Lunch program serves FREE healthy lunches Monday through Friday to everyone 18 and younger, regardless of income. For times /dates of service, visit www.summerlunch.org.

And don't forget to look for the green bins in Heritage Hall to pitch in to St. Mark's regular SF Food Bank donation program. Items particularly needed this summer are: boxes of cereal, cans of stew or chili, cans of tuna or chicken and containers of 100% juice (no glass.) Thanks for your faithful support of this program!



California Lutheran Sunday at St. Mark's

California Lutheran University is affiliated with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and is located in Thousand Oaks, CA. Founded in 1959, Cal Lutheran is part of a 500-year-old tradition of Lutheran higher education. Encouraging critical inquiry into matters of both faith and reason, CLU is dedicated to excellence at the undergraduate and graduate levels.

Our own Victoria Krikau has completed her first year at Cal Lutheran. *Watch for dates* to hear her stories about her education at our closest Lutheran college. Help St. Mark's as we support Victoria and the work of California Lutheran University.

Remember when.....



In June of 2005, St. Mark's worship team processes out of church after last service before the renovation begins.

New Bishop Installation

Saturday, July 12 at 1:00 pm

Pastors Ekdale and Jennert will be attending the installation of Mark Holmerud as our new Bishop of the Sierra Pacific Synod. Please join us in attending the service on Saturday, July 12, at 1:00 at St. John's Lutheran Church in Sacramento. Presiding Bishop Mark Hanson will serve as Presider and Preacher for this service.

There will be a carpool sign up sheet at the front desk in the church office if you would like to carpool to the service. Thank you.

Tuesdays at 2 Takes a Break

The Tuesdays at 2 Bible Study group will take a summer break beginning July 1 and ending on September 2. The next Tuesdays at 2 Bible Study will take place on Tuesday, September 9th at Martin Luther Tower's Brockie Lounge.

Women of the ELCA (WELCA)

The annual summer St. Mark's and St. Paulus WELCA luncheon will be held on July 8 at **Shima Sushi** Restaurant in Opera Plaza. We all look forward to this event and anticipate a good time, good food and great company.

Also in July, Nadine Robinson will represent our Synod as a voting delegate at the Seventh Triennial Gathering of the Women of the ELCA. She will participate in the business sessions prior to the Gathering. Geri Bailey will also be attending the Gathering. The theme is "Come to the Waters" and will be held July 10th – 13th in Salt Lake City, UT.

There will not be a meeting in August. We will look forward to resuming our fellowship in the fall. The meetings are held the second Tuesday of the month.

We invite all St. Mark's women to share in the fellowship of WELCA.

Yours in Christ,
Nadine Robinson and Geri Bailey
Co-Presidents



Church renovation begins.

**Senior Trip to
Pt. Reyes Lighthouse**

*with early lunch at Vladimir's
Czech Restaurant in Inverness*
Friday August 15



The Point Reyes Peninsula, which juts into the Pacific Ocean just north of the Golden Gate, has long been treacherous for ships traveling to and from San Francisco. In hopes of reducing the number of shipwrecks, Congress in 1852 appropriated \$25,000 to build the Point Reyes Lighthouse. The lighthouse site is now within the Point Reyes National Seashore. Join for a beautiful drive through West Marin. On the way back we will stop for early dinner at Vladimir's Czech Restaurant in Inverness.

Attention: Due to the nature of this trip, all participants need to have good-moderate mobility as some walking will be involved.

Departure: 11 AM

All Senior Center trips are offered on a first-come, first-serve basis. The number of participants varies depending on drivers' availability. Any trip may be subject to cancellation. Please be at Martin Luther Tower lobby 10 minutes before departure.

**Anheuser Busch Brewery
Wednesday, July 16**

Located at the gateway to Napa Valley, our Northern California Fairfield brewery is a showcase to Anheuser-Busch's time-honored tradition and commitment to excellence. Complimentary tours begin in the Hospitality Room, where guests 21 years of age and over can relax and sample their favorite brews!!!

We will discover first-hand how the world's greatest beers are carefully crafted using the highest quality ingredients and packaged in a state-of-the-art facility. No visit is complete without a stop at the Anheuser-Busch Gift Shop. Join to the Fairfield home of Anheuser Busch! We will have lunch at a local restaurant after the tour.

Departure: 10 AM



Senior Center Luncheon - Wednesday, August 20th.

Look for menu flyers in the MLT Lobby several weeks prior to the lunch.

Senior Center luncheons cost \$4.00 per person and are hosted Heritage Hall (basement) of St. Mark's Church. Each MLT resident or St. Mark's senior is allowed to bring one guest. Please RSVP to the MLT office.

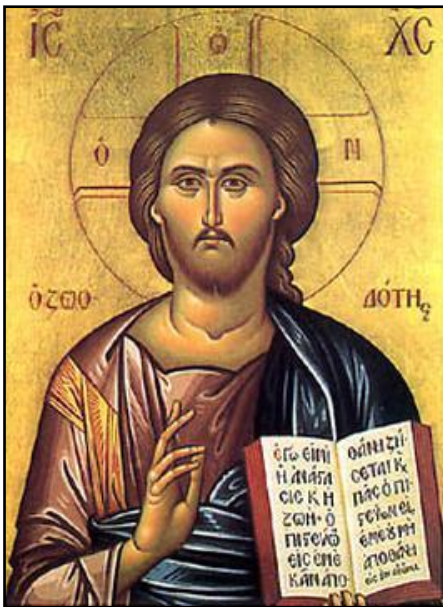
“God-Talk”

—St. Mark's Summer Inquirers Gatherings on Sunday mornings at 10 AM

For anyone new to St. Mark's, guests and visitors or anyone else interested is invited to join on Sunday mornings between services for a time of small group fellowship and conversation. Grab a cup of coffee in Heritage Hall and c'mon over.

Location: Fireside Room

For more info on the Inquirers Gatherings or on the various ways on how to become a member of this community email catechumenate@stmarks-sf.org or talk to Pr. Christian.



- | | |
|-----------|------------------------|
| June 15 | Who is God? |
| June 22 | Jesus Christ |
| June 29 | Holy Spirit |
| July 6 | Martin Luther |
| July 13 | The Church |
| July 20 | Prayer |
| July 27 | Baptism |
| August 3 | The Eucharist |
| August 10 | World Religions |
| August 17 | Why/how do we worship? |

Volunteers needed for Project Homeless Connect in Bayview Hunters Point Wednesday, Sept. 10, 2008



SAN FRANCISCO CONNECT
GIVE A DAY TO SF

Join the faith-based community and Project Homeless Connect in providing access to needed services for people experiencing homelessness in the Bayview Hunters Point

neighborhood. This Project Homeless Connect is being sponsored by the San Francisco Interfaith Council of which St. Mark's is an active member. To volunteer for this important work, please register at www.ProjectHomelessConnect.com or call 415-255-3674.

Brief Ministry of Welcome Meeting

All current and prospective greeters and ushers are asked to mark their calendars and attend our August 17th at 12:30 PM meeting in the Sanctuary. “Ushering” is truly a fun way to serve, which has as its main job qualification, a good attitude. It requires little training and greatly expands your interaction with other new members. In sixty minutes or less on the 17th your questions and suggestions will be discussed and follow-up provided for the issues raised at our previous meeting. Thank you for your good service to St. Mark's in this important ministry.

Bob Brouhard
(bobbrouhard@sbcglobal.net)



Sacristan Kyle Schiefelbein assisting in worship on Pentecost.

Options for St. Mark's Church Members

A New Way to Give

St. Mark's is embracing a giving option that may be more convenient for many of our church members - Electronic Giving.

This giving option works in the same manner as mortgages, loan payments, or insurance premiums that are automatically withdrawn from your checking or savings account.

Important Benefits of Electronic Giving

Electronic Giving makes life easier for you and yields very significant benefits for our church.

Benefits for You:

- * The satisfaction of giving to God first
- * Easier to fulfill stewardship commitments
- * Strengthens participation and support in the church
- * Allows you to contribute even when you're away
- * Easier personal budgeting
- * More secure than bringing cash or checks to church



Dean Atkinson is, as always, busy in the kitchen!

Benefits for our Church:

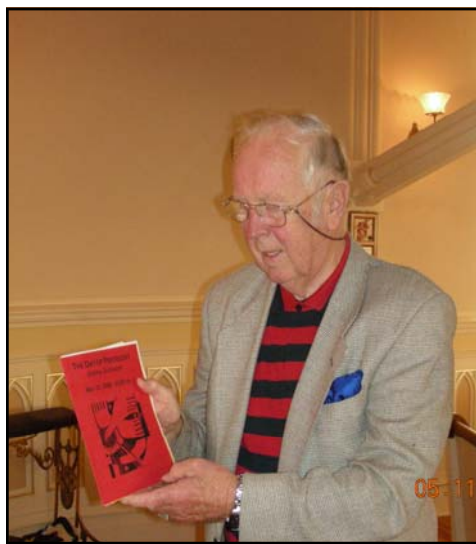
- * Promotes consistent giving
- * More predictable cash flow for better planning
- * Less work for office staff
- * Secure and easy cash maintenance

Traditional Choices Remain

All registered church members will continue to receive envelopes, including envelopes for special collections for a variety of needs. Parish collections will be taken each week as usual. Participants in the Electronic Giving program are asked to mark their envelopes "EFT" and place them in the collection basket.

If you do not currently use envelopes, please consider participating in either our envelope program or the Electronic Giving program. Our church needs your consistent support!

For more information on how to set up Electronic Giving at St. Mark's, contact Jun in the church office.



Forty-year member Rune Heden celebrating Pentecost Sunday

Green Corner



Tips for Cutting Gas Costs and Consumption

from the Consumer Federation of America

- 1. Check your air filter:** A clean air filter can improve gas mileage by as much as 10% and nearly one in four cars needs an air filter replacement.
- 2. Straighten out:** Poor alignment not only causes tires to wear out more quickly, but also can reduce gas mileage by as much as 10%.
- 3. Tune up:** A properly tuned engine can improve mileage by 4%.
- 4. Pump 'em up:** More than one-quarter of vehicles have improperly inflated tires. Properly inflating problem tires is like knocking 10 cents off a gallon of gas.
- 5. Check your cap:** It's estimated that 17% of cars have broken or missing caps. Replacing a faulty gas cap is like saving 3 cents per gallon.
- 6. Lose weight:** For every 100 extra pounds carried around, your vehicle loses 1-2% in fuel efficiency.
- 7. Don't speed:** For every 5 mph you reduce highway speed, you can reduce fuel consumption by 7%.
- 8. Drive smoother:** The smoother you accelerate and decelerate, the better your gas mileage, with potential gas savings of 33% on the highway and 5% around town.
- 9. Foot off:** Riding with your foot on the brake not only wears out brakes but can also reduce gas consumption by as much as 35%.
- 10. Don't idle:** If stopped off the road for more than 30 seconds, turn off the engine. For every 2 minutes you don't idle, you save the equivalent of nearly 1 cent per gallon.

For more green ideas and resources, visit www.thedailygreen.com.

Church Council Highlights

Highlights from the May & June Church Council meetings:

- Council highlights from the May and June Council meetings:
- Discussed a new capital campaign to pay down debt related to the retrofit
- Appointed Kurt Putnam to the HR Committee
- Expressed support for the pastors to preside over same-sex weddings at St. Mark's
- Discussed personnel and staffing issues
- During the summer, Council plans to focus on revisions to the Safe Congregation Policy, plans for an endowment, and ministries related to children and worship & music



From the Church Office

- The church office will be closed on Friday, July 4 for **Independence Day**.
- As we **update our files**, we ask that members alert us to any changes they may have in their contact information. Please send an email to dayton@stmarks-sf.org, or call the church office.
- There is still an urgent need for **volunteers** to join the fun and camaraderie in the church office. Please contact Pastor Elizabeth at 415-928-7770 or Marge Jencks at 510-845-5404 to learn more about how you can offer your assistance.
- A **warm thank you** to our devoted office volunteers - you're the best!
- The **snack supply** that we keep in the office for homeless folks is dwindling. Fresh supplies would be welcome!

Thanks from Jun and Ann

Stewardship

Financial Summary

	April 2008	Year to date
Income	46,641	188,040
Expense	39,491	174,127
Net	7,150	13,913

	May 2008	Year to date
Income	37,318	225,358
Expense	43,059	217,186
Net	(5,741)	8,172

Forward in Faith Update

Pledged to FIF:	978,668
Received:	786,498
Shortage:	192,170

Thank you for your continued support!

Sacred Acts at St. Mark's

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

May

Baptized

Noah Joseph Schalk
Mackenzie Grace Lloyd

Deceased

Nedra McPhail
Hilda Pope

June

Baptized

Adonica Sukanya Polugari

Deceased

Grady Ward
Charmaine Beckman



A precious wee one at St. Mark's on Pentecost

The Evangel

Green Idea: If you would prefer to receive your Evangel via email, please send that request to dayton@stmarks-sf.org.

NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION

U.S. POSTAGE PAID
DALY CITY, CA
PERMIT NO. 1143

July - August 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
Summer Office Hours (Jun. 1-Aug.29)
9:00 am to 4:00 pm, Mon-Thu, 9-12 Fri
Phone: 415.928.7770
Fax: 415.928.8534
www.stmarks-sf.org

St. Mark's is a "Reconciling in Christ" Congregation. St. Mark's is one of over 315 congregations, 22 synods and 12 organizations across the ELCA and the ELCIC (Canada) which have declared that lesbian and gay people are equally welcome to join fully in the worship and life of this Christ-centered community. For more information, please contact Steve Krefting at krefting@stmarks-sf.org or 415.826.3124 or speak to one of the pastors.

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
Jun Ranches, Director of Church Admin. and Ops.
Ann Dayton, Administrative Assistant
Tina Haner, Facilities Coordinator
Cheryl Garcia, Bookkeeper
David Auerbach, Interim Organist/Choir Director
Duc Huynh, Buildings and Grounds Supervisor
Carl Storey, Weekend Custodian
Elvira Markov and Gladys Pozo, Nursery Assistants
Jenny Hart, Sunday School Coordinator

Email Address

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haner@stmarks-sf.org
garcia@stmarks-sf.org
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415-928-777

x. 230
x. 226
x. 225
x. 224
x. 268
x. 229

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

