



The Evangel

In the heart of the city for ministry to the world

September - October 2008

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St. Mark's First Ever "Green" Rally Day September 7

Join us on September 7 for our first environmentally friendly Rally Sunday! Some of our "Green" ways that day:



No paper bulletins will be used and there will be reduced electricity.

Members are encouraged to car pool, bike, walk or use mass transit to travel to worship.

We will use washable and reusable utensils, tablecloths, and napkins at Coffee Hour.

The 10:00 am Adult Forum will feature a discussion on green topics, recycling, green products, and stewardship of the environ-



Rally Day marks the start of many of St. Mark's regular weekly and monthly ministries and activities. For a full list of groups and activities kicking off on September 7, see page 2!

MIDWEEK Worship Wednesday

STARTING SEPTEMBER 10

This fall St. Mark's will hold midweek Holy Communion worship services on Wednesdays from 6:45 to 7:15 pm in the Sanctuary. We also offer you pre-service supper, and **many** interesting post-service activities! Join us for:

- Midweek Supper ● 6-6:45
- Midweek Worship ● 6:45-7:15
- Discipleship Class ● 7:30
- Book Study ● 7:30
- Adult Choir Rehearsal ● 7:30

Imagine every Wednesday receiving nourishment for your soul and body here at St. Mark's? Come and see!

Here's a peek at the menu for September 10. Similar menus will be offered each Wednesday.

September 10th Supper

Salad of Romaine, Cucumbers, Radishes, Bell Peppers, Tomatoes and Asiago Cheese; Braised Turkey Meatballs in an Herbed Tomato Sauce with Ripe Pitted Picholine Olives; Baked Cookies

From the Pastors:

Our Forward in Faith Capital Campaign has been a blessing for St. Mark's. When we flung wide the doors on Dec. 10, 2006, we celebrated reaching our goal of retrofitting and renovating our church building. Buildings are not the ministry, but what goes on inside of them *is* the ministry. We are now able to accomplish more and more and are equipped for new and exciting ministries because of the success of this project. (cont., p. 9)



St. Mark's Weekly Schedule

- Sundays -

9:00 am **Holy Communion with Children's Time** - Sanctuary

9:30 am **Sunday School** for children 3 years old to 5th grade - Sunday School Rooms of the ULC

10:00 am **Adult Forum** - Fireside Room

11:00 am **Choral Eucharist** - Sanctuary

12:15 pm **Coffee and Fellowship Hour** - Heritage Hall

- Tuesdays -

2:00 pm **Tuesdays at 2 Bible Study** - Martin Luther Tower

- Wednesdays -

6:00 pm **Midweek Supper** - Sanctuary

6:45 pm **Midweek Worship** - Sanctuary

7:30 pm **"Journeys in Faith"** - Heritage Hall

7:30 pm **Book Study "Listening for God"** - Vestry

7:30 pm **Adult Choir Rehearsal** - Sanctuary

- Periodically -

10:00 am (some Sundays) **Senior High Youth** for 9 -12 grades - Youth Room

10:00 am (some Sundays) **Confirmation Class** for 6, 7 and 8th grades - Youth Room

10:00 am (1st Sundays) **Parents with Kidlettes** for families w/young children - Heritage Hall

12:00 pm (monthly) **Senior Center Luncheon** - Heritage Hall

12:30 pm **Junior Choir Rehearsal** for children 5+ - Sanctuary

1:00 pm (2nd Sundays) **Nursing Home Worship** - Central Gardens

2:30 pm (3rd Sundays) **Lutherans Concerned** - Fireside Room

11:00 am (2nd Tuesdays) **WELCA Women's Group** - Fireside Room

6:30 pm (3rd Thursdays) **Church Council Meeting** - Heritage Hall

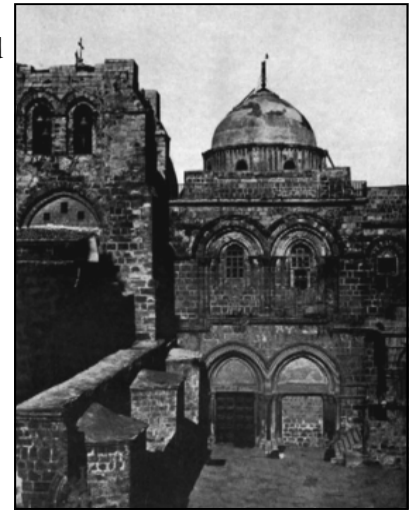
Holy Cross Day

September 14

This fall we will be celebrating Holy Cross Day on Sunday, September 14, during our normal liturgies. This festival day is surrounded by legend. In 335 Constantine, the emperor of the Roman Empire, built two basilicas in Jerusalem, one of which was supposedly on the site of the Holy Sepulchre, the tomb where Jesus was buried. The legend holds that the cross on which Christ was crucified was found during the construction, and this fact is attested to by Cyril of Jerusalem in 350. This relic of the true cross was preserved in the basilica of the Holy Sepulchre and was brought out for public veneration on Good Friday.

The Festival of the Exultation of the Holy Cross commemorates the exposition of the true cross after its return from the Persians who had destroyed the church of the Holy Sepulchre. The date coincided with the anniversary of the dedication of the church. This festival became very popular in northern Europe and remained on Lutheran calendars long after the Reformation with the abbreviated title "Holy Cross Day."

The centrality of the "theology of the cross" in Lutheran theology makes celebrating this festival appropriate. Our theology states that through the cross, Christ "has purchased and freed me from all my sins, from death, and from the power of the devil, not with gold or silver but with his holy, precious blood and with his innocent suffering and death" (Luther's Small Catechism). Good Friday is the day on which we solemnly meditate on the cross, but Holy Cross Day is the day on which we can celebrate the victory of the cross. - Kyle Schiefelbein, Sacristan and member of St. Mark's

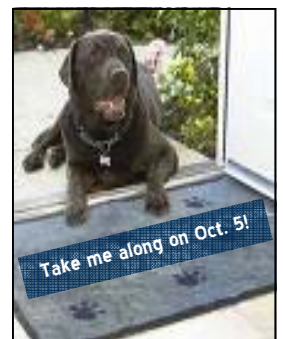


Church of the Holy Sepulchre in 1885.



Blessing of the Animals Sunday, Oct. 5 at 9:00 am

Our Blessing of the Animals service honors St. Francis of Assisi and our wonderful animal companions that bring so much joy to our daily lives. All pets and their humans are welcome! Please ensure that pets are safely in carriers or on a leash. Photos of animals unable to attend are also welcome.



Founders' Day 2008 At Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary September 24

"Beyond Bureaucracies and Ivory Towers: PLTS and the Sierra Pacific Synod at Work in the West" is the theme of the presentation by with Bishop Mark W. Holmerud, newly elected bishop of the Sierra Pacific Synod. How can the synod & the seminary work together to provide resources that make a difference to "front lines" ministry?

You are invited to join the conversation! The day includes time for worship, keynote presentation, question & answer period, panel, small group discussion, and a shared meal. The day runs from 10:00 am to 3:30 pm on Wed., September 24. There's a \$15 donation for registration & lunch. Contact us at 510-559-2731 events@plts.edu or to register.



Bishop Mark W. Holmerud

Luther Lecture October 29 Dr. Jane Strohl to be Honored At Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary



The Rev. Dr. Jane Strohl

This year's Luther Lecture on Wednesday, October 29, will feature the Rev. Dr. Jane Strohl. She will present the lecture "For God Leads Down to Hell and Brings Back: Theodicy and the Word of Comfort in Luther's Theology". She will preach at worship, and will be installed in the First Lutheran, Los Angeles/Southwest California Synod Chair in Reformation Theology and History.

Journeys in Faith Gatherings resuming on September 10

We are starting again this fall on Wednesday nights at 7:30 pm in Heritage Hall following the Communion Service. This is especially for all guests and visitors, seekers and newcomer to St. Mark's and those interested in exploring to become members. All are welcome to grow in their faith and explore the St. Mark's community. For more info contact catechumenate@stmarks-sf.org or speak to Pr. Christian.



TUESDAYS @ 2 Bible Study Resumes Sep. 9

Bible Study, fellowship, conversation, sharing and goodies every Tuesday starts on September 9th at 2:00 pm in Martin Luther Tower's Brockie Lounge. Bring your Bible and your questions to this fun and stimulating time of learning. Classes are taught by Pastors Ekdale and Jennert.

Listening for God Book Study

Wednesday evenings after Holy Communion worship
7:30 - 8:30

Location: Vestry (located through the swinging doors behind the piano in the sanctuary)

Sep. 10-Oct. 29

Led by Pastor Elizabeth, Jo Chadwick and Suzanne Smith

Come for discussion and reflection, sharing and listening as we read short stories which help each one of us and together *Listen for God*. The book "Listening For God" is available for purchase in the church office. The cost is \$15.

Vesper Society Event with Rev. Mitri Raheb September 15 at St. Mark's

The Vesper Society and St. Mark's will be hosting Rev. Mitri Raheb, pastor of Christmas Lutheran Church in Bethlehem, for a lunch and conversation on Monday, September 15 from **11:30-2:00 pm** in St. Mark's Heritage Hall.

Rev. Raheb leads the International Center of Bethlehem (ICB). The ICB is a Lutheran-based, ecumenically-oriented institution, serving the whole of the community with an emphasis on women, children, youth, and the elderly. Participants and program users are Christian and Muslim, male and female, and come from towns, villages, and refugee camps.

Space is limited, so please contact Randy Schieber (schieber@stmarks-sf.org or 650 873 8997) if you have questions or are interested in attending what promises to be a fascinating discussion on what it means to be a religious and community leader in Bethlehem today.

"Listening
For God"

Book Study

Coming in
September



St. Mark's Adult Forum September and October, 2008

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

Rally Day for the Green September 7

Mark Andersen

Discussion on green topics, recycling, green products, and stewardship of the environment. Bring your ideas to the Green Adult Forum on Sept. 7th.

Bay Area Women's and Children's Center September 14

Executive Director Midge Wilson

Midge Wilson will speak about the BAWCC's many programs. The Center is located in the heart of the Tenderloin neighborhood and has been working with low-income children, families and women for over 25 years. BAWCC led the community effort to get the Tenderloin Community School and family center built, as well as five playgrounds in the Civic Center and North of Market.

The Catechumenate September 21

Pastor Jennert & the Catechumenate Team

Catechumenate comes from the Greek and can be literally translated as "a sounding in the ear". But, perhaps better yet, "Journey with Christ". The Catechumenate leads to the waters of baptism for

those new to the Christian faith. It is a lay-led, small group process that (ideally) involves the whole congregation. Worship, service opportunities and daily life of those involved are the "primary textbooks". Learn more about this ancient process and how it draws people to a deeper relationship with Christ.

Faith and Politics September 28, October 12, 19

Rev. James Emerson

Dr. James Emerson, Pastor Emeritus of Calvary Presbyterian Church in the city, will lead us in looking at the interplay of Faith and Politics during this election year. During the three sessions we will explore Faith and Politics: Why it matters - Consider the Supreme Court; The Candidates for President; Nancy Pelosi and Gale Sheehan.

Next Steps for the SF Interfaith Movement October 5

Rev. Michael G. Pappas

The Rev. Michael Pappas, Executive Director of the San Francisco Interfaith Council, will talk with us about the direction and next steps for the interfaith movement in San Francisco. Our own Pastor Ekdale is a member of the Council's board of directors.

Green Transportation October 26

Art Michel

Sunday School (ages 3 to 5th grade)

Recommences

Sep. 7 - Rally Day!

St. Mark's Sunday School meets every Sunday beginning on Rally Day. The program has 3 distinct parts: Children's Time during the 9:00 service, followed by Chapel in the Urban Life Center, and then Instruction when children are divided into their age-appropriate classrooms. The classroom teachers prepare weekly lessons, or quite often gather all classes together to celebrate a special occasion.

Meet St. Mark's Sunday School Teachers

Lisa Gray teaches Pre Kindergarten Sunday School. Lisa is a registered nurse and after a sabbatical has just returned to work part time. Lisa has been teaching Pre-K for 2 years now, this will be her third year teaching Pre-K. Lisa



has blessed us with her caring and thoughtful attention to the youngest class. This year her class will be using the "Witness" curriculum, which covers traditional Bible stories for young children. Lisa will supplement her curriculum with music and she always includes an art project which relates to the lesson. Lisa has created a beautiful space for her classroom, a very cheerful, nurturing environment which reflects her spirit of teaching.



Jenny Hart teaches Kindergarten-2nd grade at St. Mark's. She works full time in the garment industry. Jenny has also completed all the class work for her teaching credential at San Francisco State. She enjoys practicing her teaching skills on Sun-



days, this is her 5th year teaching at St. Mark's. The K-2 class will use the lectionary curriculum again this year, which reinforces the sermon lesson. Jenny believes in stressing community service in Sunday School and offers opportunities for the children to serve whenever possible. Jenny's classroom is large and well stocked with supplies to encourage learning.

Gail Culp teaches 2nd-5th grade every Sunday and she has done for many years. Gail is the backbone of the Sunday School program. Most of the traditions we honor have been initiated by Gail. Our Halloween/



Reformation Party is hosted by the older classroom as well as many other time honored fun activities. Gail works full time with her family at Paige Glass, she's from the Midwest, has her Masters of Fine Arts and believes in hands on teaching. Her class will also use the lectionary curriculum this year. She supplements her program with new maps which will help visual learners.

St. Mark's is truly blessed with capable, caring and fun Sunday School teachers. Stop by anytime to visit, all are welcome.

Why We Are At St. Mark's

This column is designed to introduce new members who have recently joined the St. Mark's community. If you are a interested in joining St. Mark's, please contact Pastor Christian at 415.928.7770 ext. 226 Jennert@stmarks-sf.org.

Name: Paul Cruce and Yuna Ono

Birthplace: Lubbock, Texas (Paul); Northern China (Yuna)

First Time we attended St. Mark's: Fall, 2007

What impressed us most: We were pleased to find the parish has not cut corners on the liturgy and is faithful to the historic Lutheran liturgies yet successfully reaching out to a modern urban attendee. We were made to feel at home at St. Mark's from our very first visit.

What could St. Mark's do even better: At this time, we have no suggestions for anything St. Mark's might do better. We are very happy here!

Where we are involved in this community: Yuna has been knitting scarves for the homeless. Paul has been working with Kathy Lautz and baking bread for the Eucharist on occasion. Paul sings in the choir, and will be joining the roster of ushers, lectors and assisting ministers. When Yuna returns from Asia, she likely will join the choir.

Why we stay: We stay because St. Mark's preaches and lives the Gospel and has a heart for modern urban ministry.



Paul Cruce and Yuna Ono with Liv Beck at St. Mark's colorful Pentecost service.

Picnic in the Park
Sunday, September 21

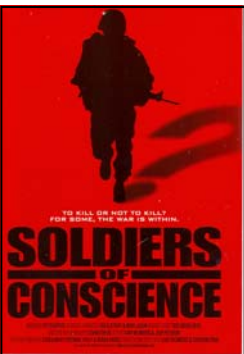


Thrivent Financial for Lutherans is hosting its fourth annual picnic in Golden Gate Park's Speedway Meadow from 11:30 am to 3:00 pm. ALL Lutherans and their friends are welcome. You do not need to be a Thrivent member to attend. There will be a free BBQ lunch, games for all ages, and live jazz music. Call 800.564.1293 to reserve your place. Look for the yellow and red Thrivent balloons!

Soldiers of Conscience:

To Kill or Not to Kill? For Some, the War is Within

On Thursday, October 16th, 2008 at 9:00pm on national public television will be shown the award winning documentary about our soldiers in Iraq facing the most difficult moral decision of their lives: to kill or not to kill. Eight soldiers, torn between the demands of duty and the call of conscience, including four who decide not to kill are followed as they make their individual decisions. This is a realistic, yet optimistic look at war, peace and the power of the human conscience. Check local PBS listings for exact time and stations.



Letter from one of our Confirmation students
July, 2008

Dear Members of St. Mark's, I want to thank you for helping me go to Shalom camp at Mt. Cross. It was very fun and I didn't want to leave at the end. I really enjoyed it and I feel closer to God. I met lots of other people who believed in God the way I do.

The games we played with our friends required skill and teamwork. I you tried on your own you would not succeed, we had to work as one. I really loved my cabin mates, they were hilarious and always had good attitudes. I thank you so much for this opportunity!!
 - Sigi Ocker

Aids Walk San Francisco

Thank you to all those who sponsored and pledged support in this year's AIDS Walk San Francisco held July 20 at Golden Gate Park. This year the walkers of the St. Mark's Lutheran team (Chuck Lewis & Dana Utz) raised \$9,829.00. Overall, some 25,000 participants raised over \$4.5 million for the San Francisco AIDS Foundation and 58 other AIDS service organizations in the Bay Area.



Chuck Lewis and Dana Utz at Aids Walk San Francisco 2008.

Parish Life Night
Thursday, September 4

St. Mark's Parish Life Night meets on Thursday, September 4 from 7:00-8:00 p.m. in Heritage Hall. All Parish Life Chairs and the members of the Parish Life committees, as well as anyone interested in the various parish life activities are invited to join us to discuss the various ministries, programs and events of your committee.



Coming in late Fall: Men's Congregational Retreat at St. Mark's. Watch for more information in the weekly announcements, or speak to Pastor Christian!

Project Homeless Connect Bayview Hunter's Point Wednesday, September 10

Partnering with the San Francisco Interfaith Council



**PROJECT
HOMELESS
CONNECT™**

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. The community of congregations will provide much needed volunteers, choirs for entertainment, staff for the spiritual area, and bible donations for the Book Area.

To volunteer, please register at:
[http://www.](http://www.ProjectHomelessConnect.com)

[ProjectHomelessConnect.com](http://www.ProjectHomelessConnect.com)
or call 415.255.3674.

Faith & Feminism Conference November 7-9

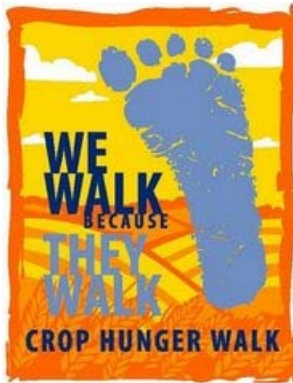
Keynote speaker will be Carol Christ, Ph.D. who is the author of the widely reprinted essay, "Why Women Need the Goddess," which has awakened us to the Sacred Feminine and introduced many to the rebirth of the ancient religion of the Goddess.

For more information and to register online, visit Ebenezer Lutheran Church's site: www.herchurch.org. Registration is limited to the first 100 attendees.



2008 Crop/Hunger Walk SFIC To Co-Sponsor Sunday, October 19

The 2008 Golden Gate Hunger Walk will be held on Sunday, Oct. 19 at 2:00 pm and will be co-sponsored by the San Francisco Interfaith Council. Walk takes place at the West Bluff Picnic Area of Crissy Field.



What you can do to help: Save the 2008 Walk Date - October 19th - on your calendar, and check out

the new website: <http://www.cropwalksf.org>

Volunteer to help with recruitment, publicity, treasury, education, logistics or corporate sponsorship or on the day of the walk.

Please help us reach Our Goal of \$25,000 for 2008. 75% of the proceeds will benefit the work of Church World Service and other international humanitarian agencies. 25% of the proceeds will benefit the San Francisco Food Bank and Interfaith Homeless Shelter. St. Mark's Confirmation youth plan to take part in this important event. Watch for updates in the weekly announcements on this great event.

SMART

Spice it up (or keep it mild) however you like it...

Angeline's Louisiana Kitchen

**SMART Dinner in Berkeley
Thursday, September 25 at 7 pm**



Angeline's brings the flavor and atmosphere of a New Orleans neighborhood restaurant to downtown Berkeley, with great music, libations and the classic dishes invented in the Crescent City's greatest kitchens. Try a perfect starter salad, Bar-b-Que Shrimp or fantastic Hush Puppies. Wake up your palate with down-home classics like Seafood Gumbo, Chicken-Andouille Jambalaya, Fried Catfish, or Creole Chopped Salad. Finish with one of the stunning desserts - Bananas Foster Bread Pudding or our signature warm Beignets with coffee.

The right place for a fun-filled SMART

night and a good opportunity for the San Franciscans among us to leave fog city and see that there is life across the bridge! A walk to the world famous Cal Campus will conclude that evening. You can take BART to the Downtown Berkeley station and walk a few blocks to Angeline's at 2261 Shattuck Ave (near Bancroft).



For menu and directions please visit angelineskitchen.com. To RSVP please reply to your evite, email Allana Helland: allanahelland@yahoo.com or sign up on the SMART Yahoo group list or talk to Pr. Christian in church.

**Tour of New Federal Building
Friday, October 24**

Join St. Mark's & MLT seniors for a tour of the San Francisco's new Federal Building on October 24.

This architecturally fascinating structure incorporates such elements as reduced energy consumption; daylight and naturally ventilated environments to promote healthy, productive workers; and a design that encourages walking through direct and pleasant connectivity of spaces.

We need an advance reservation for this tour. The names of all attending will be provided to the tour coordinator 3 days ahead of time, so note that the signup deadline is Monday, Oct. 20 (at MLT office, as usual.) A valid photo ID will be required of all attendees. Departure time is at 10:45 am. We'll have lunch after the tour either in the employee cafeteria in the building or a nearby restaurant.



**Scenic Peninsula Drive
Friday, September 26**

Come along on a scenic drive down the Peninsula followed by a gourmet Chinese Lunch in Cupertino on Friday, September 26. We will be having lunch at a Chinese restaurant recommended by MLT resident Lily Chan, who claims that this is better than any Chinese restaurant in San Francisco. This is a repeat engagement of a popular sojourn! Departure is at 11 am.



St. Mark's and MLT seniors enjoy lunch at Vladimir's Czech restaurant in Inverness in August.

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.

**From the
Martin Luther Tower Office**
The MLT office is offering free tickets to see the Oakland A's on Tuesday, September 16th at 7:00 pm. To sign up and for more info, please contact Richard Gallo at 415.885.1084 x. 225.

Senior Center Luncheons
●
Thursday, September 18
●
Thursday, October 16.
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 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.



Pastor Christian and Marlo Tellschow pose in front of Point Reyes Lighthouse on the August Senior Trip.

Invitation to All Women September 9

Women of the ELCA

After a brief summer break, we look forward to resuming WELCA activities on September 9th. Nadine Robinson and Geri Bailey will share their experiences and information from the Women of the ELCA Triennial Gathering that was held in July in Salt Lake City.

In October, in addition to our own monthly meeting, Sierra Pacific Synod WELCA is planning a regional event entitled "ACT-Love-Walk". This is a one day event which will be held at All Saints Lutheran Church in Novato on Saturday, October 25th. St. Mark's member Jo Chadwick will be the keynote presenter. If you'd like to attend this event, please contact Nadine or Geri (see below.)

This year's Bible Study of the Women of the ELCA will be "The Hidden Hand of God": Wisdom Stories from Ruth, Daniel and Esther. Background and reading for each month's bible study appear in *The Lutheran Woman Today*.

The women of St. Mark's and St. Paulus meet from 11:00 am to 1:00 pm on the second Tuesday of each month in the Fireside Room at St. Mark's Urban Life Center. Bring a sandwich or salad for lunch. Dessert and coffee are provided.

PLEASE JOIN US for prayer, bible study, fellowship and fun. If you would like more information please contact Geri Bailey at (415) 391-8234 or geribailey@comcast.net or Nadine Robinson at (650) 735-5036 or sfonLR@aol.com.



WELCA Delegates Adopt Proposals on Environmental Matters in Salt Lake City.

From the Pastors:

(cont. from page 1) We want to thank you for your faithfulness and generosity to this campaign.

Forward in Faith – Serving a New Century three-year appeal is coming to a close this fall. If we stay on track with our giving over the next few months, we will have raised over \$978,500. In the closing weeks

of this campaign, we have an opportunity to finish strong, perhaps catch-up if need be, and be in the strongest financial position as possible when we close the chapter on this current capital campaign.

As we end this three-year appeal,

we look forward to our next campaign that is designed to service the debt we have incurred in our building program. It is the best stewardship of our offerings to continue campaigns back-to-back until we have completely paid off the building.

Currently we owe \$1,288,284 on our building loan with Thrivent. Most congregations who employ this strategy are able to pay off their mortgages in *one-half* the time they borrowed the money for, thus saving tens of thousands of dollars in interest over the life of the loan.

Besides servicing the debt and as an act of faith and trust, we will tithe 10% of all gifts received to two ministries important to this congregation.

Half of the tithed amount will be designated toward an "elevator fund." Due to the forethought of the members of the Renovation Commission, we have already prepared our church building for an elevator. This fund will begin to move us forward in realizing this dream – elevator access to all three levels of our church building!

The second half of our tithe will go toward our Sister Parish in Soyapango, El Salvador. Liv Beck visited this parish last year and has made personal connections with the pastoral leadership and members. Our monetary gift will help this parish in their efforts to build and serve their community.

This new campaign entitled, **Forward in Faith – Together in Mission** will be launched this fall. Thank you for your partnership in ministry through your regular giving and your gifts to the capital campaign. We move forward in faith - together in mission - with joy and gratitude for all of God's blessings. The new campaign will kick off in October!



Sustaining Simplicity: A Look at Hunger and Lifestyle

Brought to you by the Sierra Pacific Synod Hunger Task Force



What: A family friendly event with a parallel youth and children's program. Bring the whole family!

When: Saturday October 18, 2008, 9:30am - 4:30pm

Where: Lutheran Church of the Incarnation, Davis, CA

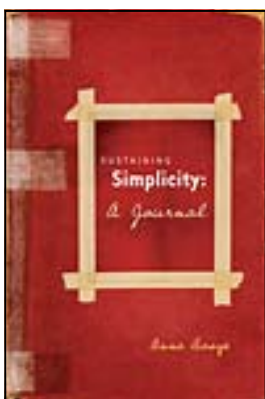
Featuring: Ann Basye, author of "Sustaining Simplicity, A Journal" and David Gist, California Coordinator of Bread for the World

Bible Study by Pastor Megan Rohrer, SF Welcome Ministry

Join them for worship, fellowship, and new hunger materials

African fair-traded gift market from Asante Network will be on hand (Do your Christmas shopping!)

Details: Cost for the day, including lunch, is \$10. If you have questions, contact Edie Lott at thelotts@gmail.com or Mary Ritter at mlrped@aol.com



Come, see, and hear how we can live simply in the 21st century!

"Going Green" after Rally Day

The Environmental Education and Advocacy program of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) is committed to caring for our Lord's creation.

God commanded humankind to "keep the earth" (Genesis 2:15) and we believe that it is our responsibility to learn to do just this. You can find resources and educational materials listed below to help you grow in your own faith journey to appreciate fully and cherish our Lord's creation and find different ways to engage in earth-keeping activities.



🌍 Caring for Creation: Vision, Hope and Justice. This is the social statement of the ELCA on our care of the environment. It and other material from the ELCA are available at the following website.

<http://archive.elca.org/advocacy/environment/education.asp>

🌍 Web of Creation is established to foster the movement for personal and social transformation to a just and sustainable world from religious perspectives. The website is maintained by the Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago and is supported by a variety of faith-based sources including the ELCA.

www.webofcreation.org

🌍 Earth Ministry was founded in 1992 to inspire and mobilize the Christian community to play a leadership role in building a just and sustainable future.

Earth Ministry directly supports a network of 150 congregational activists (Colleagues) representing over 100 Seattle, Washington area congregations, and has a national membership. While rooted in the Christian faith, many of our members come from diverse spiritual traditions. Our programs and resources are available to all.

www.earthministry.org

Stewardship Financial Summary

	June 2008	Year to date
Income	41,534	266,892
Expense	49,547	267,635
Net	(8,013)	(743)
	July 2008	Year to date
Income	42,642	309,534
Expense	39,382	307,016
Net	3,260	2,518

Forward in Faith Update

Pledged to FIF:	978,468
Received:	796,032
Shortage:	182,436

Thank you for your continued support!

Green Corner



Here are some "green" things we do in St. Mark's church office:

- ◆ Recycle paper, cans, bottles, etc.
- ◆ Recycle toner and ink cartridges
- ◆ Recycle batteries
- ◆ Use OTHER side of paper for printing drafts or for scratch paper
- ◆ Buy recycled products
- ◆ Disable half the lights in two-light ceiling fixtures

Church Council Highlights

Highlights from the July Church Council meeting:

- ◆ Supported the strong completion of the current Capital Campaign and approved a new Capital Campaign to commence in the Fall
- ◆ Approved the appointment of David Auerbach as Interim Organist and Choir Director
- ◆ Discussed upcoming events at St. Mark's, including CLU Sunday on August 17, and "Green" Rally Sunday on Sept 7



Pastor Christian with Carla & Carl Foster, daughter Megan, and newly baptized Eli on June 20, 2008.

Sacred Acts at St. Mark's

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

July 2008

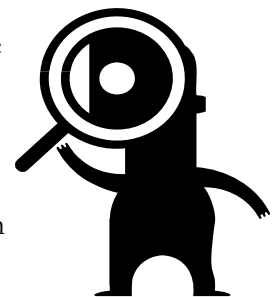
Memorial Service
Wanelda Jones, July 31

August 2008

Baptized
Jackson Clay Hanna, Aug. 17
Noah William Matzke, Aug. 17
Charles Bruce Knickerbocker, Aug. 31

From the Church Office

The church office will be closed on Monday, September 1 for **Labor Day**. On September 2, we go back to regular office hours, 9:00 am to 5:00 pm, Monday through Friday.



Update Regarding Rod Gehrke

St. Mark's and Rod Gehrke have satisfactorily reached a severance agreement relative to Rod's 29-year tenure as Director of Worship and Music at St. Mark's. We wish Rod all the best in his future ministry. Members who wish further pastoral conversation on this matter are encouraged to contact Pastor Ekdale or Pastor Jennert. Both Pastors have been meeting with members over the summer who had expressed a desire for additional pastoral conversation. Please do not hesitate to contact them:

Pastor Ekdale - ext. 230
Pastor Jennert - ext. 226



The Rev. Mark W. Holmerud during his installation as Bishop of the Sierra Pacific Synod, pictured with the Rev. Mark S. Hanson and worship assistants.

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

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September - October 2008

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

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
 Stacy Cullison, 9:00 am Pianist/Organist
 Duc Huynh, Buildings and Grounds Supervisor
 Carl Storey, Security
 Elvira Markov and Gladys Pozo, Nursery Assistants
 Jenny Hart, Sunday School Coordinator

Email Address

ekdale@stmarks-sf.org
jennert@stmarks-sf.org
ranches@stmarks-sf.org
dayton@stmarks-sf.org
haner@stmarks-sf.org
garcia@stmarks-sf.org
auerbach@stmarks-sf.org

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. Mark W. Holmerud, Bishop, Sierra Pacific Synod
 The Rev. Steve Sabin, Dean, San Francisco Conference



Sister Parish

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

