



January - February 2007

The Evangel

St. Mark's Lutheran Church • San Francisco
In the heart of the city for ministry to the world



Members of St. Mark's Congregation gathered on the steps of the historic church during the December 10, 2006 Reopening Celebration.

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At long last, the retrofit work is finished. We have moved back in! Our year-long celebration theme, "Fling Wide the Doors", is an indication of our passion and commitment to reach out. We truly are eager to serve the community and seek to welcome all.

Through the intense retrofit and "bricks and mortar" focus we have discovered that our identity is more than a church building. We are a passionate people of faith and it is this faith that moves us forward. The lesson is simple - a building, even a church building, has no power to change people's hearts or lives. But our dynamic and graceful God does. As we "Fling Wide the Doors", we will encourage and make room for the Holy Spirit to welcome and affirm, to sustain and guide everyone who enters through the church doors of St. Mark's. And, when we leave this place, we do so energized and nourished to go out into the world and share the radical, inclusive and merciful news of Jesus Christ.

Blessings in your comings and goings,

Rev. Elizabeth Ekdale, Lead Pastor

MY HOME CHURCH

Remarks given by Margaret McLean, Council President, at the December 10, 2006 "Fling Wide the Doors" Celebration

It's been anything but a quiet week in San Francisco, my home town. Down at St. Mark's Lutheran Church, in the heart of The City, they have reopened the doors after reinforcing walls and ceilings and balconies against the uncertainties of life in earthquake country. It took steel and epoxy and shotcrete and a year and a half to shore up the 112 year old brick building. And it took determination and prayer.

It is a safe, beautiful, and comfortable building—epoxy dowels in the walls, cable under the choir loft; blue stars and gilding above worshipers' heads; heat, light, pew cushions and plumbing. Kitchen and pipe organ—all the things that warm the Lutheran heart. It is home—that place where, in the words of Robert Frost, "they have to take you in." A place to curl up with a good sermon and simply be.

But home is also the place where they have to send you out—out onto the Square, into the streets of The City, into the heart of the world. This congregation has created a space in which and from which to do ministry—in which and from which to work for justice, to love kindness and to walk humbly with God.

What has been rebuilt here in the heart of The City is not only bricks and mortar and shotcrete. What has been built here is a worshipping community anxious to fling wide wooden and spiritual doors for all to enter in.

When I was a child, my father sang tenor in the San Francisco Municipal Chorus. The Chorus sang in the Opera House with the San Francisco Symphony. It also graced with song various Protestant churches, which provided a wonderful opportunity for this Catholic girl to get a peak inside those mysterious—and, yes, forbidden—Protestant churches—Glide Memorial, First Congregational, and St. Mark's Lutheran. And because we were my father's daughters, the three of us, dressed in our Sunday best, went to every concert. St. Mark's was my favorite sacred space—it was brick and glass, big and bright, warm and welcoming. And, now, it is that once again; but oh, so much more.

Well, that's the news from St. Mark's Lutheran, my home church, where the spirit is strong, the building is good looking, and the love of neighbor is above average.

(With apologies to Garrison Keillor)

**Annual
Congregational
Meeting**

**Sunday, January 28, 2007
One Worship Service at 10:00 am
Meeting at 11:15 am
Sanctuary**

All are encouraged to attend this most important meeting, which will include:

- Renovation Financing Update
- 2007 Church Budget Presentation
- Election of Council Members
- Recognition of St. Mark's Ministries
- President's Report
- Treasurer's Report
- Martin Luther Tower Update

2007 Budget Discussion

**Sunday, January 21, 12:15 pm
in the Fireside Room**

Treasurer Aron Bohlig will host an in-depth discussion of the 2007 budget and financial situation of St. Marks. This information will be repeated at a summary level at the Annual Meeting on January 28th, but all members with detailed interest are encouraged to attend to have their questions answered on the 21st."



Sabbatical Update

I begin this new year starting my 10th year in ministry with you. I am amazed at what we have accomplished together and hopeful about what is to come. Now that we are back in our church building, I am more excited and energized than ever about growing and expanding ministries to serve the congregation and wider community.

My sabbatical time, which takes place April 11 through Aug. 1, is an opportunity for self-reflection and assessment of my gifts and skills. I have extensive reading which I hope to accomplish and time set aside for biblical and theological reflection in local retreat centers. I am looking forward to being able to worship with other church communities and nourish my faith during this three month time.

I am excited for the parish and the reflection and discerning you will do during my time away. My gift to each of you will be a book (yet to be chosen) with my hope that you will read it together and use it for reflection and conversation.

When I return, I will eagerly share with you how this time has renewed and retooled me for ministry at St. Mark's. I know I will return refreshed and rested to face the joys and challenges of ministry in our diverse, urban setting.

Thank you for this sabbatical gift and for our relationship together. Please join me and Margaret McLean, Council President, on Sunday morning, January 14, at 10:00 a.m. in the Fire-side room. We will use the Adult Forum hour for further conversation and dreaming together about this Sabbath time.

With anticipation,
Pastor Elizabeth Ekdale

American Bach Soloists at St. Mark's

The American Bach Soloists can't think of a better venue in the City than St. Mark's Sanctuary to present our intimate programs of works by J.S. Bach! We're extending a special 20% discount on subscriptions to our 2007 SF Season. Performance schedule is as follows:

- * **Bach NEW YEAR'S CANTATAS**, Sunday, January 21 at 7:00 pm
- * **The Art of Elizabeth Blumenstock & Mary Wilson**, Sunday, March 4 at 7:00 pm
- * **Bach EARLY CANTATAS**, Sunday, March 25 at 7:00 pm
- * **Bach INSTRUMENTAL WORKS**, Sunday, May 13 at 7:00 pm

For complete details, visit our Website at www.americanbach.org, or call us at 415-621-7900 and request a full brochure.

Sunday School Collecting Spent Batteries

St. Mark's Sunday School Children are collecting spent batteries. With your help, they hope to keep 150 pounds of spent batteries out of our landfills. Please bring your spent batteries to Church and place them in the "Spent Batteries Go Here" bucket that will be in the hallway behind Heritage Hall.



If you have any questions, please call Karl Breice at 415/452-0727.

Church Council Highlights

At Council meetings in October, November and December, the following activities took place:

- ✦ Welcomed Aron Bohlig as a new member of Council to fill a vacancy until the January Congregational Meeting
- ✦ Finalized plans and made budget decisions regarding the "Fling Wide the Doors" celebration, including a decision to maintain a focus on world hunger throughout 2007
- ✦ Discussed the positive results of a financial compliance review
- ✦ Examined future security requirements for St. Mark's Square
- ✦ Reviewed and approved a new Employee handbook and guidelines regarding weddings and rentals of St. Mark's space
- ✦ Reviewed and discussed updated information regarding retrofit financing and its impact on St. Mark's budget
- ✦ Continued planning for pastoral coverage during Pr. Ekdale's sabbatical from April 11 - Aug 1, 2007
- ✦ Reviewed the initial 2007 budget

EPIPHANY COMMUNION SERVICE

Saturday, January 6, 2007 at 5:30 pm
(please note special time)

Join us as we celebrate the Epiphany (manifestation) of Jesus the Christchild to the world. Epiphany was the ancient, original festival celebrating Jesus' birth, and included the visit of the Magi (the focus of the day now), Jesus' baptism, and his first miracle in changing water into wine at the wedding at Cana. Please note that some incense (one of the Magi's gifts) will be used at the service.

Ash Wednesday Eucharists

Wednesday, February 21, 2007
12:00 noon and 7:00 p.m.

Imposition of Ashes at both services

Additional Mid-Week Lenten
Worship Services will be announced

Sacred Acts at St. Mark's

Join us in celebrating the recent sacred event in our parish:

Saturday, 10/21
Marriage of Heather Hilton & Stuart
Lynch

House Meetings returning to St. Mark's

Sundays - February 4th & 10th after the 11:00 am Worship

Now that we are back in our church building and major parts of the retrofit are behind us you may ask yourselves, what else is happening in the community? What is going on in our lives? To allow for a time of unhurried conversation and building relationships among St. Mark's members, we offer house meetings in the month of February.

A house meeting is an opportunity to gather with 8 - 10 other members of St. Mark's for conversation, sharing stories and listening to one another about what is going on in our lives. These stories might be related to issues that we are facing in our lives, in relationship to the communities in which we live, or work and wider society. House meetings provide an opportunity for conversation and to listen to each other's stories above and beyond St. Mark's.

If you are interested and would like to be part of such a house meeting, please contact Pr. Jennert at Jennert@stmarks-sf.org or call 415.928.7770 x. 226.

WELCA

WOMEN OF THE EVANGELICAL
LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA

An Invitation to All Women Tuesdays, January 9 & February 13

WELCA women meet the second Tuesday of every month at 11:00 am in the Fireside room of the Urban Life Center. After our discussion we enjoy lunch and fellowship. Please bring a sandwich or a salad. Beverages & dessert are provided.

Donna Dindia and Nadine Robinson, Co-Presidents,
WELCA@stmarks-sf.org

Welcome Jeremy Fuerst

Our new 1st Year Teaching Parish Student from PLTS

"Thank you for the opportunity to introduce myself! Since I have been at PLTS I have had the opportunity to worship with you on several occasions, and I anticipate a vibrant learning experience with you at St. Mark's. I am originally from Nebraska, where "flat" and "rural" by comparison don't quite say it. I grew up on a farm and attended Midland Lutheran College, also in Nebraska. After graduation I served for seven years as a youth minister - two in Ogden, Utah and five at a downtown congregation in Omaha. These were fantastic experiences that taught me a great deal about my gifts and parish ministry.

In addition to immersion in seminary life and the light reading that classes require of us, I enjoy practicing and competing on Cal's triathlon team. I also enjoy spending time mountain biking and backpacking. Seminary has certainly been challenging yet gratifying thus far. I look forward to learning more about the nuances of parish ministry and community outreach that I will acquire in my time at St. Mark's. I have already experienced St. Mark's proclamation of the Gospel first-hand and it is exciting to be a part of it."

Outreach

*This article appeared in the December 5, 2006 edition of the **Habitat Connections**, the e-newsletter of Habitat for Humanity San Francisco.*

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT: JOLEEN JESSEN

On any given day, you may find Joleen Jessen (pictured in center) on the HHSF construction site, recruiting HHSF volunteers at local churches or speaking passionately about Habitat and her commitment to social justice at a Thrivent Financial board meeting. Joleen is currently serving as an integral part of the Thrivent Builds program in San Francisco, a unique partnership between Thrivent Financial for Lutherans and Habitat affiliates across the country. Joleen has put in countless hours over the last year to build the HHSF Thrivent home and allow a family to realize its dream of homeownership. Joleen's passion and dedication has inspired hundreds of others to volunteer and donate to HHSF. Thank you Joleen!



Interfaith Homeless Shelter

January 14 - February 4, 2007

St. Mark's will be one of the hosts for the Interfaith Homeless Shelter for Men this winter. The shelter will be held in the Urban Life Center Auditorium from **Sunday evening, January 14 through Sunday morning, February 4, 2007**. Overnight housing, breakfasts and dinners will be provided for approximately 60 men each day. St. Mark's volunteers will prepare and serve breakfast from our wonderful new kitchen. Dinners will be prepared by other congregations and organizations. We will need many volunteers from St. Mark's to help mornings and evenings with dining room preparation, serving and cleanup.

This is a great opportunity to serve the needy in our community. We have a good time working with one another in the early morning preparation and breakfast service. In the evening we have an opportunity to meet members of other congregations. We hope that you will be able to again give your time for the upcoming shelter, and financial support to help with the cost of the food for the breakfasts.

We will need 3 to 4 volunteers for each breakfast and 3 volunteers for each dinner. If you haven't already signed up to help out, please do so by contacting John Elford (elfordjb@aol.com, 415-648-4363) or Pam Ruh (pambobruh@hotmail.com, 415-292-4496). Thank you!

St. Mark's Social Ministry



Become a ONE Lutheran - actively engaged in advocacy on hunger and justice issues.

What is "advocacy"?

Advocacy is to plead the cause of another together with them and on their behalf.

Why do we do advocacy?

Advocacy is one way we see to love our neighbor in response to God's love given us in Jesus Christ. When we work for public and corporate policies that advance justice, peace, human dignity, and care for the earth, we are serving people who are living in poverty and who are suffering.

How do we advocate?

Learn more about issues of poverty, hunger and justice. Go to www.elca.org/advocacy or www.bread.org and email Senators and Representatives. Sign the declaration at www.elca.org/advocacy. Identify and write to your elected officials.

St. Mark's Lutheran does advocacy letter writing on the fifth Sunday of the month. Join us in **April, July, September, and December** in 2007.



Fling Wide the Doors

Fling Wide the Doors Calendar of Events

Saturday, January 27, 2007 at 5:00 pm
"Here's to You" -

A Thank You Celebration

The evening includes jazz, dinner, a special gift
and our "official" thank you to one another.



Tuesday, February 20, 2007 at 7:00 pm
"RENT - The Movie" - A Screening to
Celebrate Shrove Tuesday

Celebrate Mardi Gras watching the movie
filmed in our sanctuary...bring a friend!



Pastors, church leaders, and honored guests oversee the cutting of the ribbon



Bishop David Mullen knocks on the church doors as Pastor Christian Jennert and others look on



Greg Jahnke & Karl Breice holding Fling Wide banner



Gary Schilling poses at the 1894 and 2006 cornerstones. He designed the 2006 stone.



View of the standing-room only nave, chancel, altar and sacristy from the balcony

**First Corinthians
Epiphany Bible Study
Beginning January 9th**

How can an ancient letter like First Corinthians be so earthy, so homespun and yet still find its home within the pages of our Sacred Writings? Shouldn't the pages of scripture be more reverent? Why must this portion of the New Testament be preoccupied with petty rivalry, selfish eating habits and chaotic church meetings?

The answer is that first Corinthians, like the rest of scripture, was forged and fashioned in the real world. Come and study this fascinating letter during the season of Epiphany with one of our Pastors.

- 6:30 - 7:00 pm **Light supper served**
 - 7:00 - 8:00 pm **Bible study**
 - 8:00 - 8:15 pm **Evening Prayer service**
- Location: **Heritage Hall**

Mark your calendars for the following
Tuesdays: **January 9, 16, 23, and 30**
February 6 and 13

**St. Mark's LYA Kick-off Night
Wednesday, January 10th, 6:30 pm**

Who said that studying God's Word has to be boring?

Kick-off night Wednesday, January 10 with food, drinks, movie, discussion and fellowship! All young adults are invited to join in the fun and dig deeper into God's Word! We will be meeting for now on Wednesday nights until February 14 from 6:30-7:30 pm in the **Fire-side Room**/Urban Life Center. As always, friends, partners, spouses, neighbors, and co-workers are welcome to come, too! For more info contact Marisa, Tricia or Pr Christian at lya@stmarks-sf.org or call 415-928-7770 x.226.

**Discipleship Classes in Lent
March 24 & 31 from 10:00 am till noon**

St. Mark's is offering two new discipleship classes for anyone interested in joining this community of faith, in learning more about St. Mark's, the Christian faith and the Lutheran tradition and how it is lived out here in this parish.

The two discipleship classes will be held in a convenient workshop format from 10:00 am till noon on Saturday mornings, March 24 and 31 in the Fireside Room. We are looking forward to seeing you there! A light breakfast will be provided.

For more information on this class or on membership at St. Mark's please contact Pastor Christian Jennert at 415-928-7770 x. 226 or at jennert@stmarks-sf.org.



Pastors Ekdale and Jennert and other worship leaders in the chancel

For more photos from the
Sling Wide the Doors
Celebration, follow the

St. Mark's Photo Gallery

link from our Website homepage:
www.stmarks-sf.org



St. Mark's Choir in their first official performance in the renovated church

Education

ADULT FORUMS - SUNDAYS AT 10:00 AM IN THE FIRESIDE ROOM

† January 7 -

SF Night Ministry with Pastor Lyle Beckman

Volunteers and clergy with SF Night Ministry provide counseling and referral services to people in crisis every night of the year from 10:00 pm to 4:00 am. SMLC member Rev. Lyle Beckman, new Night Minister, will tell us more about this unique 44-year old San Francisco ministry.

- January 14 -

Sabbatical - A Conversation with Pr. Elizabeth Ekdale

Pastor Elizabeth Ekdale and Margaret McLean, Council President, will lead a discussion and answer questions regarding Pastor Ekdale's upcoming sabbatical. What is a sabbatical? How will the congregation benefit? These and other questions will be answered.

- January 21 -

Lutheran World Relief with Pastor Don Haven

Rev. Don M. Haven, our visiting preacher on January 21, will discuss the work of Lutheran World Relief. Lutheran World Relief is known for its effective disaster response and relief efforts. LWR also works in 35 countries to combat the causes of poverty and the dignity it robs from people's lives. Development projects include Fair Trade to help farming families and artisans earn a better income.

- January 28 -

Annual Congregational Meeting 11:15 am

- February 4 -

The Stewardship of Living and Dying with Pastor Elizabeth Ekdale

Pr. Elizabeth Ekdale will lead the first of our series on "A Good Death" with a discussion of the most important issues we need to know for preparing for our death, including funeral and memorial service planning.

- February 11 -

The Stewardship of Living and Dying with Dr. Margaret McLean

Margaret R. McLean, medical ethicist, will lead a discussion on important considerations for medical advance directives and end-of-life decision making. In our death-defying, death-denying culture, we continually fail to recognize that living and dying are a single journey, one that begins at birth. At this forum, we will discuss the ethical issues inherent in recognizing that dying is part of our life-long journey, including how to make our wishes about our dying known.

- February 18 -

The Stewardship of Living and Dying with James C. Bridgman

How can you accomplish what you want when you are no longer able to direct what happens? How can you avoid outcomes you don't desire, including increased taxation, expenses, or the government winding up with your assets? How can you make sure the right person will get that treasured memento? James C. Bridgman, SMLC member and attorney, will present important issues to consider in the area of wills, trusts, and estate planning. This short presentation will discuss the advantages and disadvantages of transfer of assets upon death when a person has no will, or has a will or has a trust.

- February 25 -

To be scheduled

- Sundays in March: 4, 11, 18 and 25 -

On Being a Christian with Pastors Elizabeth Ekdale and Christian Jennert

Pastors Ekdale and Jennert will team teach Adult Forums during Lent to explore the fundamentals of our Christian faith. They will use Timothy Lull's book, *On Being a Christian*, as well as *Luther's Small Catechism*.

Seniors

**St. Mark's and MLT Senior Center Ministries
After-Christmas Sales Shopping**

Petaluma Village Premium Outlets
and WalMart in Windsor
Wednesday, January 24

You are invited to shop at the Petaluma Premium Outlets on Wednesday, January 24. The outlets boast over 145 stores featuring famous high quality name brands. Find savings of 25 to 65% off regular retail prices! An inexpensive lunch is available on the way. We will leave at 10:00 am and return to SF not later than 3:30 pm



Cooking Class Fundraiser

for St. Mark's and
Martin Luther Tower Senior Center
Friday, February 9, 2007 at 6:30 pm



(Watch for details
in the coming weeks)

TUESDAYS AT 2:00 BIBLE STUDY

Bible Study, fellowship, conversation, sharing and goodies **every Tuesday starting on January 9** at 2:00 p.m. in the Brockie Lounge of Martin Luther Tower. Bring your Bible and your questions to this fun and stimulating time of learning. Classes are taught by Pastors Elizabeth Ekdale and Christian Jennert.



in Berkeley
Spenger's Fish Grotto

**Lunch, Monday, February 12
with a stop at the Berkeley Marina**

Join Pastor Elizabeth and Teaching Parish Student Chris Ode for a lunch at famous Spenger Fish Grotto in Berkeley on beautifully gentrified 4th Street.

UPCOMING SENIOR LUNCHEONS

will take place on the following dates:

**Wednesday, January 17
and
Thursday, February 22**

Please sign up early to reserve your seats! Sign-up sheets are available at MLT offices or call Pastor Christian at 415-928-7770 x. 226.



The Spenger family has been supplying fresh fish to the Bay Area for four generations. The original founder was John (Johann) Spenger, who came to Oakland from Germany in 1865 and worked as a fisherman when Oakland's Lake Merritt, the San Francisco Bay and the Pacific ocean teemed with fish,

shrimp, oysters, mussels, clams and crabs.

The classic, traditional presentation of the menu items, combined with professional, knowledgeable service and the unique, eclectic atmosphere make for a truly memorable dining experience. Watch for details!

All Senior trips start from the Urban Life Center lobby, unless noted otherwise. To reserve your seat please contact the **MLT Office at 415-885-1084**, Pastor Jennert at 415-928-7770 x 226, or Dean Atkinson at 415-931-6684.

Young Adults

SMART NEW YEAR'S DINNER AT OLD KRAKOW Thursday, January 25

Reward yourself by spending a lovely evening enjoying authentic Polish gourmet cuisine. The Old Krakow atmosphere will magically transport you to the heart of Europe. Relax, forget your worries, find yourself again, and re-discover your loved one, at Old Krakow.

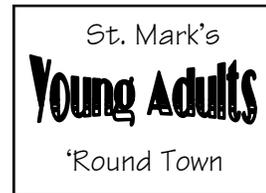
If this is your first Polish dining experience, you're in for a treat. If you are already familiar with Polish cooking, you'll find one of your favorites here! Be sure to try the sublime cream of mushroom soup! Join SMART for an Eastern European treat! Smaczno!



"Old Krakow" is located at 385 West Portal Avenue, San Francisco.

SMART invites everyone to celebrate
"FAT TUESDAY"
and attend the special Screening of
"RENT"

in the newly retrofitted Sanctuary on Tuesday, February 20. For more info see page 6 of this newsletter!



To RSVP for any SMART event, please reply to your invite, email SMART@stmarks-sf.org or call Pr. Christian at 415-928-770 x.226.

If you are a young professional and don't yet belong to the SMART Yahoo! Group, there's no better time to join than NOW! Send an email with your name, phone # and preferred email address for receipt of SMART communications to Tricia Ahkin or Pastor Christian at SMART@stmarks-sf.org.

Youth

THE SMSHY (St. Mark's Senior High Youth)

...had a busy December! We penned Christmas greetings for participants in various St. Mark's social ministries, and helped serve at the December 10 Rededication luncheon. We also celebrated our first full year at our holiday party on December 17, baking cookies and exchanging gifts.

In January & February, SMSHY should look forward to news about our summer service trip, and for dates of upcoming rap sessions & fun activities. Keep checking your mailbox for the Winter '07 calendar. And finally - a big thanks to all who have supported SMSHY in 2006!

For more information about the SMSHY ministry, contact Marisa Louie at marisalouie@gmail.com.

SMART Dinner at "Home"

Friday, March 9 at 6:00 pm

Home Restaurant was created under the guiding principle that simple, classic comfort food can be prepared in a way that dazzles your taste buds, evokes the emotions from a wonderful home-cooked meal and goes easy on your wallet.

Home chefs seamlessly blend gourmet intricacies with a comfort menu, amazing value and the casualness that Home Restaurant is



well-known for. Enjoy unbelievable pastry creations that will make you

wish you'd left more room for dessert. Foodies can't pick just one thing that makes Home so special: Macaroni and cheese labeled by some as the "Best in the West," melt-in-your-mouth pot roast or Home's killer banana bread pudding. Approved by St. Mark's staff, join SMART for a night out in March!

HOME Restaurant is located at the corner of Market and Church Streets in San Francisco's Castro District, at 2100 Market Street.

Administration



“SAFE CONGREGATION” STATEMENT

In recognition of the spiritual and public trust given to this faith community, St. Mark's Lutheran Church in San Francisco, CA is committed to being a true sanctuary, both nurturing and protecting its members and visitors. Worship of God requires openness, trust, intimacy, vulnerability and a safe, supportive community. Abuse and harassment are, therefore, violations of the faith shared by this congregation. Accordingly, the congregation will maintain official policies and procedures with the goal of preventing any instances of abuse, intervening appropriately into alleged incidents of abusive behavior, and caring for all involved. These procedures will be reviewed and amended as necessary by the Church Council to correspond to changes in civil law and the congregation community. Approved at St. Mark's Congregational Meeting, Jan. 31, 2005

St. Mark's Lutheran has policies and procedures in place to ensure a safe environment for the congregation, free from abuse. Pastors, Nursery staff, Sunday School teachers and youth workers have participated in Safe Congregation training sessions. Pastors and paid staff members who work with children are mandatory reporters of child abuse and neglect. Specific policies have been implemented regarding 1) expectations of staff and volunteers, 2) standards of behavior and a “two-adult rule” when working with youth, 3) installation of windows in doors leading to the Nursery, Sunday School classrooms and the Pastors' offices in order to provide visibility, 4) hiring procedures for all staff, including criminal background checks, and 5) a specific policy in the event that a registered sex offender visits / joins the congregation.

The members of St. Mark's are motivated to implement and adhere to these procedures because we are entrusted with the spiritual, educational and moral development of our children and youth.

Questions about the “Safe Congregation” policies may be directed to the pastors or the Human Resources Committee.

WHY WE ARE AT ST. MARK'S

We introduce to you active young adults from our community. If you're a young adult interested in St. Mark's and the different programs and ministries in our community, contact Pr. Christian Jennert at 415-928-7770 x. 226 or jennert@stmarks-sf.org.

Name: Tricia Ahkin

Age: Ha! (for me to know and for you to guess)

Birthplace: NYC

First Time I attended St. Mark's: March 2005

What impressed me most: The congregation's cohesiveness even as it was displaced from their beautiful, old and historic church building

What could St. Mark's do even better: Encourage proactive leadership and involvement in evangelism & outreach activities

Where I am involved in this community: SLUDGE, SMART, LYA Bible Studies and the fabulous St Mark's Choir

Why I stay: The people, of course! I like my new church family at St Mark's and look forward to meeting, getting to know, learning from and growing with you!



**The Church Office will be closed
Monday, February 19th
(Presidents Day)**

**PLEASE NOTE:
MARCH—APRIL
EVANGEL DEADLINE IS
SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 10!**

Please email articles and notices to dayton@stmarks-sf.org—where you can also send a request to receive the newsletter via email.



The Evangel

January - February 2007

St. Mark's Lutheran Church
1111 O'Farrell Street
San Francisco, CA 94109

NON-PROFIT
ORGANIZATION

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www.stmarks-sf.org

*St. Mark's is a
"Reconciling in Christ"
Congregation.*

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.

Please contact us if you wish to be removed from our mailing list.

Church Office Hours: Monday-Friday, 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Phone: 415-928-7770

Staff

The Rev. Elizabeth E. Ekdale, 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
Gail Culp, Sunday School Coordinator
Chris Ode, Teaching Parish Student

Email Address

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jennert@stmarks-sf.org	x. 226
gehrke@stmarks-sf.org	x. 233
ranches@stmarks-sf.org	x. 225
dayton@stmarks-sf.org	x. 224
garcia@stmarks-sf.org	x. 229
	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

