

The Evangel

July-August 2007

St. Mark's Lutheran Church ✦ *In the heart of the city for ministry to the world*

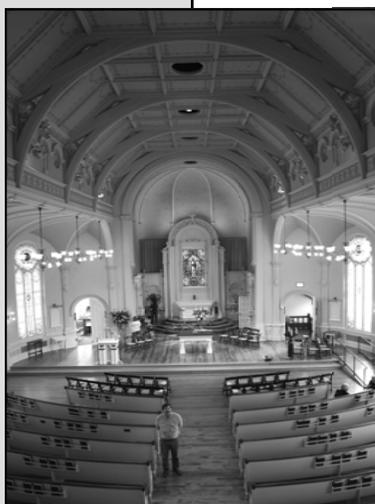
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Reflection from Pastor Beckman

The gifts he gave were that some would be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until all of us come to the unity of faith....
(Ephesians 4:11-13)

In Ephesians, Paul suggests that each of us is given gifts which have a purpose: to build up the body of Christ, the Church..

We know about building. For the past several years we have spent a great deal of our time, talents and energy in the study, planning and financing of the retrofit and restoration of St. Mark's Lutheran Church. Some of us know the intimate details of the plumbing and lighting, the supports that hold the balcony in place, and the structural elements that will work together to keep the building standing for many years to come.



When people enter the sanctuary for the first time, we smile as they ooh and aah at the freshly painted walls and ceiling, the new organ towering overhead, and the new lights. We love them too. Oh yes, we still have a few things we hope to do in the coming months, and the bills will keep

on coming for some time, but we are thankful to God for the work that is done, and have re-dedicated our church building to the glory of God!

But even though the retrofit and restoration are complete, our work of building up the Body of Christ is not done!

We have a calling from God to reach out beyond our freshly painted and shored-up walls into our surrounding communities with the good news of the gospel. We have a calling from God to invite and welcome others into our walls so they may experience God's love through our community of faith. God has equipped the Church with everything it needs to do this work of reaching out and bringing in, and promises to nurture us and sustain us and be with us in this ministry. May God bless us as we continue about the work of building, namely building up the body of Christ, until all of us come to the unity of faith.

Fling Wide the Doors

Lecture , July 15th

Sunday, July 15, 2007 brings associate St. Mark's member, Dr. Lisa Dahill back to San Francisco. Besides being our



guest preacher at both services that day, she will deliver a special lecture at **2:00 pm**

entitled **"Listening for God: Bonhoeffer and the Life of Faith"**. She has chosen this

topic for two important reasons: she is a translator of Bonhoeffer's works for Fortress Press AND this ties into our congregation's theme of "listening to God" while we are all on sabbatical. All members are encouraged to come and bring friends.

Coffee, tea and dessert will be served in Heritage Hall after the lecture.

Dr. Dahill is assistant professor of worship and Christian spirituality at Trinity Lutheran Seminary, Columbus, OH. She was a member of St. Mark's for seven years while doing her Ph.D. at the Graduate Theological Union in Berkeley and working at the Carnegie Foundation in Palo Alto.

Don't miss this scholar of Bonhoeffer and dear friend of the congregation.

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We gather on - Sunday, August 5th - to welcome Pastor Ekdale back from her sabbatical with a SPECIAL COFFEE HOUR after the 11:00 am worship service!

REGARDING THE BALCONY

Upon review of our remodeled church building, the Council has adopted the following policy with regard to the balcony:

1) No children under the age of 12 may be in the balcony unless accompanied by an adult

2) No one should sit or place items on the balcony rail.

(We wouldn't want an errant hymnal to hit someone down below!)

Please take time to review this policy and talk to a Council member if you have any questions. If you have children under 12, please make sure they understand this.

Thank you from the Council

Mark your calendars!



All members of St. Mark's are cordially invited to attend a half-day retreat on "Sabbath Reflections" at St. Mark's, Saturday, September 22 from 9 am -12 noon. More info to follow.

Tuesdays at 2 on Summer Break from July 3 through September 2

WELCA SUMMER BREAK

WELCA will take a break for the months of July and August. We look forward to seeing you on Tuesday, September 11th, when we resume our monthly meetings. Have a safe and happy summer.

Blessings from Women of The ELCA

BOOK STUDY CONTINUES

The study of "Listening for God" continues in July. The study meets in the Fireside Room on Sundays at 10 am through July 8 and Tuesdays at 7:00 pm through July 10.

Each lesson is offered twice; first at the Sunday morning session, then again at the Tuesday evening session.

Here is the letter of invitation from the Salvadoran Lutheran Synod...

Support St. Mark's member Liv Beck as she attends the Salvadoran Sister Parish Encounter July 17-19, 2007

The Salvadoran Lutheran Synod has invited their sister parishes to the "First Sister Parish Encounter" in El Salvador July 17, 18 and 19, 2007. Liv Beck will represent St. Mark's at the event. She will bring greetings from St. Mark's and strengthen our ties with our sister parish, Cordero de Dios in San Salvador, and then share her experiences with us upon her return.

Congregation members are encouraged to support Liv in her journey to El Salvador. Checks can be made out to St. Mark's Lutheran Church, with "El Salvador" in the memo line. Thank you for your generosity! St. Mark's Social Ministry Committee

FIRST SISTER PARISHES ENCOUNTER FROM JULY 17 TO JULY 19, 2007

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

Plenty of blessings for all of you. As part of the efforts to strengthen the Salvadorian Lutheran Synod and taking into account the recommendations of improving our Sister relationships, we are convocating for the First Sister Parishes Encounter which will take place July 17, 18 and 19 of 2007.

We trust in God that He will provide for this encounter. This invitation is for all the churches, agencies and friends that have a partnership with any of the Congregations of the Salvadorian Lutheran Synod, in Germany, Canada, USA, Finland, Norway and other foreign countries. Thank you for sharing this gift from God that is our partnership.

Note: Each church should send 1 or 2 persons who represent it and each church will have to cover their traveling expenses. Also, the Sister Parish Program is asking for an offering from each delegate which will be used to cover food, hosting and other expenses during the event.

Pastor, Norma Castillo, Sister Parish Program, Salvadorian Lutheran Synod

***Come to the next
Bread for the World
"Offering of Letters".
Seeds of Change: Help Farmers.
End Hunger.
Sunday July 22, 2007***

Your letters to Congress will help struggling rural people here in the United States and around the world plant the seeds of change.

Bread for the World will urge Congress to take the opportunity presented by the reauthorization of the farm bill to increase its capacity to reduce hunger and poverty in the United States and around the world. We will urge Congress to make constructive adjustments in the commodity payment programs that would provide more support for farm and rural families of modest means and also help to reduce hunger in our country and around the world.



The 2007 farm bill should:

- A. Strengthen and expand programs that reduce hunger in the United States
- B. Increase investments that strengthen rural communities
- C. Provide a broader, more equitable system of support for U.S. farmers and rural communities
- D. Strengthen policies that promote conservation and stewardship of the land
- E. Protect the health and safety of farm workers
- F. Expand energy-related research
- G. Improve and expand international food aid

For more information about advocating for the hungry, go to www.bread.org.

- 2007 Bread for the World and St. Mark's Social Ministry Committee

Stewardship

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

	April/May 2007	Year to date
Income	76,700	377,929
Expense	75,735	377,801
Net	965	128

AIDS WALK
SAN FRANCISCO
JULY 15, 2007

St. Mark's will take part in the annual San Francisco AIDS Walk on Sunday, July 15. The ten kilometer (6.2 miles) AIDS Walk begins and ends in Sharon Meadow in Golden Gate Park. The Walk helps raise urgently needed funds and sends the message that the AIDS crisis is not over.

"...few people imagined that an epidemic of monumental proportion was imminent."

In July 1981, reports of a rare "cancer" among 41 gay men in New York and California signaled the beginning of a new disease. However, at the time, few people imagined that an epidemic of monumental proportion was imminent.

Today, 26 years later, almost 22 million men, women and children worldwide have died of AIDS, and an estimated 40



Chuck Lewis, Dean Atkinson and Dana Utz at the 2005 AIDS Walk

million people are living with HIV. AIDS impacts people of all ethnicities, genders and sexual orientations.

Entering its 21st year, the San Francisco AIDS Walk has raised millions of dollars for the San Francisco AIDS Foundation and 42 other Bay Area AIDS services organizations. Funds raised through the AIDS Walk can make an incredible difference. They can help a homeless family find an apartment. Or, they can help persons who primarily speak Spanish get access to life-saving treatment information in their own language. And, they can help provide persons with the daily support they need to thrive on HIV treatments.

A reminder that on **Wednesday, July 4** the church office will be closed. **Happy Independence Day!**

Last year the St. Mark's team raised over \$9,000. With your support we can raise even more this year. If you are interested in joining our St. Mark's team or sponsoring one of our team members, contact Dana Utz at 415.586.7130 or dana_utz@hotmail.com.

New Esterházy Quartet

Begins St. Mark's Concert Series

For the first time in America, the complete string quartets of Joseph Haydn will be performed on period instruments over the next two years by the New Esterházy Quartet (Kati Kyme & Lisa Weiss, violins; Anthony Martin, viola; William Skeen, cello). The Sanctuary at St. Mark's will be the setting for this historic series of concerts, **the first of which is Sunday July 1 at 4:00 pm**. There will be **9** more performances at St. Mark's, **one each month from September through June**.



It was Haydn's 68 quartets written over a 40 year span from the 1760's into the early 19th century that gave the string quartet its full purpose and variety, from a vehicle for entertainment, for intelligent and witty conversation, and for the expression of the most profound thoughts and feelings. The New Esterházy Quartet

is excited to play these unjustly neglected masterpieces in the acoustically and visually renovated Sanctuary of St. Mark's.

Tickets for individual concerts are \$25 (\$20 for San Francisco Early Music Society members, and \$10 for students and seniors). There are season ticket plans available offering deep discounts. For more information, please visit www.newesterhazy.org or call 510.547.1936.

Council Meeting Highlights

from
March, April and May

- Discussed the period of Pr. Ekdale's sabbatical and ways we could support the congregation to also be on sabbatical during this period
- Recommended changes related to the role of ushers in helping to provide a welcoming and secure atmosphere through a greater presence in the narthex
- Supported a Memorial to the Sierra Pacific Synod Assembly related to the ability of lesbian/gay individuals to be on the ELCA roster of clergy. This Memorial was subsequently passed by the Synod and will be submitted for consideration to the Churchwide Assembly
- Adopted a policy regarding the use of the balcony, restricting access for unaccompanied children under 12 and making clear that no items should be placed on the balcony rail
- Supported a special giving request to the congregation to assist Liv Beck in her trip to a Sister Parish event in El Salvador

Evangelism

Welcome Ministry Training

Saturday, July 28 10:00 am—12 noon, Fireside Room

Jesus said: "Whoever welcomes you welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes the one who sent me." (Matthew 10:40)

WELCOME

Join Pastors Beckman and Jennert for a workshop on how to welcome guests and visitors to church on Sunday mornings and beyond. We'll look at some of the theological implications of welcoming the stranger and also at the "nuts and bolts" of how to make church more hospitable and welcoming to new people.

This workshop is for all who want to make our faith community a more welcoming place, especially ushers and greeters, evangelism and hospitality committee members, council members and all who take Christ's invitation to make disciples seriously! A light breakfast will be provided.

For more info contact Pr. Jennert at jennert@stmarks-sf.org or 415.928.7770 x. 226.

Asante Network Event

on Rally Day, September 9

There is an adage that goes something like this: "If you want to make someone independent, don't just give her a fish; teach her how to fish." The Asante Network knows of women in Tanzania and Uganda who have not only learned how to fish, but have nets, already filled with fish. The "fish" in their nets are hand-woven baskets, beautiful textile products and other unique crafts. These women aren't asking for a handout. However, they do need a helping hand. What they have need of is someone willing to find and develop a market in which they can sell their products.

Asante Network began in 2002 when members of the Sierra Pacific Synod Hunger Committee and speakers for Stand with Africa project were led in God's mysterious way to the Women's Groups in Uganda and later in Tanzania. In 2005 Asante Network applied for and received **501 (3) c** status. In 2007 Fair Trade status was received through the Fair Trade Federation.

Beautiful and well-made baskets, batik and tie-dyed textiles (clothing, tablecloths, bed-covers, and wall hangings,) and hand-carved crafts are purchased directly by Asante Network from the Miichi Women's Group in Tanzania and NEEPU Women's Group in Uganda. The money the women receive help them to feed their families, to send their children to school, to support their church and to support AIDS orphans. Additional funds raised help to build classrooms, provide scholarships, books and tools.



Come on **Sunday September 9**, Rally Day – to hear the story of **Asante** at **Adult Forum** and to view and purchase the beautiful baskets, textiles, and crafts.

Thank you!
Asante!

ASANTE
means
Thank You
in Swahili

Standing Up for Families

A Bay Area Organizing Committee

Call to Action

Wednesday, July 25, 6:30-8 pm

Join SF Supervisor Tom Ammiano, Episcopal Bishop Rev. Marc Andrus, Director of Public Health Dr. Mitch Katz, and our **Bishop Rev. David G.**

Mullen in a call to action for San Francisco's families.

BAOC member institutions and individuals will meet in the Auditorium and Fireside Room to tell their stories, in an effort to represent the interests of working families and neighborhoods in San Francisco. Free admission. Childcare will be provided.

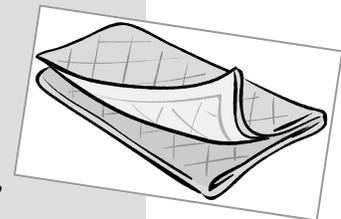


Midwife Kit Assembly

September 16, 2007

We have been challenged to provide "Midwife Kits" which Global Health Ministries will send to the areas where they are needed. On Sunday September 16, 2007, we will assemble and pack **100 Midwife Kits**. We have plenty of muslin sheets, and more than enough knitted caps from our prodigious St. Mark's knitters! We will need to gather the following items.

- ◆ 40 infant receiving blankets
- ◆ 90 new or gently used clean bath towels
- ◆ 90 new washcloths
- ◆ 100 infant t-shirts (not onesies" (often, African babies don't wear diapers)
- ◆ 100 individually wrapped razors
- ◆ 100 bars of white Ivory soap
- ◆ 100 "ziplock" sandwich bags
- ◆ 100 "ziplock" 2-gallon bags
- ◆ 150 disposable exam gloves



Please contact Mary Ritter (mlrpeds@aol.com or 510-895-0336) if you are able to donate any of these items for the project. Our reward: Profound appreciation, and the joy of serving the Lord and making a difference.

- St. Mark's Social Ministry Committee

Senior Trip to the Oakland Museum of California Friday, July 27

The Oakland Museum of California provides unique collections, exhibitions and educational opportunities designed to generate a broader and deeper understanding of and interest in



California's environment, history, art and people. Museum programs are responsive, accessible and meaningful to the public, including school children, teachers, scholars, the immediate Oakland community, and an increasingly diverse

California population.

A special exhibit on **YOSEMITE: ART OF AN AMERICAN ICON**—Explore Yosemite and its changing image and impact as a cultural phenomenon through the eyes of artists.

We will have lunch at the Museum Restaurant and dine at the patio overlooking the koi pond or indoors in the Museum Restaurant with its walls of glass and terrace views. Enjoy a variety of sandwiches, salads, daily specials (quesadillas, pizza, soup), homemade deserts, wine and beer.

Departure at 11:00 am. Admission for seniors is \$5.



UPCOMING SENIOR LUNCHEONS

Tuesday, July 3

MLT's Annual Barbecue



Wednesday, August 15

Senior Center Luncheon

Please sign up early to reserve your seats by calling the MLT office at 415.885.1084.

Scenic Drive down the Peninsula

with Chinese Lunch in Cupertino

Wednesday, August 8



Join MLT residents and St. Mark's seniors on a scenic drive down the Peninsula. 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. *Bon Appetit!*

Departure at 11:00 am.



Red banners adorn the church for Pentecost Sunday

All Senior trips start from the Martin Luther Tower Brockie Lounge, unless noted otherwise. Seating is limited. To reserve your seat, please contact the **MLT Office** at 415.885.1084 or **Pastor Jennert** at 415.928.7770 x. 226



Youth

St. Mark's Senior High Youth (SMSHY)

SUMMER SERVICE TRIP FUNDRAISERS

This July, St. Mark's Senior High Youth (SMSHY) will be heading east to Copperhill, Tennessee to learn about life in the Appalachian Mountains, and to serve the rural community through social and environmental service projects. We are asking for your support to send us there!

We are raising funds to cover transportation, lodging, and food costs. You are invited to take part in our journey to Tennessee by participating in the following fundraising event:



Saturday, July 21

10am-4pm



Lower Ellis Street Parking Lot

Haven't had your wheels shined since last year's highly successful SMSHY car wash? Well, here's what you've been waiting for – the annual SMSHY “inside-and-out” car wash! We wash and dry all cars by hand, and we'll get the dirt, crumbs, and spare change shop-vacuumed out of your interior, too – for just \$15.

You may also make a direct donation to the SMSHY Summer Trip Fund. Please contact the church office for more information.

Thanks to the St. Mark's community for your prayer and encouragement as we prepare for the summer! Any questions? Please contact SMSHY adult leader Marisa Louie at 650.303-3111 or at marislouie@gmail.com.

SMART

SMART Dinner at *Bistro AIX*

Thursday, August 10

6:30 pm

There is nothing nicer than spending a nice August evening at an inviting French-style restaurant. Concentrating on French, Californian and Italian dishes, Bistro AIX is one of the best bistros San Francisco has to offer. Bistro Aix is an established neighborhood restaurant serving fresh, local, seasonal bistro fare at reasonable prices. Everything served is made fresh daily on the premises with many ingredients procured from our three weekly trips to local farmers markets. Bistro Aix prides itself on pouring 23 wines by the glass and offering over 130 wines by the bottle. Voilá!

Bistro AIX is located in the Marina on 3340 Steiner Street.



To RSVP for any SMART event, please reply to your evite or call Pr. Christian at 415.928.7770 x.226. If you 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 Pastor Christian at jennert@stmarks-sf.org and you will receive all evites for SMART events. Looking forward to seeing you there!



Pastor Beckman addresses the congregation at his SF Night Ministry Ordination

The Evangel

July-August 2007

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

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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.

St. Mark's Lutheran Church

Staff

The Rev. Elizabeth E. Ekdale, Lead Pastor
The Rev. Lyle Beckman, Interim 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
Gail Culp, Sunday School Coordinator
Jeremy Fuerst, Teaching Parish Student

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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

