

THE EVANGEL

IN THE HEART OF THE CITY FOR MINISTRY TO THE WORLD

RALLY DAY

SEPTEMBER 9

Rally Day marks the resumption of many of St. Mark's regular weekly and monthly ministries and activities.

These include **Sunday School, Adult Forum, Junior Choir, Tuesdays at 2 and WELCA.** For a full list of groups and activities kicking off on September 9, see the top of page 2!

Bay Area Organizing Committee **STANDING UP FOR FAMILIES**

September 12, 6:30 pm

BAOC member institutions (of which St. Mark's is a member) call city officials to action on health care and living wages for San Franciscans on Sep. 12. The action takes place at St. Mary's Cathedral. For more information, contact BAOC at 563.0262 or one of the pastors.

WILLIAM PORTER

ORGAN RECITAL & HYMN SING

Sunday, September 30

A Fling Wide Event

On Sep. 30, at 4:00 pm, William Porter of the Eastman School of Music (a brilliant colleague of David Higgs, who dedicated our new organ in March) will lead a good old fashioned hymn sing using our

REFORMATION SUNDAY

October 28

Reformation Sunday, October 28, will feature the major wrap-up of the year-long *Fling Wide the Doors* celebrations.

**In the morning
we welcome**

Special Guest Preacher

Dr. Jane Strohl

At both the 9:00 am and the 11:00 am worship services

Dr. Jane Strohl, Associate Professor of Reformation History and Theology from Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary will be our special guest preacher.



The accompanying special music will include the

premiere of a new piece for choir, cello, and organ by Linda Tutas Haugen, written in honor of Rodney Gehrke's 25th anniversary at St. Mark's (observed in 2004).

We will also dedicate and "plant" a new time capsule.

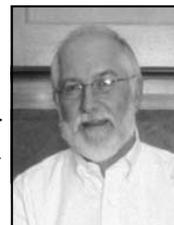
4:00 pm in the afternoon

Rodney Gehrke and the choir will join three of the finest early-music groups in the country for a 400th-anniversary reconstruction of a 1607 church dedication liturgy featuring music so spectacular that the preacher that day wrote an extensive description of it. Our new organ will be a major "player" and is perfect for this music.

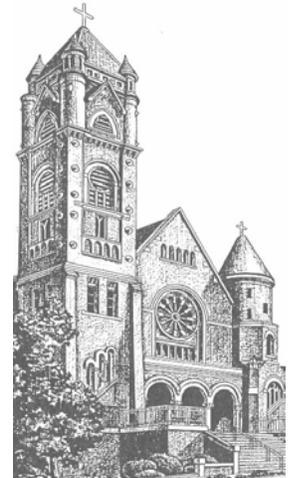
Evangelical Lutheran Worship hymnal.

Bill is a brilliant improviser who will inspire you to lift your voice in song. Bill will play before each hymn and will even play between the stanzas of some hymns as commentary on what the assembly is singing.

A festive wine and cheese reception will follow. This free event is being co-sponsored by the San Francisco Chapter of the American Guild of Organists.



William Porter



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SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 9TH IS RALLY DAY!

Beginning September 9th, the church schedule is as follows:

- **Sundays** -

9:00 am

Holy Communion with
Children's Time in the Sanctuary

9:30 am

Sunday School for children 3 years old through 6th grade in the Sunday School Rooms of the Urban Life Center

10:00 am

Adult Forum
in the Fireside Room

11:00 am

Choral Eucharist
in the Sanctuary

12:15 pm

Coffee and Fellowship Hour
in Heritage Hall

12:30 pm

Junior Choir Rehearsal for children 5+ in the Sanctuary

- **Tuesdays** -

2:00 pm

Tuesdays at 2 Bible Study
at Martin Luther Tower

- **Wednesdays** -

7:30 pm

Adult Choir Rehearsal
in the Sanctuary

- **Periodically** -

10:00 am (occasional Sundays)

Senior High Youth Group for 9-12 graders in the Youth Room

10:00 am (1st Sundays)

Parents with Kidlettes
for families w/young children
in Heritage Hall

1:00 pm (2nd Sundays)

Nursing Home Worship
at Central Gardens

2:30 pm (3rd Sundays)

Lutherans Concerned
in the Fireside Room

11:00 am (2nd Tuesdays)

WELCA Women's Group
in the Fireside Room

7:00 pm (occasional Wednesdays)

Young Adult Group

6:30 pm (3rd Thursdays)

Church Council Meeting
in Heritage Hall

12:00 pm (monthly)

Senior Center Luncheon
in Heritage Hall



Dual cornerstones grace the northeast corner of St. Mark's historic church building.

SABBATH REFLECTIONS CONGREGATIONAL RETREAT

Saturday, September 22

9:00 am to 12:00 pm

St. Mark's invites you to participate in our "Sabbath Reflections" Congregational Retreat this September. This will be an opportunity to enjoy fellowship with church members and to explore the themes of Sabbath and Sabbaticals. The morning will include:

- Sabbath bible study
- Taize worship
- Sharing of our sabbatical reflections
- Fun and laughter
- Reflecting together on Chris Hedges chapter on Sabbath in his book, "Losing Moses on the Freeway—The 10 Commandments in America"
- Listening to a recording of

Rev. Barbara Brown Taylor
preach on Sabbath

The Retreat will be held on Saturday, September 22 from 9:00 am to 12:00 pm in the Auditorium. A light breakfast will be served, and childcare will be provided. Please call the church office to reserve your place and also indicate whether you are in need of childcare. Thank you.

Pastor Ekdale will share her sabbatical reflections and learning during the Adult forum on Sept. 16 and during the Sabbatical Retreat on Sept. 22.

PARISH LIFE NIGHT

Thursday, September 6

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 come to Parish Life Night on

September 6 from 7:00 to 8:00 pm in Heritage Hall. Join us to discuss the various ministries, programs and events of your committee. Light refreshments will be served.

FOUNDERS' DAY

PLTS celebrates Founders' Day 2007 on **September 19**, with the theme "Reading the Bible: Identity and Adaptation." To register, contact Linda Ely at lely@plts.edu, or 510.559.2731.

DISCIPLESHIP CLASS BEGINS SEPTEMBER 30

St. Mark's offers a new Discipleship Class series in September and October for all seeking to become more involved and drawing closer to God. We will journey together, discerning God's call and presence in our lives and in this community. Please join us for our first meeting on Sunday, Sep. 30 at 10:00 am. We'll meet in the Conference Room. All are welcome!

September 30

All are Welcome!-

Starting our Journey of Faith at St. Mark's"

October 7

The Bible-A Book of Life

October 14

Baptized We Live-

Lutheranism as a way of Life

October 21

The Gift of Time and Talents-Giving Thanks to God in our Lives and in our Community

NEW MEMBERS' DINNER

Tuesday, October 23

New and prospective members are invited to attend a New Membership dinner on Oct. 23 at 6:30 pm in Heritage Hall. Watch for details in upcoming weekly bulletins!

For more info, contact Pr. Jennert at 928.7770 x. 226 or jennert@stmarks-sf.org.

Pastors Elizabeth and Hans and their daughter Grace invite you to their home for conversation, dessert and Sabbath sharing on the following dates:

Thursday, Sep. 13, 7-8:15 pm

and

Friday, Sep. 14, 7-8:15 pm

Please RSVP by calling the church office.

SUNDAY SCHOOL RECOMMENCES SEP. 9

Our Sunday School program at St. Mark's has 3 distinct parts:

Children's Time: during the 9:00 service, children are allowed to spend time with our pastors every Sunday

Chapel: After Children's Time children are dismissed to chapel in the Urban Life Center. All ages gather in chapel to sing, worship and give weekly offering to our sister parish in El Salvador

Instruction: 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.

Join us for weekly devotion and loving instruction. Questions??? Email Jenny Hart at hartx4@hotmail.com.

AIDS WALK

Thank you to all those who sponsored and pledged support in this year's July 15 AIDS Walk San Francisco. This year the walkers of the St. Mark's Lutheran team (Chuck Lewis & Dana Utz) raised over **\$10,020**. And, the 25,000 participants in this year's walk raised a total of over \$4.5 million for the San Francisco AIDS Foundation. A video clip of the walk is posted on youtube, searchable by the keyword 'redvic.'



Dana Utz and Chuck Lewis at the 2007 SF AIDS Walk

ST. MARK'S RENOVATION HONORED

The California Preservation Foundation promotes historic preservation in our state and annually recognizes the most significant historic preservation/ restoration projects in California. This year, St. Mark's is honored to be among those projects!

This award recognizes the efforts of an extremely dedicated team led by ELS Architecture & Urban Design, exceptional work by

Plant Construction and the vision, dedication and financial commitment of you and everyone else at St. Mark's.

For more information, be sure to attend the Oct. 28 Adult Forum (p.4) which will feature a Renovation Review by Gary Schilling, and Kurt Schindler of ELS. You may also go to Renovation page of our website for further information:

www.stmarks-sf.org/renovationAward

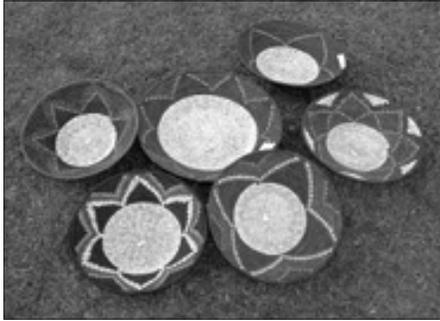


Looking back: October 2006

ADULT FORUM FOR SEPTEMBER AND OCTOBER

September 9*Asante Network*

Asante Network will tell about its work with the



Basketry of the Asante Network

Miichi Women's Group in Tanzania and NEEPU Women's Group in Uganda. They will also have beautiful baskets, textiles, and other hand-made crafts for display and sale in

Heritage Hall throughout the morning.

September 16*Sabbatical Report*

What did Pastor Elizabeth do during her 3 and a half month sabbatical? Where did she go? What did she read? And, most importantly, what did she learn? Come and hear firsthand from Pr. Ekdale about the highlights of her sabbatical time. Pastor Elizabeth's spouse, Hans and their daughter, Grace, will also share their highlights as well.

September 23*On Angels and other Heavenly Creatures*

As the church observes "St. Michael and All Angels" on September 29, we may wonder what exactly are angels? We don't talk a lot about them in church, yet we evoke their presence at each Eucharistic liturgy. Angels are biblical, most familiar at the annunciation and the birth of Jesus. Are they still around us? Learn more about angels and other heavenly creatures with Pr Christian at this most interesting Adult Forum.

September 30*Meet Jeremy Fuerst*

Get to know St. Mark's teaching parish student Jeremy Fuerst. Jeremy spent his summer in his home state of Nebraska to do his Clinical Pastoral Education and is now in his 2nd year of his Master of Divinity studies at PLTS.

October 7*SMSHY Trip Report*

The SMSHYs will share stories, photographs, and video of their servant journey to Copperhill, Tennessee during the summer. Learn more about the communities they

visited in the Appalachian mountains, and the faith insights they gained.

October 14*Cordero de Dios*

Liv Beck will share her experiences in El Salvador this summer visiting St. Mark's Sister Parish Cordero de Dios and attending a conference of sister parishes with the Salvadoran Lutheran Synod.

October 21*Church-wide Assembly Report*

St. Mark's Members Jo Chadwick and Steve Krefting will review the actions and share their observations of the Church-wide Assembly held in Chicago in August.

October 28*Renovation Review*

Kurt Schindler of ELS Architecture and Urban Design and Gary Schilling, St. Mark's Renovation Commission Chair, will describe the seismic reinforcement, building improvements and historic background of our renovation project.



GRACE, GRACIAS & GREETINGS FROM EL SALVADOR



Liv Beck poses with a musical quartet in El Salvador.

I want to extend a great big GRACIAS to all who supported my travel to El Salvador this July. I feel honored and privileged to

have represented St Marks at the Salvadoran Sister Parish Encounter and in a visit with our Sister Church Cordero de Dios in Soyapango. The people of Cordero de Dios send warm greetings to the people of St Marks. The trip provided a rich experience in learning about being Lutheran in El Salvador and connecting with Lutherans around the

world. The Sister Parish Encounter challenged us to think about what a sister church relationship means. I will share some of what I learned at the Oct. 14 Adult Forum, but I encourage us to think about this as a congregation. What does this relationship mean? How can we grow together as communities of faith? - Liv Beck

SENIOR TRIPS

Friday, September 14

Charles M. Schulz Museum

Join fellow MLT Residents and St. Mark's Seniors on a delightful visit and tour to "Snoopy's Home" in Santa Rosa. We will be leaving at 10:00 am and have lunch at one of the local restaurants. We will be back in San Francisco no later than 4:00 pm. Admission is \$5.00 for seniors.



Friday, October 12

Barbara's Fish Trap

Join us for our annual sojourn to Barbara's Fish Trap in Half Moon Bay with a stop at Farmer John's Pumpkin Farm. Come see the diverse varieties of pumpkins we grow and enjoy being outdoors on a working farm, enjoying the sights, smells, and pumpkins!

SMART DINNER AT WALZWERK

Wednesday, Sep. 12 at 7 pm

We continue our world tour of different cuisine with dinner at WALZWERK, San Francisco's premiere East German Restaurant. Sausages, schnitzel, potato pancakes and all kinds of (East) German beers are waiting. A culinary delight for all who like a good hearty meal in the mid of the week! The WALZWERK is located on South Van Ness Ave (at 15th.) Tel. is 415-551-7181.



SENIOR LUNCHESES

Mark your calendars for the following Senior Center Luncheons!

Thursday, September 20
and
Wednesday, October 17

Senior trips depart from MLT lobby, unless noted otherwise. To reserve your seat please contact the MLT Office at 885.1084, Pastor Jennert at 928.7770 x 226, or Dean Atkinson at 931.6684.



The fruits of the season are on display at Farmer John's Pumpkin Farm in Half Moon Bay.

JUNIOR CHOIR BEGINS SEP. 9

Our Junior Choir begins rehearsals on Rally Day, September 9, from 12:30 to 1:00 pm in the Sanctuary. Any child age 5 or older who can pay good attention and likes to sing is welcome to join the group. The choir rehearses most Sundays and sings for liturgies about once a month during the school year. For more info, speak to director Rodney Gehrke.



BAOC's "Standing up for Families" Call to Action in July produced a standing-room-only crowd in the Auditorium

Please RSVP to your evite or call Pr Christian at 928.7770 x. 226.

MIDWIFE KIT PROJECT

Sunday, September 23

Help us provide "Midwife Kits" for Global Health Ministries, which will send them to local midwives in Africa, India or New Guinea. Midwives have the expertise to handle the delivery of a baby, but often do not have basic equipment, such as clean cloth for the mother to lie on, a suitable instrument to cut the umbilical cord or a towel

and cap to keep the newborn baby warm.

On Sep. 23, we will assemble and pack 100 Midwife Kits during Coffee Hour. Please stop at the "Midwife Kit Ark" in Heritage Hall on the Sundays before the event to find out how you can help.

Our reward: the joy of serving the Lord and making a difference.

BLESSING

OF THE ANIMALS

Sunday, Oct. 7 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.

SPECIAL MUSIC EVENTS AT ST. MARK'S

Be sure to make note of the following Concert Events coming up in September and October:



American Bach Soloists perform in St. Mark's Sanctuary in January. Photo taken by Edward Casati.

SEPTEMBER

New Esterhazy Quartet

Saturday, September 29

4:00 pm

For more info:

www.newesterhazy.org

William Porter

Organ Recital, Hymn Sing

A Sting Wide Event

Sunday, September 30

4:00 pm

Wine and cheese

reception to follow

This is a free event. For more

info call the church office



OCTOBER

Golden Gate

Men's Chorus

Sunday, October 21

2:00 pm

For more info:

www.ggmc.org

Clerestory

Sunday, October 21

8:00 pm

For more info:

www.clerestory.org

Magnificat

A Sting Wide Event

Sunday, October 28

4:00 pm

For info call the church office.

ALL-LUTHERAN PICNIC

Sunday, September 23

Lutherans and their friends will gather in Speedway Meadow in Golden Gate Park on September 23rd for the Thrivent Financial for Lutherans annual picnic.

You don't

need to be a Thrivent member to attend. All are welcome! Come out to the park and enjoy yourself between the hours of 11:30 am - 3:00 pm. Live jazz will be offered by the "Don Pender Quartet", and a free barbecue lunch will be provided.

Thrivent members will be asked to vote for Chapter Board members for the coming year. Donations collected will support Thrivent Builds, our program with Habitat for Humanity, building housing for the underserved. Please RSVP to Jo at 800.564.1293.

Look for the Thrivent
yellow and red balloons!
See you in the park!



Parents with Kidlettes

Sunday, September 23

Families are invited to a 3:00 pm "Parents with Kidlettes" gathering after the picnic at Koret Children's Playground, located near the east end of the park, north of Kezar Drive. Join Pr. Elizabeth and her daughter Grace at the playground for conversation and fun together.

WELCOME MINISTRY TRAINING

Tuesday, October 30

As we enter the fall season, there are ways you can get more involved in the worship life of St. Mark's. At all of our liturgies, on Sundays as well as special occasions such as Holy Week and midweek services during Advent and Lent, members of St. Mark's greet people, hand them a leaflet, give them other orienting information (such as the location of the restrooms and nursery), receive the offering and, for eucharists, invite people to join the communion procession.

Behind the scenes, members of the Altar Guild wash the communion vessels and assist our sacristan, Richard Boyle, in the care of our worship

ware. Some of these members beautify our worship space through flower arranging.

Consider attending our upcoming **Welcome Ministry Training** on October 30 with Pastors Beckman and Jennert. 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 will be held on Oct. 30 from 7:00 to 8:00 pm in Heritage Hall. Join us!



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, January 31, 2005.

STEWARDSHIP

Financial Summary

| | Jun 07 | YTD |
|------------|----------------|-----------------|
| Income | 37,050 | 238,149 |
| Expenses | 41,520 | 250,495 |
| Net | (4,470) | (12,346) |
| | Jul 07 | YTD |
| Income | 38,382 | 276,531 |
| Expenses | 38,128 | 288,624 |
| Net | 254 | (12,093) |

ESCRIP UPDATE

St. Mark's Ministries enters this fall nearly \$300 richer in eScrip funds earned Jan through Apr 2007. As of then, 42 members had registered their grocery, retail, and credit cards with www.escrip.com. Sign up online using our Group ID #158556562 or contact Kristi McGuire for more information at. 415.731.4287, kamcguire@sbcglobal.net.

CHURCH COUNCIL NOTES

JUNE AND JULY

- Reviewed and discussed updated information regarding retrofit financing and options for closing out our financial obligations to Plant
- Took several actions in support of children and youth, including establishing a Children and Youth Committee, amending the nursery guidelines, and adopting policies

to ensure the continued compliance of St. Mark's with "Safe Congregation" guidelines

- Passed a motion to designate one Sunday each year as California Lutheran University Sunday
- Established an Endowment Committee

SACRED ACTS

AT ST. MARK'S

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

July 14

The baptism of
Mala Rachel Mathai



SMART diners at Bistro AIX in August.

WELCA

RESUMES SEP. 11

The ladies of St. Mark's and St. Paulus WELCA meet the 2nd Tuesday of each month in the Fireside Room. We return from our summer break on Tuesday, Sep. 11. We invite interested ladies to join us in bible study and socializing. Please bring a sandwich or a salad. Dessert and a beverage will be provided.

Donna Dindia, Co-President
415-648-4060



Turn of the (19th) century laborers take a break.

The Church Office will be closed on **Monday, September 3** in observance of Labor Day.

Get an update on what's happening at
ELCA's Church-wide Assembly
in Chicago by visiting
elca.org/assembly/summary/index.html.

THE EVANGEL

SEPTEMBER—OCTOBER 2007

St. Mark's Lutheran Church

1111 O'Farrell Street
San Francisco, CA 94109



Church Office Hours

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

Phone: 415.928.7770

Fax: 415.928.8534

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 826.3124 or speak to one of the pastors.

THE EVANGEL

NON-PROFIT
ORGANIZATION

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St. Mark's is a growing Christian community rooted in tradition and open to new expressions. Responding to God's compassionate love, we reach out in service to the community and the world. With openness of heart and spirit we welcome all.

Staff

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

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x. 222

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

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

Sister Parish:

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

