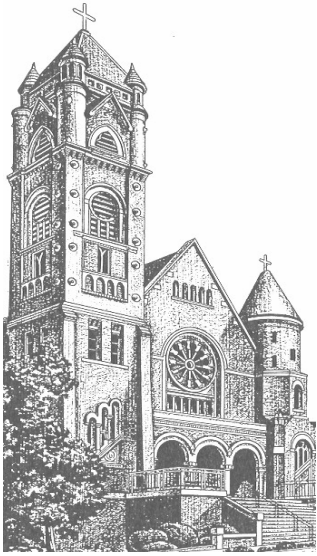


The Evangel



St. Mark's Lutheran Church

In the heart of the city for ministry to the world

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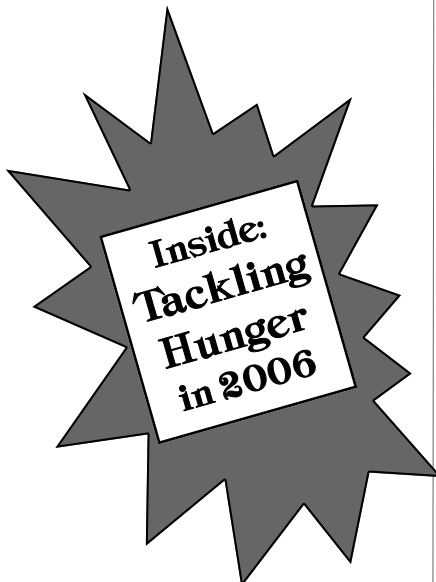
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Annual Congregational Meeting

Sunday, January 29, 2006
One Worship Service, 10:00 a.m.
Meeting at 11:15 a.m.



Our annual Congregational Meeting will take place Sunday, January 29. We will have only **ONE** service which will begin at **10:00 a.m.** The meeting will follow the service (approximately 11:15 a.m.) and will be held in the Auditorium. All are encouraged to attend this **most important meeting**.

Agenda items include:

Renovation Update

Recognition of St. Mark's Ministries

2006 Church Budget Presentation

Election of Council Members

Safe Congregation Update

President's Report

Treasurer's Report

Martin Luther Tower Update

Special Meeting

Proposed Amendments to St. Mark's Constitution

The Congregation Council is recommending the ratification of four amendments to St. Mark's Constitution, and is calling a Special Meeting of the congregation immediately **preceding** the Annual Meeting on January 29, 2006 to approve these amendments. The amendments would accomplish the following:

Expand St. Mark's Executive Committee to include one additional individual from the Congregation Council to serve as a member-at-large

Extend the maximum consecutive years an officer of the congregation can serve from two to three years

Specify that St. Mark's Treasurer would only have a vote on Congregation Council if they are voted in as a member of Congregation Council

Require that St. Mark's congregational records remain with St. Mark's when a pastor departs (This amendment is required by the synod)

The Council is also recommending changes to St. Mark's By-Laws to conform to the proposed amendments. The full text of the Amendments and changes to By-laws has been mailed to every member. If you need an extra copy, contact the church office. Please contact Randy Schieber at (650) 873-8997 if you have any questions.

News & Events

Reflection from Pastor Christian

Like those who dream...

When you gave freedom to the captives,
 When you gave us fortune, O God,
 we were like those who dream.
 Then our mouth was filled with laughter,
 and our tongue with shouts of joy.
 Then we said to one another,
 God has done great things for us, and we rejoiced.
 Restore our fortunes anew, O God.
 You give water to the watercourses in the desert,
 you let it rain on dry land.
 Give now also us life from you.
 May those who sow in tears reap with shouts of joy.
 Those who go out weeping, bearing the seed for sowing,
 shall come home with shouts of joy,
 carrying their sheaves.

By Jörg Zink from Psalm 126
 (transl. Christian Jennert)

As we are entering a new year, leaving the old one behind, we might ask ourselves what will the New Year bring? This question is probably as old as humanity itself, the wish to know what the future holds. Too fresh are the memories from the year past—good ones as well as bad ones. Whatever it is that may haunt us from the previous year, new things are about to happen. That is what also the Psalmist tells us. God has already given us so much. God has blessed us with so many things—big and small. That includes even the blessings that came in disguise. On top of that we are promised that there is even more to come, God does not stop working in our lives. In God’s generosity, our fortunes shall be blessed anew. And if life has been hard or difficult, we are promised the joy which comes to those who trust the Holy One. There is One who is carrying us for all who we are—both the dark and the bright sides of our lives.

May we experience the richest blessings that come from our Creator; with the psalmist let us sing: “Those who go out weeping, shall come home with shouts of joy.” In this New Year, may we trust God’s promises and live ever more fully into God’s vision. Then we can stop worrying what the future holds for we know Who holds the future.

A Blessed New Year 2006!
 Pastor Christian

Sabbatical

I deeply love serving at St. Mark’s as one of your Pastors. Each day brings challenges and joys in ministry while serving at this very public and active parish in San Francisco. I am beginning my 9th year with you and I look forward to many more years to come.

As I approach taking my three month sabbatical this Spring, I am eager to reflect on what we’ve done together these past eight years and what God is calling us to do as a congregation in the future. This sabbatical will give me the space and time to do this kind of reflecting and discerning. I’m eager to read (my book list is currently over 30!)



and study and meditate on scripture while on Sabbatical. I’m setting aside time for self-reflection on my gifts and skills and areas where I need to grow. I’m looking forward to being able to worship with other church communities and nourish my faith during this three month time.

I will share with you upon my return how this “Sabbath Time” has renewed and retooled me for ministry at St. Mark’s. I know I will return refreshed and rested to face the joy and challenge of our move back into our retrofitted sanctuary.

Thank you for this Sabbatical gift and for our relationship together. I trust that the congregation will also will benefit from this Sabbath time.

With anticipation,
 Pastor Elizabeth Ekdale

Reflection

News & Events

WHEN DID WE SEE YOU HUNGRY?

God's story: "Then the king will say to those at his right hand, 'Come, you that are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me'. Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink?'... And the king will answer them, 'Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.'"

Matthew 25:34-40 NRSV

Lord, when did **we** see you hungry and give you food?

At St. Mark's, we see Jesus in the hungry when we do the following –

- † serve meals at the Interfaith Homeless Shelter,
- † provide food and support for the residents at Bernal Heights,
- † walk in the Crop Walk to fund the hunger programs of Church World Service,
- † donate food to the San Francisco Food Bank,
- † help build a Habitat for Humanity home,
- † support small farmers in developing countries by buying Fair Trade coffee, tea, chocolate and other items, and purchase "alternative gifts" from ELCA World Hunger or Lutheran World Relief or Heifer which honor loved ones and provide support to needy programs.

For more ideas about "doing for the least of these", look at the following resources.

- www.elca.org/hunger www.bread.org
- www.hungernomore.org www.lwr.org
- www.habitat.org www.sffoodbank.org
- www.churchworldservice.org,
- www.theonecampaign.org



"O God, give us – all of us – this day our daily bread. Amen."

Mary Ritter
Social Ministry

Dinners for the Homeless in January

St Marks is preparing Dinners for the San Francisco Interfaith Council Homeless Shelter. **This is an opportunity to put our Christian faith, and our dedication to fighting hunger,** into action during the Christmas season. St Marks will be preparing meals on Wednesday January 11, Thursday January 12 and Friday January 13 at Trinity Episcopal Church and Sunday January 22 and Monday January 23, at another Interfaith congregation. You can help by a financial contribution or by volunteering to help prepare and /or serve the meals. Members of Social Ministry Committee will have sign-up sheets, see us after both services today.



John Elford
Social Ministry

Did you know...nearly **150,000** people in San Francisco live with the threat of hunger. The **San Francisco Food Bank** exists to provide hope. It depends on volunteers, food donors and financial supporters. St. Mark's can join in the fight to end hunger.

St. Mark's is a drop point for the San Francisco Food Bank. The reception tables are located in the lobby of the auditorium. Please give generously of your non-perishable items (no glass, please!) For more information, go to

www.sffoodbank.org



News & Events

**ST. MARK'S CHOIR IN
MOZART 250TH
BIRTHDAY CONCERT
JANUARY 29, 2006 - 4:00 P.M.**

Our adult choir will join with the choir of
**St. Stephen's Episcopal Church
Belvedere**

and a chamber orchestra, for a wonderful concert of the music of Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart in celebration of the 250th anniversary of his birth. The concert will be at St. Stephen's on Sunday, January 29, 2006, at 4 p.m. A suggested donation of \$10 is requested (students and children free!). A festive reception will follow. See the church's website for directions:

www.ststephenschurch.org.

Some of Mozart's most famous pieces will be performed, including the movement popularized by "Elvira" in the movie "Madigan." Other works: the Gloria from the Missa brevis in D, a Church Sonata for Violin and Organ, "Veni Sancte Spiritus," a glorious "Te Deum," the lovely "Laudate Dominum" from the Solemn Vespers, an organ transcription of a piece originally for two pianos, and of course, Mozart's most popular anthem, "Ave verum corpus."



Join us for this fabulous afternoon of music!

- Rodney Gehrke

WHAT'S NEW WITH THE RENOVATION?

We are now at the construction period midpoint and the good news is that Plant Construction is on schedule and has not encountered major unexpected conditions in the building. The contractors have made major progress in recent weeks:



- √ Completed center coring of the east and west walls.
- √ Proceeded with shotcrete work. The work crews continue to install steel reinforcing and apply concrete to the inside face of the exterior brick building and tower walls.
- √ Continued removal, where needed, of brick wythes to accommodate the shotcrete.
- √ Installed a new concrete beam at the east and west parapets to stiffen the walls and tie together the north and south walls.
- √ Improved the connections between the roof trusses and the supporting columns embedded in the masonry walls.
- √ Added wood blocking to the Heritage Hall and Worship Space floor structure.


The success of our "Forward in Faith" capital campaign has allowed St. Mark's to work closely with Plant and our architects at ELS to review the work scope and cost that we can accommodate within our available funding. The Renovation Commission is currently evaluating options for exterior code-required repairs, interior finishes and lighting.

For more information, please click the "Renovation" box at our website: www.stmarks-sf.org.

News & Events

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY INTERFAITH BUILD

The new Habitat for Humanity San Francisco – De Long Terrace Project at De Long St. and San Diego is underway!

The following volunteer dates have been designated specifically for the many San Francisco communities of faith supporting this project. **January 28th is Mark's, contin-**  **one of the days which will be led by St. Mark's, and we'd like to organize a significant agency to volunteer that day.** However, you are welcome to sign up for other days by contacting Habitat's Volunteer Coordinator, Jill Sturm directly at 415-406-1555. Volunteer times are from 8:30 to 4:00 with a break for lunch. Volunteers will work rain or shine, so be prepared for the weather. Check your calendars now and sign up ASAP. This experience will change your life!

- Joleen Caron

SAN FRANCISCO VOLUNTEER DATES

- Saturday, January 28, 2006
(St. Mark's Lead Day)
- Tuesday, January 31, 2006
- Saturday February 4, 2006
- Thursday, February 9, 2006
- Thursday, March 2, 2006
- Friday, March 3, 2006
- Saturday, March 11, 2006
- Sunday, March 12, 2006

RENOVATION TOURS

Members of St. Mark's have the opportunity to see some of the work "up-close" at one of our construction tours. Please contact the Church Office if you'd like to add your name to the list for one of these 30 to 45-minute tours. The tours begin at the construction fence gate at the Plaza.

Upcoming tour dates:

- Sunday, January 15**
- Sunday, February 12**

The

Advance Screening

of **RENT** on Monday, November 21 was a great success! The scene that was filmed in our sanctuary was a very prominent and moving part of the film and was enjoyed by all. The altar and chancel areas looked almost luminous and were a vision of what we hope to see after our renovations are completed. I want to thank everyone who promoted and attended this special event. There were **372 tickets sold** and we have raised an **additional \$13,760.36 towards the renovation.** I would also like to thank Jonathan Ocker for negotiating this opportunity as well as Thrivent for donating the refreshments and a matching gift.

Barbara Engmann
President, Church Council

The Staff and Pastors thank the congregation for your generous Christmas gifts, cards and remembrances to us at this time. It is a joy for us to serve St. Mark's in our various roles.

Blessings to you in this New Year!

Thank you.

St. Mark's Staff and Pastors



Worship

GOODBYE AND THANK YOU!

I can't believe it, but my internship at St. Mark's is already over.

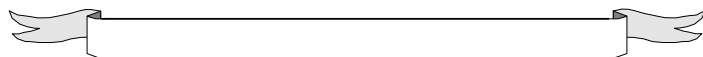
I'm looking back at a great time in San Francisco with a lot of new experiences and impressions. I enjoyed it very much, especially the friendliness and openness of the people in the congregation. I learned a lot about the churches in the USA and I will return home with lots of enrichments, encouragement and new ideas for my ministry in Germany.

I want to say "Thank you" to each of you for the warm welcome, which you have given me, for your support and care.

Surely, I will think back at my time at St. Mark's very often.

With all good wishes and blessings,

Anke Gebhard



Baptism Information

We will be baptizing many infants during the season of Epiphany in our worship services. If you are interested in knowing more about baptism either for yourself or a family member or would like to schedule a baptism during January and February, please contact Pastor Ekdale at 415- 928-7770, ext. 230.



Ash Wednesday Eucharists

Wednesday, March 1, 2006

12:00 noon and 7:00 p.m.

Imposition of Ashes at both services

Mid-Week Lenten Worship

Wednesdays in March

12:00 noon Worship

12:30 p.m. Light lunch & Fellowship

6:00 p.m. Soup Supper

7:00 p.m. Worship

Regular Sunday Worship Schedule In the Urban Life Center

- 9:00 a.m. HOLY COMMUNION with Children's Time in the Auditorium
- 9:30 a.m. Children's Sunday School beginning in the Auditorium
- 10:00 a.m. Adult Forum in the Fireside Room
- 10:00 a.m. Parents with Kidlettes in the Lower Lobby of the ULC
- 11:00 a.m. CHORAL EUCHARIST followed by Coffee Hour in the Auditorium
- 12:30 p.m. Junior Choir rehearsal in the Auditorium

Childcare provided the entire morning and is located off of the auditorium lobby on the O'Farrell street side.

Senior Ministries

ST. MARK'S AND MARTIN LUTHER TOWER SENIOR MINISTRIES

After Christmas Shopping Sale:

Gilroy Premium Outlets
Friday, January 6



You are invited to shop at the Gilroy Premium Outlets on Friday, January 6. With over 145 stores featuring famous high quality name brands, one can find savings of 25 to 65% off regular retail prices! An inexpensive lunch is available at several locations in the mall. We will leave at 10:00 a.m. and return to SF at 3:30 p.m.



De Young Museum

Thursday, February 9

Join other seniors to the de Young Museum, a favorite of San Francisco residents and visitors since 1895. Whether you have visited this museum before or this will be your first time, there is always something new to discover.



On October 15, 2005, the de Young Museum re-opened in a state-of-the-art facility that integrates art, architecture and the natural landscape in one multi-faceted destination that will inspire audiences from around the world. Designed by the renowned Swiss architectural firm Herzog & de Meuron and Fong & Chan Architects in San Francisco, the new de Young provides San Francisco with a landmark art museum to showcase the museum's priceless collections of American art from the 17th through the 20th centuries, and art of the native Americas, Africa, and the Pacific. We'll have a light lunch at the de Young café. Entrance is \$ 7.00 for seniors.

All tours and trips start from the lower (Ellis Street) parking lot unless noted otherwise. The trips are open to residents from Martin Luther Tower and seniors from St. Mark's Lutheran Church, on a first come, first-served basis. Times are subject to change. Please check posters and weekly announcements for the latest information. To



reserve your seat, please sign up at the MLT sign-in sheet or call? **Barbara Bock at 415-928-8639?** For more information please contact Pr. Christian @ 415-928-7770 x. 226.

UPCOMING SENIOR LUNCHEONS

will take place on the following dates:

Wednesday, January 18

and

Wednesday, February 15

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.

Children's and Young Adult Ministries

SMART

(St. Mark's Adult 'Round Town)

New Year's SMART Dinner at *Schnitzelhaus* on Friday, February 20

Join SMART this January for a hearty start of the New Year. Schnitzelhaus is a typical-looking German or Austrian small restaurant, with 45 seats, The cuisine is straightforward Austrian-German — the cook owner is from Vienna and Munich. Schnitzels come eight ways, about half with breaded pork and the other sans breading. Two good executions are the *Jaegerschnitzel* (\$12.75), in which an unbreaded cutlet is topped with mushroom sauce, and *Sardellenschnitzel* (\$12.75), breaded and topped with a thin, pungent anchovy sauce. Prices are very affordable and vegetarian dishes are served as well. Make sure to enjoy the German beers on tap, like the smooth *Spaten* or the cedary *Franziskaner Hefe Weissbier*, which are especially good with the food's big flavors. The Schnitzelhaus is located on 294 Ninth Street (at Folsom). Looking forward to seeing you there. *Guten Appetit!*



All SMART events are open to members, friends, guests, partners and spouses! If you are not on the SMART group mailing list yet, subscribe at StMarksSMART@yahoo.com.

For more info on the SMART events and to RSVP check your evites or call Pr. Christian at 415-928-7770 x. 226.

**PARENTS WITH
KIDLETTES**
meets on Sundays
at 10:00 a.m.
in the Lower Lobby of
the Urban Life Center.

From the Senior High Youth...

St. Mark's Senior High Youth have now been gathering regularly since September, and we look forward to big things to come in 2006! Our activities have included a trip to **Golden Gate Park** to see horse polo matches and the Conservatory of Flowers, learning about issues of local & global hunger at the **CropWalk** fundraiser, and a kick-back **pizza'n'movie** day at church. We've also had monthly "rap sessions" with Shauna Malone, talking about the stuff that concerns us as teens and relating it to God and our faith.

Stay tuned for upcoming events & activities — check the weekly Bulletin, and your e-mail box. If you would like to be put on the Senior High Youth mailing list, please e-mail marisalouie@gmail.com.



- Marisa Louie

Sunday School

Sunday School is available for children three years old through 6th grade. We begin at 9:30 a.m. in the auditorium with a Children's Time sermon in church with the pastor. **Classes meet every Sunday.** If you are interested in enrolling your child in Sunday School or have any questions, please call **Gail Culp** at **(415) 647-0290**.

NURSERY NEWS

Nursery care is available every Sunday morning from 8:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Elvira and Gladys are our wonderful, professional child-care attendants. Parents are welcome to stay with their child in the nursery until she/he is comfortable. Infants through children of nine years of age are welcome throughout the morning. Parents, please remember to sign in and out when you drop off /pick up your child. The nursery is located off of the auditorium lobby on the O'Farrell street side.

Adult Ministries

Members and friends of St. Mark's meet Sunday mornings at 10:00 for **Adult Forum** 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:

The Season of Epiphany: Taking out the Light

Gifts for Us so That We may Boldly Carry Forth the Light

January 8

Suzanne Smith

Explore with Suzanne Smith from our St. Mark's community our call and the gifts given us to bring Good News to the world. The focus will be on Matthew 25:31-46 and Galatians 5:22



Light for Homes for the Homeless

January 15

Erick Knackmuhs

Erick Knackmuhs, an Americorps member serving a year with Habitat for Humanity, San Francisco as the Volunteer and Interfaith Coordinator, will lead us in looking at the history of Habitat International and their work in San Francisco. We will be challenged to get involved, primarily through the Interfaith Build Days.



Light for the Hungry

January 22 & February 5

View the documentary *Hunger No More* and discuss such questions as: Why do women especially suffer from malnourishment? How can alleviating hunger help in the war against terrorism? Why is hunger in the U.S. less visible? What could a partnership between churches, private sector and government do to work at domestic hunger issues? How can charities get beyond passing out groceries, and address education and addiction problems? How was Jesus a lobbyist?

St. Mark's Annual Meeting

January 29

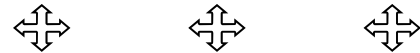


The Sermon on the Mount

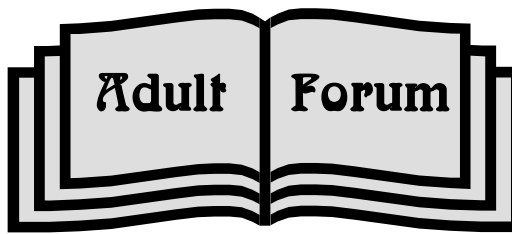
February 12, 19 & 26

Dr. Robert Smith

Dr. Robert Smith from the Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary will lead us in a close reading of Jesus' Sermon on the Mount as found in the gospels of Matthew and Luke. Explore what is actually in it, and what we today should be making of it. And what you would like seminarians (our future pastors) to learn from these words of Jesus?



If you have any topics that you would like covered, have a study that you would like to lead, or are interested in planning next season's program, please contact *Debby Halladay* 415-386-6817 or *Suzanne Smith* 415-285-7438.



Adult Ministries

Essentials of Faith

Two New Discipleship Workshops
on February 4 & 11
from 10:00 a.m. till noon

St. Mark's is offering two new discipleship workshops 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.

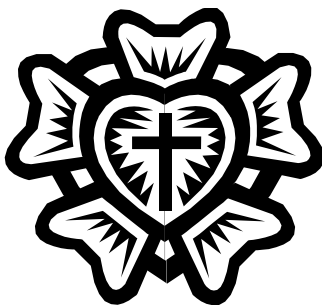
The two discipleship classes will be held in a convenient workshop format **from 10:00 a.m. till noon on Saturday mornings, February 4 and 11 in the Fireside Room.**

The first workshop will focus on telling stories of faith, "What is God up to in our lives?" The second workshop will focus on this community: What is the "Gospel" and how do we live it out as a congregation and as individuals?

There will be ample room for questions and personal sharing in each workshop. We are looking forward to seeing you there! A light breakfast will be provided.

-The Evangelism and Outreach Team

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




**TUESDAYS
AT 2:00
BIBLE STUDY**

Bible Study, fellowship, conversation, sharing and goodies every Tuesday **starting on January 10th** 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.

WELCA
(WOMEN OF THE
EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN
CHURCH IN AMERICA)

An Invitation to All Women
Tuesdays, January 10th and
February 14th

WELCA ladies meet the second Tuesday of every month at 11:00 a.m. in the Fireside room of the Urban Life Center. After our discussion we enjoy lunch and fellowship. Please bring a sandwich. Refreshments and dessert are provided. Watch weekly Parish Announcements for details.



**Donna Dindia, President;
Shirley Capp, VP
WELCA@stmarks-sf.org**

Church Life

December Letter from the Ilagans in Cambodia

About a year ago we left the US – and began this new chapter in our ministry in Asia. And now we are in our 11th month in Cambodia.

Hot and Dry, Hot and Wet, Cool and Dry Weather

After the hot, sweaty months of March to May, we welcomed the Cambodian rains in June. The rainy season starts late May until November. December has brought in cooler evenings and early mornings and only occasional rains.

Connie's Volunteer Work -- Teaching English to Church Staff

Connie is now beginning to get more practice in her Khmer language as she starts to teach English to staff of the Church of Christ Our Peace (CCOP), the international Anglican church we regularly attend since coming to Cambodia. Her students include a Khmer pastor and a project manager of a local NGO (non government organization doing social work).

Visits to Mondulkiri and Ratanakiri Projects

As part of my introduction to the ICC as an organization, we visited two area-based projects of ICC located in the provinces of Mondulkiri and Ratanakiri. Both of these projects target the needs of ethnic minorities who, as in most other developing countries, have been left out of the development process.

Both Mondulkiri and Ratanakiri share a border with Vietnam. It is also in these two provinces where Cambodia's ethnic minorities live. Cambodian ethnic minorities are among the "least served" peoples in the country, since most of them don't read and write; are dependent on primitive agriculture; are isolated with no access to health, education, or social work facilities..

Teaching Phnong Children How to Read and Write (Mondulkiri)

One of the most interesting parts of the visit to Mondulkiri was when we went one evening to observe a Phnong literacy class for Phnong children in one of the ethnic villages, around 40 minutes drive on rough road (muddy during the rainy season) from the provincial center. The project had developed the Phnong alphabet and beginner level books to be used in teaching the Phnong children how to read and write.

As the children arrived for class on the day we visited, it was humbling to see many who had walked perhaps for 30 minutes from their houses. That day they had gone out to help their parents look for food to eat. Their agriculture being weather-dependent, many times there is not enough food among the ethnic minority villages, and children have to work, too.

But despite the hard work they still came to review the lessons of the preceding night; recite and read from the old, dimly lit blackboard the teacher used; and battle the mosquitoes that kept on attacking them and us, too. At the end the Literacy Coordinator asked them some questions and gave out candies as they gave their answers to the questions. This made the session that night end on a happy note.

Water Filters and Adult Literacy Class in Ratanakiri

Good drinking water is a problem in the rural areas of Cambodia. In Ratanakiri we visited an ethnic community where ICC had introduced a simple, economical way of filtering water. The filter uses local materials. A village association was organized that handled the production and distribution of the water filters.

We also visited an "adult" literacy class in another ethnic village. Connie was surprised to see the students -- who were actually children who are too old for the regular school. Somehow because of poverty and isolation, these children had not had the chance to go to school.

Again, we thank all our friends and supporters. May God's grace and peace be with us all as we celebrate Christ's birth and welcome 2006.

Noel and Connie Ilagan
December 2005, Phnom Penh, Cambodia

Call for Office Volunteers! If you are interested in contributing a little of your time for light office work, your helping hands would be very much appreciated, especially on Wednesday mornings. Please contact Marge Jencks 510-845-5404 or Pr. Elizabeth 415-928-7770.



Church Life

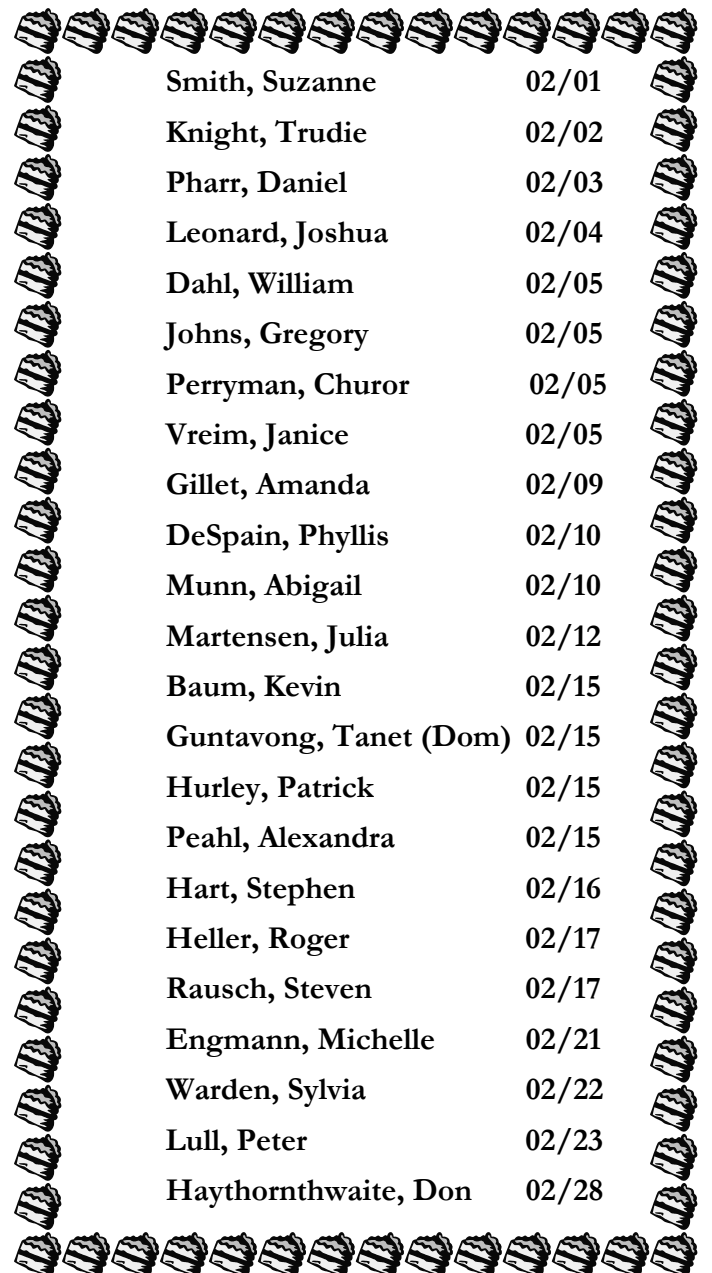
WE OFFER PRAYERS OF THANKSGIVING
ON BEHALF OF THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS:

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS




Tominaga, Aiko	01/01
Bushnell, Debbie	01/02
Dindia, Donna	01/02
Fjoslien, Lucille	01/05
Gomez, Diana	01/05
Shuman, Patricia	01/06
Breice, Matthew	01/07
Culp, Gail	01/08
Sukanya, Valaparla	01/08
Kling, Akiko	01/09
Lewis, Charles	01/10
Tominaga, Akihiko	01/10
Stone, Susan	01/12
Flaten, Jacqueline	01/13
Wentker, David	01/13
Engmann, Barbara	01/14
Evenson, Laura	01/15
Jacobs, Dianne	01/16
Morris, Amanda	01/16
Murphy, Tusan	01/18
Ridley, Elana	01/19
Krehlik, Carrie	01/20
Quitmeyer, Carol	01/21
Harmon, Jack	01/22
Wilshusen, Betty	01/27
Balestrieri, Nathan	01/30
Lindstrom, Lindi	01/31

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS



Smith, Suzanne	02/01
Knight, Trudie	02/02
Pharr, Daniel	02/03
Leonard, Joshua	02/04
Dahl, William	02/05
Johns, Gregory	02/05
Perryman, Churor	02/05
Vreim, Janice	02/05
Gillet, Amanda	02/09
DeSpain, Phyllis	02/10
Munn, Abigail	02/10
Martensen, Julia	02/12
Baum, Kevin	02/15
Guntavong, Tanet (Dom)	02/15
Hurley, Patrick	02/15
Peahl, Alexandra	02/15
Hart, Stephen	02/16
Heller, Roger	02/17
Rausch, Steven	02/17
Engmann, Michelle	02/21
Warden, Sylvia	02/22
Lull, Peter	02/23
Haythornthwaite, Don	02/28



Church Life

Who We Are...



St. Mark's Member Marisa Louie

Age? 23

Birthplace? San Francisco, CA

First Time I attended St. Mark's? October 2004

What impressed me most? The liturgy & sermons – kind of ethereal (I've never heard a choir like this before!) and very personal all at once.

What could St. Mark's do even better? Connect all of the different dots – actively mix the seniors with the youth, newcomers with established members...



Where I am involved in this community? Helping out with the Senior High Youth Group, and attending Young Adult Bible Studies and the occasional SMART/SLUDGE event.

Why I stay? All of you – the wonderful, diverse community that gathers to worship and share fellowship every week, a group of people who might not otherwise meet but for a common Christian faith.

Sunday Coffee Hour Committees for January and February

January 1

Andrew Sallach & Herb & Barbara Lembcke



January 8

Sherri Stieg & Herb & Barbara Lembcke

January 15

Bob McPhail & Kathy Lautz

January 22

Tom & Elizabeth Benson & David Look

January 29

Kathleen & Kurt Jacobsen



February 5

Calvin & Gail Culp and Dean Atkinson

February 12

Shirley and Walter Capp, Kurt Putnam and Louis Gutierrez

February 19

John Elford and Marge Okuley

February 26

Donna Dindia and Chuck Lewis



Administration



A blessed 2006 to you all!

May you be recuperating from the holidays while at the same time carrying a treasure box of memories bearing Christmas times savored with family and friends. With this new year I want to say thank you once again, on behalf of St. Mark's Ministries, to all who have participated in raising funds for this important multi-service body within our church, doing so just by shopping with your credit cards at participating eScrip merchants.



Pay attention to your upcoming Sunday bulletins regarding a potential way to further feed our ministries financially as well as serve our environment kindly through an eScrip-sponsored recycling program. For now, I'll just ask that you don't throw away any of your used ink jet and toner cartridges or cell phones at the home or office! Thanks!



Kristi McGuire
eScrip Coordinator

(For more information regarding eScrip and St. Mark's, call me at 415.731.4287, email me at kacguire@sbcglobal.net or go to www.escrip.com and type in St. Mark's Lutheran Church, or our group ID# 158556562.)



Annie Young, Helen Young, and Helvia Giles enjoy a sumptuous and Festive Senior Christmas Dinner including Herb Roasted Turkey and Linzertorte on December 9th in the ULC auditorium.

Simply Giving Makes Giving Simple!

Simply Giving is a tool for those who would like their offering to St. Mark's to be regular but don't always have the time to follow through. It's an electronic transfer directly from your bank account to St. Mark's. Consider Simply Giving as a tool to help you do the things you want to do. We currently have 45 families using Simply Giving—Forms are available in the church office. We will happily mail you one, just call the office at (415) 928-7770.

MARCH—APRIL EVANGEL DEADLINE IS FEBRUARY 10TH!

Friday, February 10th is the deadline for the March—April 2006 newsletter. Generally speaking the submission guidelines are as follows: each notice or blurb should be no more than 100 words; and each full article should be no more than 350 words. Please email articles and notices—as plain text in the body of the email—to dayton@stmarks-sf.org, or place a hard copy in Ann Dayton's mailbox in the church office. The Evangel is published bi-monthly.



Administration

St. Mark's Evangel ONLINE

To receive the newsletter via email, please send your request to dayton@stmarks-sf.org. When the Evangel is published, you will receive an email with a link to the latest edition on our new website (www.stmarks-sf.org). The Evangel can be read, downloaded and printed as an Adobe PDF. Help us save paper, postage, copying and trees!



"SAFE CONGREGATION" STATEMENT ST. MARK'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

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



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 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 (415) 826-3124 or krefting@stmarks-sf.org or contact Pastor Elizabeth Ekdale at (415) 928-7770, x. 230 or Ekdale@stmarks-sf.org. Also visit the Lutherans Concerned RIC website at <http://www.lcna.org/ric.shtm>.

Our Church Council

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The Evangel

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www.stmarks-sf.org

January - February 2006

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

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.

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Carl Storey, Weekend Custodian		
Liu Liulaumea, Property Monitor		
Gail Culp, Sunday School Coordinator		
Elvira Markov and Gladys Pozo, Nursery Assistants		

Sister Parish:

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

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

