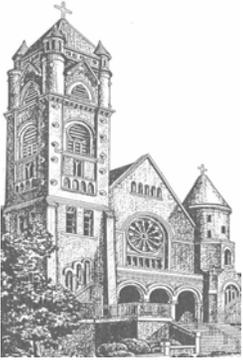


May-June 2006

The Evangel



St. Mark's Lutheran Church

In the heart of the city for ministry to the world

See p. 4 for information on The Evangel's streamlined format!

ST. MARK'S ROLE IN THE 1906 EARTHQUAKE

St. Mark's Lutheran Church of San Francisco, originally founded in 1849, has been located at its present site on O'Farrell between Franklin and Gough since the building was dedicated on March 10, 1895. The church was then called **St. Markus Kirche** reflecting its German heritage.

This red brick church building was designed in the Romanesque style with interior Gothic elements. On June 24, 1894, the cornerstone was laid for what was to become the largest and grandest **German Lutheran church** in California.

The church building was damaged in the 1906 earthquake (the east tower was weakened and needed reinforcing) and the **church's cross melted as result of the heat** from the fires that swept the city just east on Franklin. The building even survived dynamite explosions that were set off a block away at O'Farrell and Van Ness in an effort to stop the fires. Although the church barely escaped the fire, it immediately became a refuge for earthquake victims and for those made homeless by the catastrophe.

The church has survived many earthquakes, including one during its dedication in 1895, in addition to the major quakes of 1906 and 1989. Check out the display on exhibit in the Church's Urban Life Center to see how close the 1906 fires came to St. Mark's! The church building is currently undergoing an **extensive renovation** for earthquake safety and will reopen in the fall of 2006.

To make a donation toward the preservation of this historic church building, you may send a check to the church office, or go to our website to make an online donation at www.stmarks-sf.org.

By Marge Jencks.

Primary source: The New Fillmore, June 2000.

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"the church... immediately became a refuge for earthquake victims and for those made homeless by the catastrophe"

Reflection

Whoever speaks of "Christ's resurrection from the dead" speaks of a process. This resurrection is the cause of the future and of the liberation for humankind and the redemption of the world by God.

Jürgen Moltmann in: Who is Christ for us today?

Christ is risen! Alleluia!

This is the season of Easter—the season of new life, light and resurrection. In this season, God creates something new and marvelous. By Christ's resurrection, all creation shall find new life. I like Moltmann's thought of resurrection as *a process*. Resurrection did not only happen once and for all 2000 years ago; it also continues until this day and into the future. Resurrection is still happening! Can you believe it? Look around you: the birds return and chirp, after many days and weeks of rain, the sun has come back and fills us with warmth, and trees and flowers are blossoming. "Resurrection life"—you can take it very literally and wonder what your new life looks like. Do you have the same job? The same friends? Are you becoming more and more yourself? Are you ready for new life? Are you ready to be made new? May you know Christ's resurrection and new life this day and always.

Easter Blessings,
Pr. Christian

Renovation Update

After initial demolition and months of adding steel and concrete, Plant Construction is now putting our building back together! In the coming weeks and months, the workers will:

- Finish the rain-delayed roofing
- Complete the reinforcement of the upper levels of the two towers
- Repair the exterior masonry, trim, windows and doors
- Reinforce the balcony and reconfigure the seating to accommodate the choir and other musicians
- Install new cabinetry and appliances in the kitchen
- Repair finishes throughout the building
- Re-hang doors and repair hardware
- Reinstall the historic stairways
- Install wood trim and finishes
- Complete the plumbing, mechanical and electrical work

And, based on the overwhelming endorsement from our April 9th congregational meeting, the renovation team will schedule and coordinate additional work such as lighting and painting in our worship space.

You're welcome to come and see the latest progress in all these areas at our next construction tour led by Plant Construction on Sunday, June 4th at 10 a.m. Please contact the church office for more information and to add your name to the sign-up list.

THE FEAST OF PENTECOST

Sunday, June 4, 2006

Pentecost celebrates the conclusion of the 50 days of the Easter season. While Jesus departs from the world's physical sight on Ascension (the 40th day of Easter), his promise of the Advocate and Comforter, the Holy Spirit, is realized on Pentecost. The disciples are touched with tongues of fire and given great power of prophesy. They are no longer disciples (followers) but apostles (ones sent), and they now go into all the world with the Gospel of Jesus Christ. On this day, we encourage parishioners to wear red in keeping with the spirit of celebration.



WOMEN'S GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP FORMING

"Coping With Grief" is the focus of a newly-forming support group for **women members & friends of St. Mark's** who are grieving a death. The small group will be **co-facilitated by Lynette Brohm & Joanne Chadwick** who both have many years of experience as fulltime professionals in social services & counseling. There will be **6 sessions of 1 1/2 hours each**, meeting monthly at the Urban Life Center from May through October.



The initial session is Saturday, May 13, from 10:30 a.m. to noon. The following 5 sessions are open to re-scheduling by group consensus at this first meeting. Dates proposed are: Sat or Sun, June 10 or 11, July 8 or 9, August 5 or 6, September 9 or 10, and October 7 or 8. Interested women should **speak to Pastor Ekdale** or call the church office at 415-928-7770 and leave their name & number. One of the co-facilitators will call you back before the first meeting. ⚪



THE POWER OF A LETTER TO END HUNGER AND POVERTY

“Speak out for those who cannot speak, for the rights of all the destitute. Speak out, judge righteously, defend the rights of the poor and needy.”

When Connie Wick of Indianapolis wrote a letter to her senator supporting the Millennium Challenge Account (MCA) and HIV/AIDS funding, she didn't know it would be mentioned at the White House. But that is what happened on July 13, 2004.

Bread for the World President and ELCA Lutheran Pastor David Beckmann was attending a White House bill signing ceremony when he had the opportunity to talk with President Bush about the importance of full funding for the MCA. The President called over two key senators, Majority Leader Sen. Bill Frist (R-TN) and Sen. Richard Lugar (R-IN), and asked them to help secure the MCA funding that he had requested.

Just after this conversation, Sen. Lugar said to Beckmann, “You know, I am just now responding to a letter from a constituent, Connie Wick. She is saying just what you are saying, that we should fully fund the MCA, the AIDS initiative, and not cut funding for on-going programs of assistance to poor people.”

Beckmann said afterward “I was once again impressed by the power of Bread for the World members. The chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee had just been asked by the President of the United States to help get full funding for the MCA, and what immediately came to the senator's mind was a recent letter from an active constituent.”

Members of St. Mark's Lutheran Church have the opportunity to take part in Bread for the World's 2006 Offering of Letters, ONE SPIRIT. ONE WILL. ZERO POVERTY. In writing letters, we join thousands of others who are writing to urge our elected leaders to fulfill their promises to the world's hungry people. These letters will seek significant increases in poverty-focused development assistance to Africa and other poor parts of the world. For more information about Bread for the World, go to www.bread.org.

We wrote letters on Sunday April 30th during Coffee Hour, and will do letter writing again on the 5th Sundays of the month – on July 30, October 29, and December 31st. If you have questions about letter writing, contact Mary Ritter at 510-895-0336.

ONE SPIRIT. ONE WILL. ZERO POVERTY.
It's within reach!

If you would like to support Mary on her journey with the synod to Rwanda please consider a gift of money to help offset the over \$3000 of expenses.

Checks can be made out to St. Mark's and placed in the offering plate or mailed to the church office. Please note on the check: "Rwanda fund" Thank you.

St. Mark's Choirs in Ecumenical Evensong

Sunday, June 11, at 5:30 p.m.



St. Mark's Adult Choir and Junior Choir will join in an ecumenical Evensong in honor of the Feast of the Holy Trinity. The service will be at **St. Francis Episcopal Church** at the corner of Ocean Avenue and San Fernando. (Go to <http://www.stfrancisepiscopal.org> for directions.) The featured musical work will be “**Psalmkonzert**” (Psalm Concerto) by the German composer **Heinz Werner Zimmermann**, scored for five-voice adult choir, three trumpets, plucked string bass, and vibraphone.

“Sing a new song to the Lord.” The Junior Choir joins in the final movement, singing the doxological final stanza of “Now Thank We All Our God.” Zimmermann was highly influenced by **American jazz** when he visited the United States in the early 1960s, and ever since, he has incorporated jazz idioms into the majority of his sacred works. To quote the opening text of the first movement, “Sing a new song to the Lord.” Indeed!



PASTOR NOEL AND CONNIE ILAGAN TO VISIT IN JULY

Save the date! Pastor Noel will preach at St. Mark's on **July 23** and lead an Adult Forum on his and Connie's ministry in Cambodia. There will be additional opportunities to be with Pr. Noel and Connie. Watch the weekly announcements for additional information. If anyone is willing to "host" Pr. Noel and Connie in their home and assist them with transportation, please speak with Pr. Ekdale. Thank you.



Join folks from St. Mark's Senior Center for outings to two beautiful places in May and June!

**SAN FRANCISCO
CONSERVATORY OF FLOWERS
with the Butterfly Zone
THURSDAY, MAY 25**

The San Francisco Conservatory of Flowers is always worth a visit—at any time of the year. But you will especially enjoy the Butterfly Zone: Hundreds of live butterflies take up residence in the Conservatory this spring, demonstrating the relationship between plants and the countless critters that pollinate them.



Get up close and personal with several species of butterfly, including **Zebra Longwings, Julias, Swallowtails and Monarchs**, along with a number of moth species like the magnificent Luna moth.

Costs will be \$3.00 for seniors with valid I.D. We will stop for a coffee on the way back. We'll meet at the MLT interim Lounge in the ULC and are leaving at 1 p.m.



**FILOLI GARDEN
FRIDAY JUNE 16**

Located 30 miles south of San Francisco on the Eastern slope of the Coast Range, the Filoli Estate is recognized as one of the finest country estate of the early 20th century.

The extensive sixteen-acre formal garden was planned and planted as construction of the house neared completion. The lawns and shrubs around the house, and the Crystal Springs Watershed lands surrounding the estate provide a magnificent backdrop for the formal garden.

Though **Filoli House** is predominantly modified Georgian in style, the French doors, the exterior brick laid in Flemish bond, and details of the trim from the Stuart period, demonstrate the eclecticism of a Golden Age in California's architectural history.



We will have a light lunch at the Filoli Café. We are meeting at the MLT interim Lounge on the first floor and are leaving at 11 a.m. Admission Costs will be under \$10.

All outings are open to residents from Martin Luther Tower and seniors from St. Mark's Lutheran Church. Please check posters and weekly announcements for the latest information. To reserve a seat, please sign up at the MLT sign-in sheet or call **Dean Atkinson at 415-931-6684**. For more information please contact Pr. Christian @ 415-928-7770 x. 226.

**UPCOMING
SENIOR
LUNCHEONS**

will take place on the following dates:

**Wednesday,
May 17
and
Wednesday,
June 21**

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 EVANGEL'S NEW LOOK

In attempt to conserve paper and to make it more user-friendly, we are working to shorten the length of the Evangel, and to use it as a "jumping off" point to our website. You can get full information on your favorite St. Mark's ministries and activities by logging on to **www.stmarks-sf.org**.

There you will find information on the wide range of things going on here at St. Mark's, such as the **Bread for the World** endeavor, the **Habitat for Humanity** project, the **Cruzando Youth Group** activities, **Senior** outings and lunches, **SMART** events, **Adult ministry** classes and forums, **SLUDGE** dates, and **Letters from our Missionaries**, just to name a few.

If you have any suggestions on how to make the **Evangel**, and/or the **website**, more useful to you, please let us know by sending an email to **dayton@stmarks-sf.org**. Thank you!

**JULY-AUGUST
EVANGEL DEADLINE
IS JUNE 10TH!**

Please email articles and notices to **dayton@stmarks-sf.org**, or place a hard copy in Ann Dayton's mailbox in the church office. **To receive the newsletter via email**, please send your request to **dayton@stmarks-sf.org**.





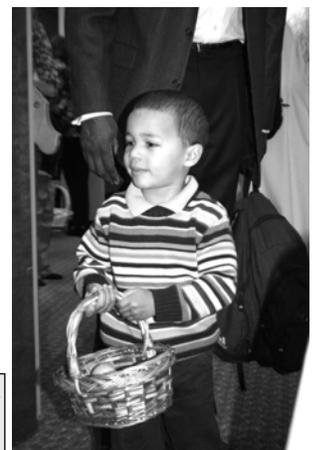
HABITAT FOR HUMANITY

Thrivent Build Dates

- May 12 (Friday)
- Jun. 16 (Friday)
- Jul. 11 (Tuesday)
- Jul. 22 (Saturday)
- Aug. 19 (Saturday)
- Aug. 24 (Thursday)
- Sep. 2 (Saturday)
- Sep. 2 (Wednesday)
- Sep. 30 (Saturday)
- Oct. 5 (Thursday)
- Oct. 7 (Saturday)
- Oct. 2 (Wednesday)

For the following dates, childcare will be provided:
 Friday, **Jun. 16**,
 Saturday, **Jul. 22**,
 Saturday, **Aug. 19**
 Sunday, **Aug. 20**

To sign up contact Joleen Caron at joleencaron@hotmail.com or call 415-531-6322. See you there!



**CRUZANDO:
 JOURNEY WITH JESUS
 2006 NATIONAL
 ELCA YOUTH GATHERING
 July 5-9, 2006**

This July, two youth and two adult counselors from St. Mark's will participate in the National **ELCA Youth Gathering** in San Antonio, Texas. The event, which happens once every three years, is a chance for our youth to meet, worship, and share fellowship with thousands of other Lutheran youth from around the country. With the theme of **cruzando**, which is Spanish for "crossing", the youth will find new ways to express and share their faith through Bible studies, service opportunities, worship gatherings, and even time in the kick-back "Interaction Center"!

"With the theme of Cruzando...the youth will find new ways to express and share their faith"

Why is this important to the St. Mark's community?

Our fledging senior high youth group has been meeting for nearly a year, and we have had great times during our Sunday "rap session" discussions and our outings. Going to Cruzando will broaden the possibilities of our youth ministry through meeting Lutheran youth from around the country and connecting with other youth ministry leaders and resources.

SUPPORT SM Senior High Youth...
 ...by participating in one of the following Cruzando fundraising events!

Babysitting Night
 Saturday, April 29

Parents, leave the kids with us! You can drop your young ones off in the late afternoon, and know that they're safe, sound, and having fun while you're out enjoying a night on the town (or a quiet night at home!) Return to pick up your children in the late evening, as St. Mark's Senior High Youth prepare for a sleepover night at the church.

Pasta Feed
 Sunday, May 7

Following the 11:00 a.m. service, St. Mark's Senior High Youth will dish up a pasta lunch to feed the congregation. Come for the pasta, stay for the entertainment! (Cont.)

Car Wash

Saturday, June 10

If your car is a little muddy from all of our spring rains, let the Senior High Youth wash and shine it for you!

Consider making a direct donation to the youth group.

A portion of the funds we raise will be generously matched by Thrivent Financial for Lutherans.

Where can I find out more?

Ask any one of us - Alexa, Blade, Howard, or Marisa - when you see us at services, or drop Marisa a line at marisalouie@gmail.com.

The website for Cruzando is <http://www.elca.org/gathering>.

COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

- ☞ The new official dates for Pr. Ekdale's sabbatical have been approved by the Church Council for April 11 - Aug. 1, 2007. The Lilly grant of \$32,000 will still be available for Pr. Ekdale and the congregation to utilize despite the year delay in Pr. Ekdale taking her sabbatical.
- ☞ Dean Atkinson and Margaret McLean will be attending the Sierra Pacific Assembly, May 19-21, as St. Mark's lay voting members. Both Pastors Ekdale and Jennert will be in attendance as clergy voting members.
- ☞ St. Mark's is eligible for \$1300 annually in matching funds from Thrivent. Motion approved to allot half the matching funds for the High School fundraising efforts in support of their trip to ELCA National Youth Gathering in Texas this summer. The remaining funds were allotted to Social Ministry in their fundraising efforts.
- ☞ Approved the direction of the "Move-In Committee" year long celebrations beginning with our move back into the sanctuary this fall.
- ☞ Discussion of financing and retrofit developments.
- ☞ Approval of increased security personnel on the square.

Triumphant Easter Egg Hunter
 Riley Brooks

**SMART JOINS 20's & 30's
@ GRACE FILM FESTIVAL
2006 ACADEMY AWARD WINNER
"CRASH"**

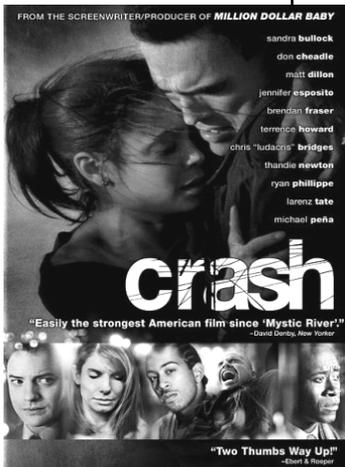
**Wednesday, May 10, 6-9 p.m.
Wilsey Conference Center
at Grace Cathedral**

The showing begins with a simple meal. The Rev. Mark Ruyak, Associate Pastor at Grace Cathedral for Young Adult Ministries, will make introductory remarks before the film and lead a short discussion at it's conclusion.

In this film, several characters of different racial backgrounds collide in one incident. The different stereotypes society has created affect their judgment, beliefs and actions. This in turn causes problems for each of them.

Writer/Director Paul Haggis writes, "My aim with this film is to explore how intolerance is a collective problem. Film permits us to walk, however briefly, in the shoes of strangers. In that sense, I hope that *Crash* succeeds not so much in pointing out differences, but in recognizing our shared humanity." Join SMART in May for a truly powerful film!

20's & 30's @ Grace is for young adults in their twenties and thirties only!



**SMART DINNER
AT CLEMENTINE
Friday, June 23 at 6:30 p.m.**

Join SMART in June for French neighborhood classic **Clementine**. Brocade banquettes and peachy lighting make for unobtrusively attractive surroundings, and pristine table settings with fresh flowers, candles and tiny silver scoops for the salt and pepper signal promising attention to detail.

Chef-owner Didier Labbe has a classic style reminiscent of a Parisian brasserie; his dishes include braised duck leg and beef Bourguignon. With all entrees under \$20.00, it's a budget-wise romantic retreat.

Clementine is located at 126 Clement St. (between Second and Third avenues) in the Richmond district of San Francisco. See you there!

To RSVP for any SMART event, please reply to your *evite* that will be sent out a couple weeks prior to the event or call Pr. Christian at 415-928-7770 x.226

ST. MARK'S SUMMER CLASSES — "WALKING IN THE WAY OF GRACE"

Sundays from June 11 to June 25
at 10 a.m. in the Conference Room

An invitation to everyone interested inquiring more about the Christian faith, the Lutheran tradition and the church.

Are you drawn to God and are looking for a faith community that welcomes all people? Have you been coming to St. Mark's and wondered what the Lutheran church is all about? Then you may want to attend this Summer Class Series!

Join this gathering of seekers and explore the Christian faith together. You may attend the entire series or visit one session to explore the process. This series is open to the congregation and especially to those interested in membership. All are welcome!

Sunday, June 11 *Walking in the Way of Grace: Re-discovering a life of faith*

Sunday, June 18 *Grace Matters: Exploring the Heart of the Lutheran Tradition*

Sunday, June 25 *The Gift of Time and Talents: Responding to God's Grace*

For more information contact The Rev. Christian Jennert or The Rev. Elizabeth Ekdale at 415-928-7770.

Recommended Reading: Reclaiming the "L" Word: Renewing the Church from Its Lutheran Core, by Kelly A. Fryer.
On Being Lutheran: Reflections on Church, Theology, and Faith, by Timothy F. Lull.

ADULT FORUMS

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

May 7
Meet the New President of the Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary
Dr. Phyllis Anderson
 Dr. Anderson will preach at both services and at the forum will reflect on her first year as president of PLTS and what she sees happening in the Church today.

May 14, 21, & 28
The Heart of Christianity
Pastor Jennert

Together let us take a look at Marcus Borg's latest book "The Heart of Christianity" (Harper Collins, San Francisco 2003) How is the message of Christian faith relevant for people in the 21st century? How do we use Christian terms and vocabulary and what do they really mean? Borg's book tries to answer these question as well as show why the Christian faith can still foster a transforming relationship with God.

May 14: *Introduction:* What does it mean to be a Christian today and what is the "Heart of Christianity" anyway?

May 21: *Seeing the Christian Tradition Again:* Faith, Scriptures, God and Jesus

May 28: *Seeing the Christian Life Again:* Born Again, the Kingdom of God, Sin and Salvation

June 4
The Lutheran Church of Rwanda
Mary Ritter

The Sierra Pacific Synod of the ELCA voted in 2004 to form a companion synod relationship with the Lutheran Church of Rwanda (LCR). Bishop David Mullen will lead a delegation of 14 people, including Mary Ritter from St. Mark's, on a visit to Rwanda in July 2006. Come hear more about Rwanda and the "companion synod program" and "accompaniment" - the twenty-first century approach to global mission.

Adult Forums will take a Summer vacation and resume on Rally Day, September 10, 2006.

June 11

Where Charity and Love (Do Not) Prevail
Dr. Margaret R. McLean

We are taught that the greatest commandment is to love God and love our neighbor. But are love and charity enough? Jesus insists that love seeks and needs justice, especially for the least of these. It's too bad really because we are good at charity--and we need to be. But, charity fails us--Americans go to bed hungry; Africans die of diseases that have been eradicated here. What we need to be good at is justice--a radical justice that requires not simple equality but a deep involvement in what God is doing for the least of these. Come and discuss charity and justice with Dr. McLean. What is our role in ensuring that charity and justice prevail?

June 18
Adult Education
Feedback and Planning
Suzanne Smith

Meet to reflect on the past year's Adult Forums and give your feedback on St. Mark's adult education programs and events to the Education Committee. We will look at the short survey conducted last November. Every voice is important and your input is greatly needed!

Meet Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary President Phyllis Anderson on Sunday, May 7.

President Anderson will preach at both services and lead the Adult Forum at 10:00 a.m., serving as both preacher and teacher! Hope you can join us on this special day as we hear about the vital ministry of PLTS, and deepen our relationship with President Anderson and the seminary.



FROM EASTER TO PENTECOST:
CELEBRATING BONHOEFFER'S 100TH ANNIVERSARY
Tuesdays from May 9 to June 6, 7-8 p.m. in the Fireside Room
Life Together - *The Classic Exploration of Faith in Community*
 Join St. Mark's **Adult Book Study** as we learn about theologian, pastor and martyr of the 20th century: Dietrich Bonhoeffer.
 In *Life Together* we learn of Pastor Bonhoeffer's experience of Christian community. This story of a unique fellowship in an underground seminary during the Nazi years gives practical advice on how life together in Christ can be sustained in families and groups. The role of personal prayer, common worship, everyday work and Christian service is treated in simple, almost biblical, words.
 For more information contact The Rev. Christian Jennert at 415-928-7770 x. 226 or jennert@stmarks-sf.org.
Life Together can be purchased locally or at amazon.com for \$10.00.

The Evangel

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

www.stmarks-sf.org

May - June 2006

NON-PROFIT
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Please contact us if you wish to be removed
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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, Part-time Administrative Assistant
Cheryl Garcia, Part-time 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

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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

