

September - October 2006

The Evangel

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



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Reawakening Our Spirit For Our Retrofitted World

Congregational Retreat September 15th & 16th

ST. MARK'S INVITES YOU to participate in our Congregational Retreat. This will be a wonderful opportunity to not only enjoy fellowship of other church members but to explore and guide the future of St. Mark's. The Retreat will be held on **Friday evening, September 15th** from 6:30 p.m. to 8:45 p.m. and **Saturday, September 16th** from 8:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. **Childcare will be provided.**

Friday evening will "kick-off" the event, beginning with a potluck and ending with bible study. On Saturday the retreat *(cont.)*

will include a special session, entitled "Discovering and Discerning Our Spiritual Gifts", led by Sarah Cozzi, Retreat Master; in addition there will be various spiritual and planning activities. Sarah has a Masters in Christian Ministry with an emphasis in adult faith formation and retreat ministry from the Lutheran Theological Seminary in Berkeley, CA.

For the Friday evening event, please bring a dish according to your last name: **A-F: Main Dish; G-K: Desserts; L-Q: Side-dish; R-Z: Salad.** If you are planning to attend the retreat on Friday and/or Saturday, please **R.S.V.P. to: Geri Bailey**, (415) 391-8234 or gernjeff@pacbell.net or the church office @ (415) 928-7770. We look forward to seeing you there. ☺

It's fun, fun, fun..

Rally Day Sunday, September 10th

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.**

Beginning *September 10th*, the schedule is as follows:

- On Sundays:**
 - Holy Communion** with Children's Time at **9:00 a.m.**
 - Sunday School** at **9:30 a.m.** for children three years old through 6th grade
 - Adult Forum** at **10:00 a.m.**
 - Confirmation Class** at **10:00 a.m.** for 7th and 8th graders
 - Parents with Kidlettes** at **10:00 a.m.** for families with young children
 - Choral Eucharist** at **11:00 a.m.**
 - Coffee and Fellowship Hour** at **12:15 p.m.**
 - Junior Choir Rehearsal** at **12:30 p.m.** for children 5 years old and up

On Tuesdays: **Tuesdays at 2:00 p.m. Bible Study** for seniors

On Wednesdays: **Adult Choir Rehearsal** at 7:30 p.m.

- Periodically:**
 - Senior High Youth Group** at **10:00 a.m.** on **Sundays** for 9th thru 12th graders
 - Central Gardens Worship** at **1:00 p.m.** on the **2nd Sunday** of each month
 - Lutherans Concerned** at **2:00 p.m.** on the **3rd Sunday** of each month
 - WELCA** at **11:00 a.m.** on the **2nd Tuesday** of each month
 - Senior Lunch** at **12:00 p.m.**, usually on the **3rd Wednesday** of each month
 - Church Council meeting** at **6:30 p.m.** on the **3rd Thursday** of each month

Save the date!

**Sunday,
December 10th**



**Rededication
of St. Mark's
Sanctuary**

**LAYING OF THE NEW
CORNERSTONE**

Festive luncheon

**Congregation photo
on church steps**

**Ribbon cutting and
re-opening of the
sanctuary**

**NEW DISCIPLESHIP CLASSES BEGIN
SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 24**

Where is your spiritual journey leading you? Have you wondered lately how you can become more deeply involved in this congregation? Would you like to learn more about the church, the Christian faith and the Lutheran tradition?

St. Mark's is offering a new discipleship class series in September and October for all seeking to become more involved and drawing closer to God. Over five weeks, 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. 24 at 10:00 a.m. We'll meet in the Conference Room of the Urban Life Center at St. Mark's. Coffee & snacks provided. All are welcome!

Topics for the five Sundays:

September 24: "All are Welcome!—Starting our Journey of Faith at St. Mark's"

October 1: The Bible—A Book of Life"

October 8: "Baptized We Live—Lutheranism as a way of Life"

October 15: "The Gift of Time and Talents—Giving Thanks to God in our Lives and in our Community"

October 22: "A Worshipping Church— Experience God and Fellowship at St. Mark's"

**Reformation Sunday Reception
October 29th**

You're invited to a "new member" reception on Sunday, October 29th at 10:00 a.m. between the 9:00 and 11:00 a.m. services. All are welcome! For more information on membership at St. Mark's please contact Pastor Elizabeth Ekdale at 415-928-7770 x 230, ekdale@stmarks-sf.org or Pastor Christian Jennert at 415-928-7770 x 226, jennert@stmarks-sf.org.

Opportunities for Worship Leadership

As we enter the fall season, there are ways you can get more involved in the worship life of St. Mark's. Two particular ministries in need of new people are the Ministry of Welcome (ushers) and the Altar Guild.

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 (and, until we move back into our church building, hymnals), give them other orienting information (such as the location of the rest-rooms and nursery), receive the offering and, for eucharists, invite people to join the communion procession.

Behind the scenes, after worship, 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.

If you would like more information about either of these vital ministries, please speak with Rodney Gehrke or one of the pastors. We can use you. Thanks!

♪ Junior Choir Begins Season ♪

The **first rehearsal** of our wonderful Junior Choir is on **Rally Day, September 10**, from 12:30 until 1:00 p.m. 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 information, speak to director Rodney Gehrke or assistant Liz Benson.

🍷 GOURMET DINNER 🍷

...Tuesday, **October 17th** at 6:30 p.m. for **new and prospective members**, hosted by the Evangelism Committee and master chef Dean Atkinson in the Fireside Room.



Church Council Highlights



At the **July Council meeting**, the following activities took place:

- Discussed financing and retrofit developments, including the final scope of the project, timing of moving back into the sanctuary, and ensuring that the financing stays on track
- Heard presentations by Rod Gehrke and Kathy Lautz on the exciting activities of the Worship Committee, especially around the opportunities and needs related to returning to our sanctuary for worship
- Discussed Evangelism and the development of a plan to meet ambitious congregation growth goals
- Discussed the process being put into place by the Synod Advisory Panel related to Pr. Jennert's disclosure
- Reviewed & expressed support for technical benefits adjustments recommended by the Human Resource Committee

Renovation Update

We are in the final stretch of the long-planned renovation and seismic reinforcement of our historic building! Plant Construction is painting, removing scaffolding, and focusing their efforts on finish-work throughout the building. The project should be largely completed by the end of October and our Taylor & Boody tracker organ will arrive in early November along with a crew of organ builders who have, like us, waited for years to see the final installation of our new instrument in a newly-renovated worship space.

As with any construction project, there is still much to do both by our contractors and by St. Mark's in these final months:

- Complete the exterior repairs
- Complete the painting downstairs and the decorative painting in the Sanctuary
- Refinish the wood flooring at the Nave and Chancel
- Modify and reinstall the pews
- Install carpet, tile and linoleum
- Install plumbing fixtures, counter tops, and toilet partitions
- Install kitchen cabinets, counter tops and appliances
- Complete the electrical, plumbing and mechanical systems
- Install light fixtures, theatrical lighting and audio systems



Stunning before and after pictures of St. Mark's East Tower

There is much to do, but the work is progressing on schedule and the results seen on the northeast tower and exterior are good indicators of the beautiful work that is underway inside. If you'd like to see the progress one last time, our final construction tour will be held on **Sunday, September 10th at 10:00 a.m.** We hope to see you then!

New Evangelical Lutheran Worship book

We are getting ready to receive the new Lutheran hymn and worship books, entitled *Evangelical Lutheran Worship* (ELW). We hope members and friends will help us purchase the new hymnals. Including cover engraving, tax, and shipping, each pew copy will cost \$25. You are welcome to donate copies in honor of or in memory of someone. Please use the yellow donation form in the weekly bulletin to make your donation (please note ELW on check). We look forward to your participation in welcoming our newest worship resource!

Education

Sunday School Starts on September 10th!

Children's activities will begin each Sunday at the 9:00 a.m. worship service in the Urban Life Center Auditorium with a children's time at 9:30 a.m. with one of the Pastors. Children then go downstairs for a 15 minute song session. At 10:00 a.m. we go to our three classrooms. We officially end at 10:30 but we're usually having too much fun to be timely. **Susan & Jeffrey Sall** with **Karl Breice** lead our worship and **Laura Evenson & Lisa Gray** teach the pre-K class. **Jenny Hart** has the K - 2nd grade; the 3rd - 6th graders are led by **Gail Culp**. Infant care is available the entire morning. **For more information, contact Gail Culp at 415-647-0290.**

BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS

IN HONOR OF ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI

Sunday, October 8 at 9:00 a.m.

Our annual Blessing of the Animals service will take place Sunday, October 8 at 9:00 a.m. We honor 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 who are unable to attend are also welcome.



"Pamina"



Confirmation Class, Senior High, Adult Forum

These groups meet at 10:00 a.m. between the two worship services. Leaders of these groups are: **Confirmation - Pastor Elizabeth; Senior High - Marisa Louie & Shauna Malone; and Adult Forum - Deborah Halladay.** Our thanks to these dedicated people for their wonderful work with our community.

Senior Trip to the Jelly Belly Factory in Fairfield Wednesday, September 13

During the 40-minute walking tour, Jelly Belly guides will show you a real working factory that makes over 150 different sweet treats. Learn the secrets of the creation of the legendary Jelly Belly jelly bean, and discover why it takes more than a week to make a single bean. We'll depart for Fairfield at 10:00 a.m.



Senior Trip to the City of Sonoma ▶ Postponed to Friday, October 13

Let's walk through beautiful downtown Sonoma, have lunch at one of the nice and inexpensive restaurants at the town square and stop for a wine tasting on the way back! Depart 10:00 a.m. Return no later than 3:30 p.m.



UPCOMING SENIOR LUNCH

Wednesday, Sep. 28th
Guest Speaker: *Onlok*
Senior Health Presenter

There will be no Senior Lunch in October due to the festive reception planned after the finished retrofit of MLT in late October/early November!

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

All trips start from the Urban Life Center entrance lobby, unless noted otherwise.
To reserve your seat please contact the **MLT Office at 415-885-1084** (3rd floor of the Urban Life Center), **Pastor Jennert at 415-928-7770 x 226** or **Dean Atkinson at 415-931-6684**.

S.M.A.R.T

Fall S.M.A.R.T. Dinner at Burma Superstar
Friday, October 6 at 6:30 p.m.

Our Fall SMART dinner will be held in our 'alternate' Chinatown, the Richmond District, at the widely praised Burma Superstar.



Burmese cuisine is influenced by India and China, and also features many dishes unique to Burma, so this restaurant is pan-Asian in the truest sense. More details will be sent via an Evite to all SMART Yahoo! group members next month - we look forward to seeing you there! For menu, location and more, go to <http://www.burmasuperstar.com/>

St. Mark's
Young Adults
'Round Town

If you are a young professional and don't yet belong to the **SMART Yahoo! Group**, there's no better time to join than NOW, as we're beginning to plan a host of fun fellowship events for the Fall. Don't miss out!

S.M.A.R.T. Film Festival

Each movie night starts at 6:30 p.m. with a light dinner, followed by the Feature Movie and Discussion afterwards. These events are for young adults in their twenties and thirties! Looking forward to seeing you there.

September 28: **"Saved!"**

October 26: **"Maria, Full of Grace"**

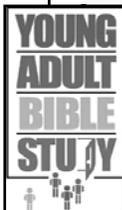
November 17: **"Capote"**

For more info on movie nights, check out the website in September, reply to your evite or contact Pr Jennert at 415-928-7770 x 226.

Is there

Church life after Youth Group?

New **"20's and 30's Bible Study"** opportunities **coming this fall!** Watch for more information in the weekly announcements, your mailbox, and St. Mark's website (www.stmarks-sf.org)! We will keep you posted. If you are curious, contact Pr. Christian at 415-928-7770 x 226. Everyone welcome!!!



Send an email with your name, phone # and preferred email address for receipt of SMART communications to Tricia at tahkin@yahoo.com or contact Pastor Christian at 415-928-7770 x 226 or at jennert@stmarks-sf.org.

Cruzando

The St. Mark's delegation to **Cruzando**, the 2006 **National Lutheran Youth Gathering**, had an incredible experience of fellowship, prayer, and praise in the five days they spent in San Antonio, Texas. Joining with thousands of other youth from around the country and internationally, **Blade Varian, Alexa Benson, Marisa Louie, and Howard Au** attended workshops, mass worship gatherings, and fiesta-like parties, and still had time for sightseeing, too! You are invited to attend the **Sunday, September 17th Adult Forum**, where they will share stories, testimonies, and Lutheran jokes learned while on Cruzando. Come and "cross" over with them!



In their own words...

Blade Varian: "From July 6th to 9th, Marisa, Alexa, Howard and I stayed in San Antonio for the ELCA Youth Gathering named Cruzando. There were about 15,000 High School Lutheran teens who had come from all over the US to have fun and learn new things. Every day we would gather in the Alamo-dome (filling up about half of it) for a morning and evening Bible Study. These events were filled with music, lessons, and speakers who told us things about their inspirational lives. One thing you could really notice was that the men and women who lived in San Antonio were glad to have us there. Even if they were in their cars, held up by a few hundred high school kids jaywalking, they would wave and smile at us. This experience allowed Alexa and me to meet many Lutheran kids our age from places that we have never been. I can't wait until the next one."



Pictured at Cruzando are (from left): Marisa Louie, Alexa Benson, Blade Varian, Howard Au

Alexa Benson: "Cruzando was absolutely wonderful. Listening to 15,000 people praying at the same time is just amazing. One of the workshops that we went to was 'The Earth is Good and That Includes You.' It was a fun reminder that we are not the only creation of God's, but that we have to remember that the rest of the world is all part of God's beautiful masterpiece, too."

Marisa Louie: "The youth gathering was so affirming for our young people and for us youth leaders. It gave us a chance to truly connect, to sound each other out on what it's like to be a young Christian, and to find new & creative ways to minister to the world. I'm so grateful to have had the opportunity to see our youth grow and engage in faith with thousands of others that we met in San Antonio. This has really been a milestone for me, too."

"Global! That's what we are / And yet local, and in the image of God / Social, serving neighbors in need. Called into community ... Synods! We've got sixty-five / Bishops! Keep the rubrics alive / College - es and seminaries / Congregational outreach! ... It's good to be in the E-L-C-A / It's good to be in the E-L-C-A / You can show your true face, in this welcoming place, / You can gro -oh -oh -ow in grace / It's good to be in the E-L-C-A / It's good to be in the E-L-C-A / You can get yourself clean, you can have a good meal / Experience love that's real..." (From "It's Good to Be in the ELCA", a favorite Cruzando song by "Lost & Found", sung to the tune "YMCA.")

Confirmation Camp



Pictured at Mt. Cross Confirmation Camp are (from left): Alexandra Baum, Michelle Jacobsen, Minnie Ocker and Pastor Elizabeth

September 10th - Bay Area Women's and Children's Center

Midge Wilson, Executive Director of the Bay Area Women's and Children's Center, will speak about the BAWCC's many programs. The Center is located in the heart of the Tenderloin neighborhood and has been working with low-income children, families and women for 25 years. BAWCC led the community effort to get the Tenderloin Community school and family center built, as well as five playgrounds in the Civic Center and North of Market.

September 17 - Cruzando Lutheran Youth Gathering

St. Mark's Senior High youth and adult delegation will speak about their exciting experience spent in fellowship with 15,000 other attendees at Cruzando, the 2006 National Lutheran Youth Gathering in San Antonio, Texas. They will share photos taken, lessons learned during the daily Bible studies, and testimonies heard from the inspiring speakers and bands at Cruzando. Come and "cross over" with St. Mark's youths!

September 24 - Heifer International

New St. Mark's member Adam Vincent will relate his experience with Heifer International in Honduras, and provide information about the organization's history, vision, and current projects. Founded in 1944, Heifer International is a humanitarian assistance organization working to end world hunger and protect the earth. Through livestock, training, and "passing on the gift," Heifer has helped 7 million families in more than 125 countries improve their quality of life and move toward greater self reliance.

October 1 - Lutheran Church of Rwanda Visit

Mary Ritter accompanied Bishop David Mullen and the Sierra Pacific Synod delegation on a visit to Rwanda this summer. Come see pictures and hear stories of the beautiful Rwandan countryside, the lovely gracious people, and the Lutheran Church of Rwanda, our Synod's newest companion church body.

October 8, 15, 22 - Parables of Jesus

The Parables of Jesus give us clues to the meaning of Jesus' message and the life he envisioned for us all. The parables have been massively influential but widely and at times tragically misunderstood. This class, presented by Pastor Elizabeth, is intended to offer a new perspective on the parables, their original context, and their meaning for our lives today.

October 29 - Habitat for Humanity - In-Depth Update

Since February of this year, St. Mark's, along with other San Francisco Lutheran churches, has been working hard to help Thrivent Financial for Lutherans and Habitat for Humanity to complete a single family home in San Francisco for a family who otherwise could not afford to own a home in San Francisco. Learn about the possibility of building a new house next year, meeting the family who'll live in the house, and recall God's justice via the work of Habitat for Humanity.

Outreach

Thanks from Mary Ritter

Thank you, people of St. Mark's, for your support, concern and monetary gift of over **\$1800** to make my recent trip with Sierra Pacific Synod to Rwanda possible! I was so grateful for the opportunity to bring greetings from St. Mark's, and to return greetings from the Lutheran Church of Rwanda. God is truly at work there! I'll share stories & pictures from the trip at the **Adult Forum on Sunday, October 1st**. In the meantime, ask me questions - I love to talk about Rwanda!

Also, thanks to the many people who assisted with the assembly of Nurse Midwife Kits, bandages, and crocheted blankets at St. Mark's in July. Global Health Ministries has received the shipment, and plans to send it on to Cameroon, specifically with the supplies they will send to Drs. Tim and Holly Nelson. It's truly been a team effort, and lots of fun!

Murakoze ("Thank you" in Kinyarwanda) and Peace, **Mary Ritter**

BREAD FOR THE WORLD SUNDAY**October 29TH, 2006**

St. Mark's will celebrate **Bread for the World** on **Reformation Sunday** on October 29, 2006. This is a time for churches to renew



their commitment to end hunger in God's world. As part of our Bread for the World Sunday celebration, we will again offer **opportunities to write letters to Congress** on specific legislation that will reduce hunger in developing countries and here at home. Contact Mary Ritter at mlrped@aol.com if you have any questions or would like to help with this letter writing opportunity.

Give us, all of us, this day our daily bread...

Thank you from the Hagens



Dear Pr. Elizabeth and friends at St. Mark's:

Greetings from Phnom Penh, Cambodia! Connie and I arrived safely in Cambodia last Tuesday August 1st. We are adjusting to the Asia time zone; it seems the trip westward, i.e., from the US West Coast to Southeast Asia is easier to cope with than the trip eastward to the US.

Connie and I truly appreciate **the warm reception** you gave us and **your generous support of our trip**. We thank Pr. Elizabeth for giving us the chance to make this trip **to share the ministry in Cambodia** with St. Mark's.

Our thanks to Margaret McLean, the Church Council, members of the Congregation and Thrivent for the financial support for our travel; Kathy Lautz for coordinating the logistics of our stay, including funding our trip from LA to San Francisco and back; Laura Evenson for offering their cabin for our use; Michael Hagan for the use of the van and cell phone; and Pr Christian, Jun Ranches and Ann Dayton for support while at the church office. We also thank those of you who gave us specific financial support or invited us for a special meal and fellowship.

It was heartwarming to be received and to share the Word and the work at the **Tuesday Bible Study group, the Senior Luncheon, the congregational Pot Luck, Adult Forum** and of course to **preach at the worship service**. We value very much your special interest and concern for the ministry in Cambodia and the support you have been willing to provide in so many ways. It is good to be assured we have sisters and brothers in San Francisco who remember us in their thoughts and prayers.

Maybe sometime in the future the Lord will prepare the way for us to visit you again. May our Lord continue to use St. Mark's in a mighty way in the Lord's work in San Francisco. We thank the Lord for you.

Noel and Connie Hagan

THRIVENT BUILDS WITH HABITAT FOR HUMANITY



Remaining Dates

- Sep. 2 (Saturday)
- Sep. 27 (Wednesday)
- Sep. 30 (Saturday)
- Oct. 5 (Thursday)
- Oct. 7 (Saturday)
- Oct. 25 (Wednesday)

To sign up contact
Joleen Caron at
**joleencaron
@hotmail.com**
or call
415-531-6322.
For more info, go to
www.habitat-sf.org
See you there!

Church Notes

Sacred Acts at St. Mark's

Join us in celebrating the recent sacred event
in our parish:
August 27
The baptism of Josephine Davila Fontana

The Church Office
will be closed on
Monday, Sep. 4th,
in observance of
Labor Day.

"SAFE CONGREGATION" STATEMENT

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

PLEASE NOTE:

**NOVEMBER-DECEMBER
EVANGEL DEADLINE IS
 OCTOBER 3!**

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



ANYONE FOR A PICNIC?

PLEASE SAVE THE DATE: **SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 17TH** for an "All Lutheran Picnic" 11:00 am to 3:00 pm in Golden Gate Park, sponsored by **Thrivent Financial for Lutherans**, San Francisco Chapter Board. **For details contact the Thrivent Financial Office** at 415-437-7370.

Member Update

Contact info for Connie Nahnsen
Email: emily_smith@santacruz.k12.ca.us
Daytime phone: 831-462-1326
Address: 190 Douglas Dr., Soquel, CA, 95073

The Evangel

September - October 2006

St. Mark's Lutheran Church
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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.

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

{ Phone: 415-928-7770

Staff

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

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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

