



# The Evangel

March – April 2005

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

## *From the Pastor*

Where do you go when the internal well has run dry? What do you do or not do to replenish and recharge? Many people have places of refreshment to which they frequently return. A cabin in the woods, a favorite hike along the coast, a perfect park bench overlooking a garden. My place for refreshment is along the Sawyer Creek trail which travels alongside the Crystal Spring Reservoir down on the Peninsula. I run 2.5 miles up the path, flip a U-turn, a run 2.5 miles back again to the start. I never tire of running this same trail several times a week.

I intentionally run without wearing a personal stereo because I've realized that these 50 minutes or so are my only time of quiet and solitude in the day—my only time to be alone. There's no traffic. No talking. No cell phones or emails to respond to. Quiet. I treasure this time of running and celebrating God's creation. I do a lot of thinking about a variety of things—family, St. Mark's, an upcoming sermon, a problem I'm trying to figure out. I pray and I listen. I watch for deer and rabbits, ducks and birds. One day, I spotted a coyote far along down the path. I imagine that our beloved Golden Retriever, Napa, who we had to put down a few weeks ago, is running faithfully beside me enjoying each step of the way.

At the end of my five miles, I always feel nourished and strengthened for the day ahead. I am more aware of God's presence in my life. I am more grateful for all the gifts and blessings which I've been given. I'm more in touch with myself—my strengths and areas of growth. I hope you have a place of refreshment for yourself. For God's people, the season of Lent is a time to return to a

place of refreshment. Refreshment comes in the surprising waters of baptism. Our 40 day journey returns us over the same path again and again to these living waters where we gain new strength and vitality. Our eyes are again opened to the truth about Jesus and we are given new life and strength to witness to him in our daily life. We are invited to drink deeply from the eternal well of living water and to feast on the bread of life.

Lent provides the necessities for faithful living. Faithful living is done one day, one step, one decision, one question, one prayer at a time—while all the time in the company of Jesus Christ who walks (runs?) in front of us to protect us, beside us to strengthen us, and behind us to encourage and prod us. Blessings to you for the journey ahead. See you on the trail.

Pastor Elizabeth Ekdale

## **The 40 Days of Lent** **A Preparation for Holy Baptism**

Traditionally, the 40 days of Lent have been reserved in the ancient church for inquirers of the Christian faith interested in baptism and so called *catechumens*. The height of this Lenten journey is the reception into the community of Christ by holy baptism at the service of the Easter Vigil (Saturday, March 26 at 7:30 p.m.), the night before Easter Sunday. If you desire to be baptized into the Christian faith or know someone who is interested, please contact Pastor Elizabeth Ekdale at ✉ [Ekdale@stmarks-sf.org](mailto:Ekdale@stmarks-sf.org) or Pastor Christian Jennert at ✉ [Jennert@stmarks-sf.org](mailto:Jennert@stmarks-sf.org) for further information. We would gladly walk with you on this journey of baptism.

## Midweek Lenten Services

Wednesdays, March 2, 9 & 16

12:00 noon Worship & Light Lunch

6:00 p.m. Soup Supper

7:00 p.m. Evening Prayer Service

Join St. Mark's and make the midweek services part of your spiritual journey in Lent! These services will guide and accompany us during this season and help us concentrate on the Lenten disciplines of fasting, almsgiving (charity) and prayer. The noon services are followed by a light lunch and the evening services are preceded by soup suppers. If you would like to help with the meals, please call the church office at ☎ (415) 928-7770.

## Holy Week

### Sunday of the Passion

Palm Sunday, March 20, 2005\*

9:00 a.m.\* † 11:00 a.m.\*

Procession with Palms

Reading of the St. Matthew Passion

Maundy Thursday, March 24, 2005

12:00 noon † Simple Communion Service

7:30 p.m.\* The Liturgy of Maundy Thursday

Reconciliation, Footwashing,  
Eucharist, Stripping of the Altar

### Good Friday, March 25, 2005

12:00 noon † Stations of the Cross

7:30 p.m.\* † The Liturgy of Good Friday

Passion According to St. John,  
Solemn Prayers & Adoration of the Cross

### Easter Vigil Saturday, March 26,

7:30 p.m.\* † Service of Light

Blessing of the New Fire & Paschal Candle  
Service of Readings

Renewal of Baptismal Vows

The First Eucharist of Easter

Festive Reception to Follow

## Easter Day

### Sunday, March 27, 2005\*

8:00 to 10:30 a.m. Pancake  
Breakfast in Heritage Hall.

Council members are selling  
tickets now! \$10 for the entire family or \$5 for  
each adult; \$3 for each senior and child.



9:00 a.m.\* † Festive Communion Service

10:05 a.m. † Easter Egg Hunt

10:30 a.m. † Pre-service Music

11:00 a.m.\* † Festival Choral Eucharist

12:30 p.m. † Coffee Hour

\* Childcare provided at all Sunday services  
and Holy Week evening services.



# David Hettlinger Teaching Parish Student



## Easter Flowers

Easter Sunday, March 27, 2005, we will adorn our Sanctuary with Easter lilies and other colorful plants including tulips. You are invited to participate by making a donation in memory or in honor of someone. Each plant will cost \$12.50. **The deadline is Palm Sunday, March 20.** You may place this completed form and your donation in Sunday's offering plate or mail it to the church office. Thank you!

Your name: \_\_\_\_\_

In memory of \_\_\_\_\_

In honor of \_\_\_\_\_

In memory of \_\_\_\_\_

In honor of \_\_\_\_\_

Number of plants \_\_\_\_\_ X \$12.50 = \_\_\_\_\_

Greetings, members and friends of St. Mark's. As of the end of January, I have had the opportunity to talk with many of you, but I want to take this opportunity to introduce myself to everyone. My full name is David Hettlinger, but you're welcome to call me Dave. I am honored to be joining St. Mark's as your newest teaching parish student beginning this spring. I am a first year student at the Lutheran seminary in Berkeley (PLTS), and I'm on the Master of Divinity, non-ordination track.

Joining PLTS and St. Mark's out here in the Bay Area is a new experience for me. I hail from Ashford, Connecticut, about 35 miles northeast of Hartford. I am a cradle Lutheran and my home church is Peace Lutheran Church, which is a mission ELCA church. While there, I participated in and directed the youth group, and I attended the pastor's Bible study. I went to college at Gettysburg College in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania. I majored in Computer Science, but I ended up taking roughly as many religion courses as CS courses. I figured that I would find a vocation directly related to technology, but after doing some extracurricular reading and having many conversations with my campus chaplain, I decided that I wanted to study theology. Currently I'm interested in teaching at the seminary level or doing social justice work with the Church; I'll figure it out eventually. For now, I look forward to meeting you all and learning the inner workings of a mature, established congregation. God bless, and feel free to introduce yourself to me when you see me.

—David Hettlinger,  
Teaching Parish Student



## Did you miss the pictorial directory?

If you were unable to have your photograph taken for the pictorial directory but would still like to be in it, please call Brent Bushnell at (415) 346-8924. He is able to take digital pictures to be included in the directory. The make-up photo sessions will be: Wednesday, March 2 before the 7:00 p.m. Lenten Service and Sunday, March 6 before and after the 9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. Worship Services.

## SUNDAY SCHOOL

Sunday School is available for children three years old through 6<sup>th</sup> grade. Classes meet every Sunday beginning at 9:30 a.m. in the Sanctuary. If you are interested in enrolling your child in Sunday School or have any questions, please call Gail Culp at (415) 647-0290.



## Parents with Kidlettes



**Sunday Mornings at 10:00 a.m.**

Parents with Kidlettes group meets each Sunday morning at 10:00 a.m. in Heritage Hall. Come and meet other parents in a friendly, supportive atmosphere which includes refreshments! We have several brand new parents in our community plus many seasoned parents which will produce lively conversation, sharing and reflection on the joys and challenges of parenting. We meet in Heritage Hall at the round tables. Come and meet new friends. Pastor Ekdale or one of the many parents in the small group facilitates each week our conversation together. For more information, please call Pr. Ekdale at ☎ (415) 928-7770, ext. 230. Parents with Kidlettes will not meet Easter Sunday, March 27.

## Tuesdays at 2:00 Bible Study



Bible Study, fellowship, conversation, sharing and goodies every Tuesday 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. **Everyone welcome!**

## YABS - Young Adult Bible Study

*Reading 1 Corinthians*

**Sundays, March 6 & 20, April 3 & 17 and May 1 at 6:00 p.m.**

The *Young Adult Bible Study* (YABS) meets every other Sunday at 6:00 p.m. in the *Chapel of the Nativity* in the basement of St. Mark's. We will continue with our journey through Paul's first letter to the church in Corinth, a truly fascinating letter. You are invited!!! If you have not been to YABS, please join us for time of study, sharing and prayer. **Coffee, tea and snacks are provided!** Let's dig into the amazing world of the Scriptures and see how it connects to our own lives here in San Francisco.

YABS meets every other Sunday of each month. We look forward to having you join us for stimulating discussions and fellowship. No previous knowledge required! For more information, contact Shauna or Brent at ✉ YABS@stmarks-sf.org.



## Raising an Ethical Child Workshop

**Saturday, March 5  
9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.**

St. Mark's will host Brother Steve Johnson, Director of Character Education from the Markkula Center for Applied Ethics at Santa Clara University. Brother Johnson will meet with parents, grandparents and anyone who cares for children to talk with us about how to raise an ethical child. He is known for his quick wit and sense of humor and has written articles such as: "Setting Limits: TV Watching is not a Constitutional Right," "Cheating is not the problem" and "Talking to your Teen". Brother Johnson is an invaluable resource to everyone who cares about children. Save the date **Saturday, March 5**, in Heritage Hall at St. Mark's. Childcare and refreshments provided. For questions and to RSVP, contact Pastor Ekdale at ☎ (415) 928-7770, ext. 230 or ✉ Ekdale@stmarks-sf.org.

# ADULT FORUMS

## MARCH - APRIL

Members and friends of St. Mark's meet Sunday mornings at 10:00 in the Fireside Room (in the Urban Life Center) and we welcome all to join in learning and exploring together. Our forums for the coming months are:

### Can You Drink the Cup? Pastor Ekdale and Suzanne Smith March 6 & 13

We continue studying the book *Can You Drink the Cup?* by the late world recognized spiritual writer and priest, Henri J. M. Nouwen, we will explore Jesus' question, "can you drink the cup that I am going to drink?" (Matthew 20:20-23) in our life. We will discuss chapters 7 and 8 on March 6 and finish on March 13. Come and explore holding, lifting, and drinking The Cup in our lives.

### The Triduum Pastor Ekdale Palm Sunday, March 20

Learn more about the Triduum: the three days that commemorate the culmination of the entire liturgical year in the passion, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

### No Adult Forum Easter Sunday, 3/27

### ELCA Studies on Sexuality Pastor Ekdale April 17

Pastor Ekdale will facilitate discussion and conversation on the Report and Recommendations of the task force for the ELCA Studies on Sexuality. These recommendations will be brought to the ELCA Church Council and the Churchwide Assembly for approval. Please read the document prior to attending this forum. It is available on the ELCA website: [www.elca.org](http://www.elca.org).

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 year's program, please contact Suzanne Smith at [AdultForums@stmarks-sf.org](mailto:AdultForums@stmarks-sf.org).

## Discipleship Classes Continue

### Sundays at 10:00 a.m. in the Chapel

Are you interested in joining St. Mark's Lutheran Church? Have you wondered lately how you can become more involved and want to explore the church, the Christian faith and our Lutheran tradition? Do you know of any people, friends or family members, who would like to join? St. Mark's is offering a discipleship class series in February and March. Over the course of five weeks, we are going to journey together discerning God's call and presence in our lives and in this community. Whether you have already attended a new member class and want to refresh your memory, or you are considering becoming a member of this congregation, join us for the remaining classes, Sundays at 10:00 a.m. in the Chapel of the Nativity in the basement of St. Mark's. Coffee and snacks provided! Everyone is welcome! Topics for the remaining three Sundays will be:

**March 6**     *The Bible — A Book of Life*

**March 13**    *The Gift of Time and Talents —  
Giving thanks to God in our lives  
and in our community*

**Palm Sunday A Worshipping Church —  
March 20**    *Welcome to St. Mark's*

For more information on membership at St. Mark's, please contact Pastor Elizabeth Ekdale at ☎ (415) 928-7770, ext. 230, ✉ [Ekdale@stmarks-sf.org](mailto:Ekdale@stmarks-sf.org) or Pastor Christian Jennert at ☎ (415) 928-7770, ext. 226, ✉ [Jennert@stmarks-sf.org](mailto:Jennert@stmarks-sf.org).

## Rodney Gehrke in Recital

Our Director of Music and Liturgy is playing two solo organ recitals in March—one in Berkeley, the other in San Francisco. Sunday, March 13 at 5:30 p.m., an Evensong service will be followed by a 45-minute recital at St. Mark's Episcopal Church in Berkeley. A reception will follow. The following Sunday, March 20, a Solemn Evensong at 3:00 p.m. will precede Rod's recital at 3:45 at Church of the Advent in San Francisco. Again, a reception will follow.

Since the organs are similar in size, the recitals will be virtually identical. Yet the sounds the two organs make are quite different, so for those of you considering hearing both, it will make for an interesting comparison.

Both St. Mark's in Berkeley and San Francisco's Church of the Advent offer monthly recitals during the program year. We at St. Mark's in San Francisco look forward to presenting concerts on a regular basis in our soon-to-be-renovated space on our wonderful Taylor & Boody organ! The details of the programs:

Sunday, March 13, 5:30 Evensong, 6:00 Recital  
St. Mark's Episcopal Church  
1300 Bancroft Way (at Ellsworth), Berkeley

Sunday, March 20, 3:00 Evensong, 3:45 Recital  
Church of the Advent of Christ the King  
261 Fell (between Gough & Franklin), SF

### RODNEY GEHRKE PLAYS WITH AMERICAN BACH SOLOISTS

Rod will also play continuo organ with the world-renowned American Bach Soloists in three concerts in April featuring two of Bach's most glorious works—the Magnificat and the Easter Oratorio. For details and tickets, visit the ABS website: [www.AmericanBach.org](http://www.AmericanBach.org).

The dates and venues:

Friday, April 22, 8:00 p.m.  
St. Stephen's Church, Belvedere

Saturday, April 23, 8:00 p.m.  
First Congregational Church, Berkeley

Sunday, April 24, 7:00 p.m.  
First Unitarian Church, San Francisco



Soli Deo Gloria and Camerata Gloria, with Artistic Director Allen H Simon conducting, will present "Across the Pond," a concert of a cappella treasures by England's finest composers. The program will feature Britten's famous Hymn to St. Cecilia (with text by W.H. Auden) and Vaughan Williams's stunning Mass in G Minor as well as works by Byrd, Tallis, Morley, Gibbons, Dowland, Weelkes, Tavener and Stanford.

Friday, March 11, 7:30 p.m. in Palo Alto  
at St. Mark's Episcopal, 600 Colorado

Saturday, March 12, 7:30 p.m. in SF  
at St. Gregory of Nyssa, 500 De Haro

Sunday, March 13, 3:30 p.m. in Piedmont  
at Zion Lutheran, 5201 Park Boulevard

Tickets: \$20/\$15, Grades K-8 are free. Discount tickets are available in advance from Brent Bushnell, Lisa Dahill, Kathy Lautz and Mary Ritter. 415-982-7341 or order online: [www.sdgloria.org](http://www.sdgloria.org). All venues are wheel chair accessible.

## 2005 Sierra Pacific Synod Assembly

*April 29 – May 1, 2005  
Oakland Convention Center*

*"Marked with the  
Cross of Christ Forever"*

This is the annual meeting of all congregations and ministries of this synod in Northern California and Northern Nevada. For more information including how to register to attend as a visitor, visit our Synod's website at [www.spselca.org](http://www.spselca.org).

## Fair Trade Coffee & Tea Sale Sunday, March 6

The Social Ministry Committee will be selling packages of Fair Trade Coffee and Tea after each service Sunday, March 6, 2005. All profits benefit the Sunday School children of our Sister Parish, Cordero de Dios in El Salvador.

## PLTS Installs New Seminary President

The congregation of St. Mark's Lutheran Church is invited to attend the installation of Dr. Phyllis Anderson as President of Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary, Sunday April 24, at 3:00 p.m. More information on President Anderson's installation is available on the PLTS website: [www.plts.edu](http://www.plts.edu). RSVP to ☎ (510) 524-5264.

## Want to Have a Beautiful Day?

Lend a hand in the office and soon you'll be singing,

*Oh, what a beautiful mornin'  
Oh, what a beautiful day.  
I got a beautiful feelin'  
Everything's going my way.*

Oscar Hammerstein II  
*Oklahoma!* (1943)

Join us in the church office and get in on the fun. Volunteers to answer the phone and do light office tasks are still needed, especially on Mondays and Fridays. Can you help? Please contact Pastor Elizabeth at ☎ (415) 928-7770 or Marge Jencks at ☎ (510) 845-5404, and get that beautiful feelin'.

## The Capital Campaign Committee



**From left to right:** Pastor Ekdale, Marge Okuley, Rev. John Clark (our consultant), Barbara Engmann, Gary Schilling (Chair of Renovation), and Marie-José Baum. Greg Jahnke is also on the committee but not in the picture. Please read the one page insert in this edition of the Evangel. It contains exciting updates on the Capital Campaign.

## ACTIVITIES FOR ALL AGES

### ST. MARK'S ADULTS 'ROUND TOWN

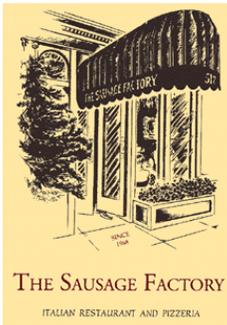


**Lenten Potluck &  
The LUTHER Movie**  
Friday, March 4 at 6:30  
p.m.

Join other SMART folks to watch this great historic movie with Joseph Fiennes as Martin Luther! Elise & Mark Semonian open their home for this fun SMART event in March. We will have a traditional Lutheran potluck, so bring your favorite “hot dish” to share (desserts will be provided) and let’s watch the movie together. “Luther—the Movie” is a great story, a must for each Lutheran, don’t miss it! For a preview go to [www.lutherthemovie.com](http://www.lutherthemovie.com), and for more join SMART for a “movie-night-out”!

For address and directions to the Semonians, please check your evite or contact Pr. Jennert at ☎ (415) 928-7770 x. 226!

Check your evites or subscribe to StMarksSMART-subscribe@yahoo.com



**SMART Spring Dinner at the  
“Sausage Factory” Friday,  
April 15**

Join SMART this April at the famous *Sausage Factory*, established in 1968 in the heart of the Castro district. The *Sausage Factory* serves Italian cuisine in

an intimate, small-table setting, with a delicious dessert assortment. Don’t miss “San Francisco’s most unique Pizzeria and Italian Restaurant featuring a Cozy Beer and Wine Bar” and have a good time with a nice folks. The *Sausage Factory* is located at 517 Castro St. Mark’s (at 18<sup>th</sup> Street) in San Francisco. **See you there!**

If you are not on the SMART group mailing list, yet, subscribe at [StMarksSMART@yahoo.com](mailto:StMarksSMART@yahoo.com)

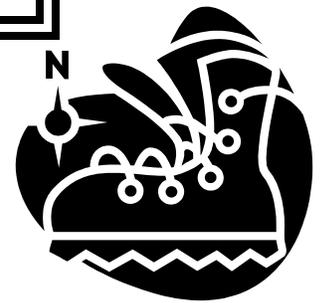


### St. Mark's Nursery News

Nursery care is available every Sunday morning from 8:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Millie and Elvira 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 sign out when you drop off and pick up your child. And please take your shoes off when you enter the nursery! The nursery is located underneath the sanctuary in Heritage Hall.

## SLUDGE

### Saintly Lutherans Under Delusions of Grand Excursions



SLUDGE hikes are scheduled every month or two, so if you’re interested in joining us, contact Tom Benson to be placed on the SLUDGE email/phone list. Hikes are announced in advance at Sunday services and in weekly bulletins. For more details, email Steven Krefting and Tom Benson at ✉ [SLUDGE@stmarks-sf.org](mailto:SLUDGE@stmarks-sf.org).

# WELCA

An Invitation to  
All Women



Tuesdays, March 8  
& April 12

WELCA (Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America) ladies of St. Mark's and St. Paulus meet the second Tuesday of every month at 11:00 a.m. in the Fireside Room of the Urban Life Center. Our Bible studies for March 8, April 12 and May 10 will focus on the parables. Our discussion will be led by the Rev. Robert Jacobsen, a gifted theologian and educator. You will not want to miss these Bible studies and time of fellowship. Please bring a sandwich for your lunch. Refreshments and dessert will be provided.

Donna Dindia, President; Shirley Capp, VP  
✉ [WELCA@stmarks-sf.org](mailto:WELCA@stmarks-sf.org)

## WELCA's Work in the City & Around the World

This year WELCA was able to donate funds to support the work of the Living Waters Lutheran Church, Salem Lutheran Home, Iglesia Luterana Cordero de Dios, Kerry's Kids, the San Francisco Network Ministries SafeHouse for Women, and the Woman Seminarian Endowment Fund at PLTS along with a quilt to Lutheran World Relief.

**Mark your Calendar!**

## Women of St. Mark's One Day Retreat

with the  
**Rev. Glenda Hope**

**Saturday,  
September 24, 2005  
9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.**

**at St. Mark's**



Stitchers of  
St. Mark's

The Stitchers of St. Mark's create projects for needful friends. If you knit, crochet, needlepoint, embroider, or tat please join us Sunday mornings\* at 10:00 a.m. in Heritage Hall. Bring your own project or pull up a chair and work on a community project already underway—baby blankets, wash cloths, hats and other items needed by domestic crisis shelters. Drop in for socializing, learning needle-working skills (we'll gleefully teach you), refining your techniques, sharing ideas and celebrating the joy of creativity. We are a part of the Social Ministry of St. Mark's. \* There will be no Stitchers Sundays, January 2 nor 30.

St. Mark's and  
Martin Luther Tower  
Senior Ministries

MARCH-APRIL

*Seniors working with and  
for others...and enjoying it!*



SF Symphony Youth  
Orchestra

Open Rehearsal

Saturday, March 5, 3:00 p.m.

Join us for an open rehearsal at 3:00 p.m. of these wonderful young musicians as they rehearse Respighi's *Fountains of Rome*, Bernstein's Symphony No. 1-*Jeremiah* and Schumann's Symphony No. 3-*Rhenish*. Contact the MLT Office.

St. Patrick's Day  
Senior Luncheon

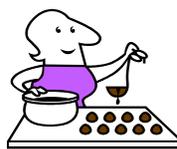
Thursday, March 17  
at noon



The St. Mark's/MLT Senior Center will resume its senior luncheons on **Thursday, March 17, 2005**. It's St. Patrick's Day, so make sure to wear something green to avoid being pinched! The luncheons start at 12:00 noon with a featured guest speaker and lunch will be served at noon. The cost for each luncheon is \$4.00, featuring food prepared by our own master chef Dean Atkinson!

The next senior luncheon will be **Thursday, April 21**.

All luncheons will serve 60 people. Sign up at your earliest convenience or call Pastor Jennert at ☎ (415) 928-7770, ext. 226 to reserve your seat.



Scharffen Berger  
Chocolate Factory  
Thursday, March 31

Don't miss the tour to the Scharffen Berger Chocolate Factory in Berkeley Thursday, March 31. We will tour the factory—known for its world-famous dark chocolates—sample fine chocolates, and learn all about how chocolate is made. We will also have a delicious meal featuring Scharffen Berger chocolate after the tour at Café Cacao which is located at the factory as well!

Jack London State Historic  
Park in Sonoma County

Wednesday, May 4

10:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

*The grapes on a score of rolling hills are red with autumn flame. Across Sonoma Mountain wisps of sea fog are stealing. The afternoon sun smolders in the drowsy sky. I have everything to make me glad I am alive. I am filled with dreams and mysteries. I am all sun and air and sparkle. I am vitalized, organic.*  
—Jack London

Join this trip to beautiful Sonoma County and visit the famous Jack London State Historic Park and the museum—a memorial to writer and adventurer Jack London. We will explore Jack London on this 1400 acre Beauty Ranch and visit the museum. A lunch will follow in Glen Ellen. Don't miss this beautiful trip to beautiful Sonoma County!

All tours and trips start from the lower (Ellis Street between Franklin and Gough) parking lot unless noted otherwise. The trips are open to residents from Martin Luther Tower and seniors from St. Mark's Lutheran Church and on a first come, first served basis. To reserve your seat, please sign up in the Martin Luther Tower office or call Barbara Bock at ☎ (415) 928-8639.

## Read St. Mark's *Evangel* ONLINE

If you would like to read the Evangel newsletter on the internet rather than receiving a hard copy via snail mail, please email your request to [admin@stmarks-sf.org](mailto:admin@stmarks-sf.org). When the Evangel is published (bi-monthly), you will receive an email with a link to the new edition of the Evangel on our website ([www.stmarks-sf.org](http://www.stmarks-sf.org)). The Evangel can be read, downloaded, even printed as an Adobe PDF. Not only will you be among the first to read it, you will also save the church paper, postage and copying. The trees thank you and so do we! In order to read the newsletter online you will need the Adobe Reader which you can download free from [www.adobe.com/products/acrobat/readstep2.html](http://www.adobe.com/products/acrobat/readstep2.html).

### *Simply Giving* Makes Giving Simple!

Busy lives sometimes lead to forgetting to do certain things. *Simply Giving* is a help for those who would like their offering to St. Mark's to be regular but don't always have the time to do so. It is an electronic transfer of your offering 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 34 families using *Simply Giving*—including both pastors, our treasurer Debra Varian and several council members! Forms are available in the church office. We will happily mail you one, just call the office at ☎ (415) 928-7770.

## SUNDAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Please check page 2 for full details on Midweek Lenten services and the Holy Week and Easter schedule.

- 9:00 a.m.** HOLY COMMUNION with Children's Time in the Sanctuary followed by refreshments in the Narthex.
- 9:30 a.m.** Children's Sunday School beginning in the Sanctuary
- 9:45 a.m.** Confirmation Class in Sunday School rooms, ULC
- 10:00 a.m.** Adult Forum with coffee in the Fireside Room
- 10:00 a.m.** Parents with Kidlettes in Heritage Hall
- 11:00 a.m.** CHORAL EUCHARIST followed by Coffee Hour (12:15) in Heritage Hall.
- 12:30 p.m.** Junior Choir rehearsal in the Sanctuary

Childcare provided  
the entire morning.

*We offer prayers of thanksgiving on behalf of the following members who celebrate their birthdays in March and April.*

#### MARCH BIRTHDAYS

- 2 Gregory Gomez 🎂  
 4 Daje Weber-Trebesch 🎂  
 5 Edward Chitty 🎂  
 10 David Breice 🎂 Jordan Ekdale Hoch 🎂  
 Kathleen Park 🎂 Randall Schieber 🎂  
 13 Derek Choy 🎂 Jeanne Robinson 🎂  
 Scott Taylor 🎂  
 15 Alexa Benson 🎂  
 16 Sally Baum 🎂 Jim Dallas 🎂  
 19 Joan Jordan 🎂  
 20 Ruth Hammargren 🎂  
 21 Herb Lembcke 🎂 Mary Ritter 🎂  
 22 Robert Bartz 🎂 Elspeth Franks 🎂  
 Michelle Rehbein 🎂  
 25 David Richey 🎂  
 26 Ruth Bax 🎂  
 27 David Zechman 🎂  
 28 Erika Taylor 🎂  
 30 Charles Jacobs, Jr. 🎂 Andra Nirenberski 🎂  
 Gary Wiener 🎂  
 31 Ann Mullen 🎂 Lin Cerles 🎂

### *Sacred Acts at St. Mark's January – February 2005*

#### *Baptisms*

Lucca Meyer Jones— Son of Kim  
and Clint Jones—January 30, 2005.

Odin Thie-An Beck Marin— Son of  
John Christian Marin and Michele  
Hoaiduc Nguyen—January 30, 2005.



#### APRIL BIRTHDAYS

- 2 Alexandra Baum 🎂 Riley Brooks 🎂  
 4 Elisabeth Lowry 🎂 Peter Meier 🎂  
 Sheryl Squires 🎂  
 5 Elizabeth Benson 🎂  
 7 Jonathan Ocker 🎂 Maike Trebesch 🎂  
 9 Abigail Coursolle 🎂 Barbara Lembcke 🎂  
 10 Janice Trebbin 🎂  
 11 Alice Irvin 🎂 Sherri Stieg 🎂  
 Karl Swanson 🎂  
 13 Rob Gallagher 🎂  
 14 Michelle Jacobsen 🎂  
 15 James Lokken 🎂 Tom Breice 🎂  
 16 Bernard Lee 🎂 Adam Renslo 🎂  
 Audrey Strand 🎂  
 17 Kilian Benson 🎂  
 18 Walter Capp 🎂 Florentina Mocanu-Schendel  
 20 Kurt Putnam 🎂 Jana Weber-Trebesch 🎂  
 21 Kristi McGuire 🎂  
 22 Kathryn Anne Carlozzi 🎂 Sarah Dunning 🎂  
 23 Clifton Garbett 🎂 Gary Schilling 🎂  
 Cheryl Swanson 🎂  
 24 Signe Bohlig 🎂 Ana Hurley 🎂  
 Gretchen Kell 🎂  
 26 Aron Bohlig 🎂  
 27 Kurt Jacobsen 🎂  
 29 Greg Jahnke 🎂



**Ordination and  
Commissioning  
Noel and Connie Ilagan**



Dear friends,

Greetings from the Philippines!

Here is a photo taken during the ordination of Noel and the commissioning of Noel and Connie for Cambodia ministry at Noel’s home church in Metro Manila, January 9, 2005. The ordination rite was officiated by the bishop of the South Luzon District (Luzon is the biggest island in the Philippines where Manila is) of the Lutheran Church in the Philippines (LCP). The photo shows the national bishop of LCP giving words of blessing and advice for Noel. In the background were the other pastors of the South Luzon District. The ordination and commissioning were well attended with representatives from other parts of the country present. We will begin our ministry in Cambodia first week of February and continue to be in touch. To God be the glory for this event—we thank God for all the great things God has done for us while we were with you in the US!

Salamat po. (Thank you).  
Noel and Connie

**Why I Am  
at St. Mark’s**

*We introduce to you active young adults from our community. If you are a young adult and interested in St. Mark’s or the different programs and ministries in our community, contact Pastor Christian Jennert at ☎ (415) 928-7770, ext. 226 or ✉ Jennert@stmarks-sf.org.*

**Name:** Aaron Greig

**Age:** 28

**Birthplace:** Bellevue, Washington

**First Time I attended St. Mark’s:** November 2003

**What impressed me most:** the music and the classy, cordial yet casual congregation.

**What could St. Mark’s do even better:** continue to develop its drive to challenge the exclusivism in society and surrounding churches by preaching that Christ is loving and accepting.

**Where I am involved in this community:** the basic Sunday services and coffee hours (I am very involved in enjoying the coffee hours).

**Why I stay:** I feel God’s love and acceptance whenever I am part of the St. Mark’s community.



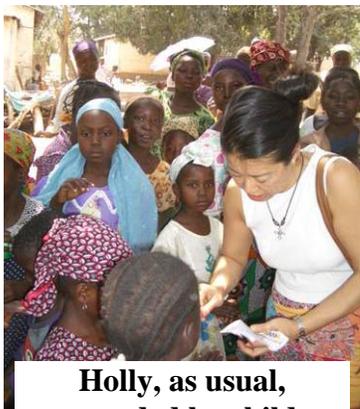
**Martin Luther’s Coat of Arms**

## Ngaoundéré, Cameroon January 2005

Dear Family & Friends,

We celebrate 2005 and our first anniversary in Cameroon full of hope. New Year's Eve found us singing, playing games, eating well (our first time to try porcupine!) then jumping into the cold pool at midnight together with the Norwegian and American missionary community. New Year's Day we had a flow of Cameroonian children at our door to sing for candy or tokens (a little like trick-or-treat without the costumes and hype). We are particularly joyful to have come through a difficult year and to have the children's new teacher with us. Kathy Nelson (no relation) arrived in late December, after a few travel roadblocks, bringing her enthusiasm, her experience and her gentle strength, not to mention some pepperoni, too! We are grateful for the gift of her presence here, for the chance to get our life back on track (whatever that is) and for the promise of a new year for "those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint."

While we may not exactly be ready to soar, we at least feel the strength of God beneath our wings and are poised to truly become part of our African community. Work at the hospital grows more comfortable and we feel more and more part of the team. I (Holly) must boast for Tim who was voted an outstanding employee of the year by the staff—what an honor and an affirmation that maybe we really can touch the lives of others so different from ourselves. Holly has now started back in Pediatrics where she truly was missed and where the staff had been nothing but understanding that the needs of the family come first. We really don't know what this new year of work will bring; we would not have guessed how last year had turned out. We simply hope to walk alongside our African colleagues so we may pick each other up when we stumble and rejoice together each time we see God's goodness revealed.



**Holly, as usual,  
surrounded by children**

We can hardly believe that we have been living abroad for two years. Our first home leave is arranged for this summer when we will visit our sponsoring churches and individuals, attend missionary conferences, take care of business and tack on our vacation time too. To our faithful sponsors we send our ongoing thanks and our hopes that we will be able to arrange for a mutually convenient time to visit. We will need assistance to make all our travels possible this summer—we have sponsors in California, New Mexico, Colorado, Nebraska, South Dakota, Minnesota, Washington, D.C. area, Missouri and North Carolina! To all our dear friends: get your cars and your appetites ready because the kids want to go to McDonalds!

That's all for now from the Cameroon Nelson's where God blesses us one day at a time. We hope your blessings are as rich as ours today!

In His Peace and with our love,  
The Nelsons: Tim, Holly, Spencer, Jenna & Maddie

Be sure to check out the bulletin board outside of the Nursery in Heritage Hall where the complete letters and photos from the Nelsons are posted.

## Interfaith Homeless Shelter Summary

The Interfaith Homeless Shelter for Men was held at St. Mark's January 16 through 30, 2005. The shelter is supervised by the Episcopal Sanctuary and we had approximately 60 homeless men plus volunteers from the Sanctuary as our guests each night. St. Mark's members—including the confirmation class—prepared and served breakfast each morning. Thank you to each of you for being so willing to get up at an early hour to help prepare breakfast. Our young adults prepared and served a dinner one evening. Thank you to all the volunteers who helped set tables, serve drinks and clean up each evening. And thank you for the financial contributions and the donations of clothing, toiletries and books. The men were very appreciative of all that we did for them. We also owe a special thanks to our staff for their efforts, especially the extra janitorial services required.

—Jan Vreim, Social Ministry

## HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE ANNUAL MEETING January 30, 2005

I want to thank everyone who attended our annual meeting of the congregation on January 30. I realize that it was a somewhat long meeting, however there was a lot of good news to share. Our creative financing package of affordable housing bonds and tax credits is nearing completion, the necessary architectural drawings are completed and will be filed with the planning department in February, the congregation is growing and our ministry to the community is thriving. The congregation has approved the 2005 budget, which combines the operations of St. Mark's and the Urban Life Center (ULC), and we are preparing to transition from the sanctuary to the ULC auditorium sometime after Easter. Finally, we have completed the first financial compliance review in many years and our fiscal operations are sound and well documented. We owe a great debt to our treasurer Debbie Varian as well as Kathy Jacobsen and Shelly Taylor who spent so many hours to bring clarity and transparency to the bookkeeping and budgeting processes.

I want to thank the outgoing council members Bob Ruh, Paul Peterson and Minao Murphy and welcome the new council members Jim Dallas, Kurt Jacobsen and Patrick Hurley. Finally, thank you to all council members, parish life committee chairs and members and all those who devoted their time and talents this past year. I'm sure the coming year will provide us with more opportunities to share God's great blessings in our community and beyond.

—Barbara Engmann, Council President

## St. Mark's is a “Reconciling in Christ” Congregation

St. Mark's is one of over 285 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, ext. 230 or Ekdale@stmarks-sf.org. Also visit the Lutherans Concerned RIC website at <http://www.lcna.org/ric.shtm>.

### ***The Evangel* Deadline—Sunday, April 10**

Sunday, April 10 is the deadline for the **May-June 2005** newsletter. Please email articles and event notices—as plain text in the body of the email—to ✉ admin@stmarks-sf.org. If you do not have email access, please place a hard copy in David Zechman's mailbox in the church office. The *Evangel* is published bimonthly.

## OUR NEW CHURCH COUNCIL

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**ST. MARK'S LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
**1111 O'Farrell Street San Francisco, CA 94109**

**☎ (415) 928-7770 ♦ Fax: (415) 928-8534**

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

**[www.stmarks-sf.org](http://www.stmarks-sf.org)**

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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.

<b>Staff</b>	<b>Email Address</b>	<b>☎ (415) 928-7770</b>
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The Rev. Christian Jennert, Associate Pastor.....	Jennert@stmarks-sf.org .....	x. 226
Rodney P. Gehrke, Director of Music and Liturgy .....	Gehrke@stmarks-sf.org .....	x. 233
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Duc Huynh, Buildings and Grounds Supervisor, x. 222		
Carl Storey, Weekend Custodian		
Liu Liulaumea, Property Monitor		
Gail Culp, Sunday School Coordinator		
Elvira Markov & Mildred Orellana, Nursery Assistants		
Mary Beth Weaver, Teaching Parish Student		
David Hettlinger, Teaching Parish Student		

**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 Conference

