

September - October 2005

# The Evangel

St. Mark's Lutheran Church

*In the heart of the city for ministry to the world*

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## Sunday School Rally Day & Congregational Picnic

Sunday, September 11  
12:00 noon to 3:00 p.m.  
St. Mark's Plaza  
Mark your calendar now!

Kickoff for the  
"Forward in Faith" campaign  
1895 Time Capsule on Display  
Adult Forum  
Tricycle Races, Jump Rope Games, and more!

Join the St. Mark's community on Sunday, September 11 for the Annual Rally Day and Picnic! We have a great afternoon of fun, games and good food in store, starting right after the 11:00 a.m. service, on the Plaza. We'll enjoy grilled hamburgers, hot dogs and veggie burgers with a variety of salads, side dishes and desserts. Tickets will be sold after each service - \$6 for adults and \$3 for children. Everyone is invited, so do join in for an enjoyable day! With Rally Day comes the first day of Sunday School! Please see p. 7 for schedule details! For more information, contact Shirley Capp (Picnic) at 925-254-7523 or Gail Culp (Sunday School) at 415-647-0290.



# News and Events



## ELCA ASSEMBLY:

### MARKED WITH THE CROSS OF CHRIST FOREVER

Pastor Christian Jennert (at left) recently attended the Ninth Annual Assembly of the Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) in Orlando. He acted as representative for our San Francisco conference, the East Bay/San Francisco district and the Sierra Pacific synod. He will be presenting his thoughts on the news-making assembly (and vote) at the September 18 Adult Forum. For information on the assembly, go to <http://www.elca.org/assembly/05/>.

## - Renovation News -

Much has happened since holding the last service in the Sanctuary on June 19! The retrofit and renovation began the very next day, when Plant Construction removed pews and mobilized for protecting historic finishes. Basic components of the retrofit are soil grouting to better support the foundation, and center core drilling to reinforce the east and west walls. ELS Architects, structural engineer A.T. Merovich, Plant Construction, and the Renovation Commission spent years developing a structural reinforcing design that would have minimal impact on the historic exterior and interior of our landmark building.



On July 27 a time capsule was found in a brick-arched niche under the east tower in the sand near the 1894 cornerstone. Watch for further news on the opening of this exciting discovery! Other artifacts are being collected for a future display. All is on schedule for resuming services in the church next summer/fall. Although the source of much of the funding for the retrofit is bond mortgaging of Martin Luther Tower and sale of tax credits, additional funds will be needed, primarily for finish plastering and painting, the new organ, and restoration of the stained glass windows. This capital campaign, titled Forward in Faith, begins this fall.

Forward in Faith!

**CHECK OUT ST. MARK'S  
NEW ONLINE LOOK!**  
Worship Information, Renovation News, Interactive Church Calendar, Weekly Announcements, Evangel Archive, Church History, you name it, it's here! Visit us at:  
[www.stmarks-sf.org](http://www.stmarks-sf.org)

### RENOVATION TOURS

Members of St. Mark's will have an opportunity to see some of the work "up-close" at one of our construction tours. Each tour member must wear a hardhat (provided by Plant), eyeglasses or protective goggles (also available from Plant) and hard-soled, closed-toe shoes. Attendees must also sign a liability waiver before the tour begins. The tours begin at the construction fence gate at the Plaza. Tour dates for September and October are:

Sunday, September 25

Sunday, October 23

Please contact the Church Office if you'd like to add your name to the list for one of these 30 to 45-minute tours.

# News and Events



On Sept. 11, **St. Mark's Forward in Faith** campaign kicks into high gear for several weeks culminating with Commitment Sunday on Oct. 30.

*Forward in Faith* is a combined Fall stewardship Campaign for the annual General Fund as well as the Building Fund. On kick-off Sunday, Sept. 11, Greg Jahnke, co-chair of the campaign, will share a Faith Focus talk during worship services.

On display for the first time that day will be the "Time Capsule" which was placed underneath the tower when the original sanctuary was completed in 1895.

During the coming weeks, several exciting events will take place for the entire congregation as we move *Forward in Faith*.

\* Adult forums on Sept. 25 and Oct. 2 will focus our hearts and minds on stewardship and the invitation to share our gifts for Christ's ministry at St. Mark's.

\* Oct. 9 is Invitation Sunday. Every member will receive their own *Forward in Faith* packet. The time capsule will be opened and celebrated!

\* On Oct. 23 the Leadership Team of our Campaign will announce Advanced Gifts totals to date.

\* Oct. 30 is Congregational Commitment Sunday - everyone is invited to bring their commitments for the 2006 General Fund and Building Fund to worship. A festive meal and celebration will follow the 11:00 a.m. service.

\* On Nov. 6: Announcement of total *Forward in Faith* giving to date.

We are each encouraged to pray about our understanding of God's grace and goodness as we evaluate our current and future offerings. Our response is an expression of thanksgiving and love for God. Your generous gifts will assist St. Mark's in moving *Forward in Faith*. Thank you.

## *Hello and Greetings...*

*...from the Protestant Church of the Palatinate*

My name is Anke Gebhard and I will be an intern in the San Francisco Conference from September to December 2005 as part of an international internship. The first four weeks I will be at Our Savior Lutheran Church and from mid-October I'll be at St. Mark's. I'm looking forward to my internship and I'm anxious to get to know the congregations, worship services and parish life in San Francisco. So that you know a little bit more about me, let me introduce myself briefly: I'm 27 years old and was born and raised in Pirmasens—a small town in the southwest of Germany. In my spare time I enjoy jogging through the forest with our dog or going to the movies with friends. As a child I had already an intense bond to the church through my grandfather and my mother. As a young adult I taught Sunday school for several years and from this experience I discerned a call to become a pastor. After I finished high school, I studied protestant theology at the Universities of Heidelberg and Mainz. I'm currently completing my practical training to become a pastor. Part of this training involved teaching religious education at an elementary school



and a vocational school for eight months. I was also working as an intern in a three-point parish

of my territorial church (Protestant Church of the Palatinate) for one year. At the end of my practical training I'll be in San Francisco for my international internship in order to get to know the ecclesiastical structure and spiritual life in the US churches. I hope to gain new insights and experiences, to get to know interesting people and to become enriched for my profession as a pastor in Germany.

I am looking forward to seeing you soon,

Anke Gebhard.

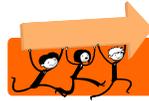
# News and Events

## HABITAT FOR HUMANITY INTERFAITH BUILD

The new Habitat for Humanity San Francisco – De Long Terrace Project at De Long St. and San Diego is underway! The official ground breaking ceremony, with a guest appearance by Mayor Gavin Newsom, was held on August 16, though construction actually began earlier this summer. The Interfaith Council responsible for much of the fund-raising and labor for this project have had several meetings this summer to plan dates and times when members of our communities can get out their tool belts and get to work building these houses for San Francisco families.



The following volunteer dates have been designated specifically for the many San Francisco communities of faith supporting this project. **January 28th is one of the days which will be led by St. Mark's, and we'd like to organize a significant contingency to volunteer that day.** However, you are welcome to sign up for other days by contacting Habitat's Volunteer Coordinator, Jill Sturm directly at 415.406.1555. **Members of the Social Ministry Committee will be available after most services in September to sign up interested volunteers, or contact [joleencaron@hotmail.com](mailto:joleencaron@hotmail.com).**



Volunteer times are from 8:30 to 4:00 with a break for lunch (and plenty of time to chat with your fellow builders!). Volunteers will work rain or shine, so be prepared for the weather. Check your calendars now and sign up ASAP. This experience will change your life. Oh, and don't forget your tool belt!

Joleen Caron

**SF Volunteer Dates**

Friday, October 7, 2005  
 Friday, November 4, 2005  
 Saturday, November 19, 2005  
 Sunday, November 20, 2005  
 Friday, December 2, 2005  
 Wednesday, December 7, 2005

**Saturday,  
 January 28, 2006  
 (St. Mark's Lead Day)**

Tuesday, January 31, 2006  
 Saturday February 4, 2006  
 Thursday, February 9, 2006  
 Thursday, March 2, 2006  
 Friday, March 3, 2006  
 Saturday, March 11, 2006  
 Sunday, March 12, 2006

## CHURCH WORLD SERVICE'S CROP WALKS AND TSUNAMI RELIEF SUNDAY, OCT. 23RD, 1:00 PM CRISSY FIELD

The devastation wrought by the tsunami on December 26 staggers our imagination and burdens our hearts - so much loss of innocent life. Stirred by compassion, millions of people around the world are responding to the suffering. Church World Service is grateful to be one vehicle of that heartfelt response. The reason CWS was able to make such a swift and effective response to this disaster (within hours) is in large part because of the on-going support raised by communities across this nation through CROP WALKS. CROP WALKS form the foundation for the work of Church World Service - without them we would not be in a position to respond. Thanks to CROP WALKS, we'll be ready when the next emergency occurs. And finally, thanks to CROP WALKS we are at work in over 80 countries responding to the silent tsunamis of hunger, poverty, and disease that may not make the evening news, but shatter lives as surely as a tidal wave. Last October, St. Mark's Confirmation Class walked in the annual Crop Walk and raised over \$1,000.00. Little did we know that these funds would be used in such a dramatic relief program. We are asking for your support once again. Please volunteer to walk on Sunday, Oct. 23rd or support a walker with your pledge.

Please contact Pam Ruh of the Social Ministry Committee for more information:  
 415-292-4496 or [pambobruh@hotmail.com](mailto:pambobruh@hotmail.com)

# Worship

## Sacred Acts at St. Mark's

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

July 24

The baptism of Nathan Robert Balestrieri

August 24

The funeral of Marybelle Smith

### Lector Workshop

Saturday, October 8 (9:30 a.m.— 12:00 noon)

Are you currently a lector? And if you're not, have you ever considered reading the Scripture lessons at St. Mark's worship services? Come



to a special Saturday morning workshop on October 8. You will learn more about this important worship activity, sharpen your skills, and have fun getting better acquainted with your

fellow lectors. Breakfast goodies will be provided! RSVP Debby Halladay at 415-386-6817.

### ST. FRANCIS DAY: BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS

Sunday, October 2 at 9:00 a.m.

Our very popular annual Blessing of the Animals service will take place Sunday, October 2 at 9:00 a.m. We shall honor the patron saint of San Francisco, St. Francis of Assisi, and our wonderful animals that bring so much joy to our daily lives. The service will take place in the auditorium. All pets and their human companions are welcome! Please ensure that pets are safely in carriers or on a leash. Humans may roam free provided that they are well behaved and courteous to the animals! Photos of animals who are unable to attend are also welcome.



### Sunday Worship Schedule begins Rally Day, September 11 In the Urban Life Center

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

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

### JUNIOR CHOIR BEGINS SEPTEMBER 11

The fall season of our Junior Choir begins on Sunday, September 11 (Rally Day). Does your child like to sing? Might you and your child be able to commit to rehearsing most Sundays between 12:30 and 1:15? The choir sings in liturgy about once per month during the school year, as well as for the early service on Christmas Eve. We are looking for children from about 5 years old on up. If you have any questions about the choir program, please don't hesitate to ask me!

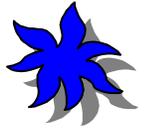
Rodney Gehrke,  
Director of  
Music and Liturgy



# Senior Ministries



## ST. MARK'S AND MARTIN LUTHER TOWER SENIOR MINISTRIES



### Winchester Mystery House in San Jose Thursday, September 8

In 1884, a wealthy widow named Sarah L. Winchester began a construction project of such magnitude that it was to occupy the lives of carpenters and craftsmen until her death thirty-eight years later. The Victorian mansion, designed and built by the Winchester Rifle heiress, is filled with so many unexplained oddities, that it has come to be known as the Winchester Mystery House. Sarah Winchester built a home that is an architectural marvel.



Tour through 110 of the 160 rooms and look for the bizarre phenomena that gave the mansion its name; a window built into the floor, staircases leading to nowhere, a chimney that rises four floors, doors that open onto blank walls, and upside down posts! No one can explain the mysteries that exist within the Winchester Mansion, or why Sarah Winchester kept the carpenters' hammers pounding 24 hours a day for 38 years. Join us for a tour and lunch at the perplexing Winchester Mystery House in San Jose! The cost for this trip (entrance fee, guided tour and lunch) is approximately \$ 22.00 per person. Departure is at 10:00 a.m.

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### Senior Trip to Muir Woods, Friday, October 7<sup>th</sup>

Conservationist John Muir declared, "this is the best tree-lovers monument that could possibly be found in all the forests of the world," when describing the majestic coastal redwoods of Muir Woods. Join the seniors from Martin Luther Tower and St. Mark's Lutheran Church for a scenic day-trip to Muir Woods with its spectacular California Redwoods. We will be leaving at 11:00 a.m. and return at approximately 4:00 p.m. The entrance fee is \$3 per person. We will have lunch in the park; you can either bring your own or buy something at the Aramark Café and Gift shop. Please note that all 1.5 miles of paved or board-walked trails are wheelchair and stroller accessible. Wheelchairs and strollers are available for loan at no cost on a first-come, first-served basis at the Visitor Center. To reserve your seat, please call Barbara Bock at 415-928-8639. Looking forward to seeing you there!



### Senior Luncheons September 14 and October 19

The St. Mark's/Martin Luther Tower Senior Center lunches are offered on Wednesday, September 14 and Wednesday, October 19 in the auditorium. The lunches start at 12 noon, and the cost is \$4.00 per person. Lunches serve 60 people and are prepared by our master chef Dean Atkinson. Please sign up early to reserve your seat at the MLT offices or call Pr. Christian at 415.928.7770 x. 226.



**All tours and trips** start from the lower (Ellis Street) parking lot unless noted otherwise. The trips are open to residents from Martin Luther Tower and seniors from St. Mark's Lutheran Church, on a first come, first served basis. Times are subject to change. Please check posters and weekly announcements for the latest information. To reserve your seat, please sign up at the MLT sign-in sheet or call Barbara Bock at 415-928-8639. For more information please contact Pr. Christian @ 415-928-7770 x. 226.

# Children's Ministries

## Sunday School



Sunday School is available for children three years old through 6th grade. We begin at 9:30 a.m. in the auditorium with a Children's Time sermon in church with the pastor. Then it is on to our new chapel location downstairs in the lobby of the Urban Life Center for a 15 minute song session. From there we proceed to our classrooms on the same floor, where classes are held. Classes meet every Sunday beginning September 11. If you are interested in enrolling your child in Sunday School or have any questions, please call Gail Culp at (415) 647-0290.

## ST. MARK'S HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH MINISTRY TEAM

Hello, St. Mark's members! With the newest class of confirmands, St. Mark's has the opportunity to create the foundation for a vibrant high school ministry. I've been asked to help our youth to coordinate "non-Sunday" activities, and I'm excited to see this get off the ground.



A bit about me - I'm native to the San Francisco Bay Area, having grown up in another Lutheran church in the city. I had a wonderful experience as a teenager with both my church youth group and the campus ministry group at my parochial high school: planning retreats, staging fundraisers, and going on "servant events". Not only did faith become an integral part of my life, but having a "non-school" activity exposed me to a world outside of my urban experience.

After graduating in 2004 from UC Santa Cruz, I moved back to San Francisco to work. I joined St. Mark's at the Easter Vigil service earlier this spring, and I am particularly interested in youth and young adult ministries (considering I'm not much older than the students I'll be working with.) I look forward to becoming an active part of parish life as the high school youth group gets its start. Please - if you see me around, introduce yourself!

- Marisa Louie

## Training for Teachers and Volunteers with Children and Youth

**Thursday, October 6, 7:00 - 9:30 pm in The Fireside Room of the Urban Life Center**  
St. Mark's is beginning to incorporate our policies for creating a safe community for our children and youth. We are privileged to have Dr. Kibbie Ruth MA, DMin, doing the training of our childcare providers, teachers and volunteers with children and youth. Once a developer of effective community prevention programs, Dr. Ruth now concentrates on religious issues of abuse as the Founder and Senior Consultant of Kyros Ministry. For nineteen years, she has worked with faith communities across the country to establish safe interpersonal relationships and institutions. This is a certificated program and fulfills the requirements for childcare and teaching under St. Mark's guidelines.



Because there is limited space, our child care providers, our teachers and Sunday school and youth volunteers will have the first option for space in the class. Any parents, leaders or members who would like to attend, should call the church office at 415-928-7770 and register for the training and we will include as many as possible.

## NURSERY NEWS

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

# Young Adult Ministries

## SMART

(St. Mark's Adult 'Round Town)  
Events in September and October

### SMART and Parents with Kidlettes Dinner at Park Chalet Restaurant

Friday, September 9 at 6:30 p.m.

Join SMART and parents and their children on September 9 --the Friday before Rally Sunday-- at the Park Chalet. The Park Chalet provides a wonderful outdoor-indoor setting that captures the best of San Francisco. This restaurant is kid-friendly with a wonderful area where kids can play. American cuisine in a wonderful surrounding—if you come to the Park Chalet, you know you have arrived in San Francisco! We look forward to seeing you there! The Park Chalet is located at 1000 Great Highway, SF CA 94121. (Parents, let's meet on the grass behind the Park Chalet at 6:00 p.m.)



## SMART Dinner

Thursday, October 20 at AZIZA

Join SMART in October as we discover the culinary delights of Moroccan cuisine and experience a taste of North Africa at AZIZA. Traditional Moroccan dining goes contemporary at this popular Richmond restaurant. SF Chronicle restaurant critic calls AZIZA "by far the best Moroccan the city." Standouts are especially mildly spiced, grilled lamb sausage and served with thick tomato compote. Baba ganoush, called "eggplant mousse" here, is served as part of the spreads plate, which is among the best in San Francisco. Check out their menu (including the teas!!!) at: <http://aziza-sf.com>. AZIZA is located on 5800 Geary Blvd @ 22nd Ave. Please RSVP to your evite or call Pr. Christian at 415-928-7770 x. 226 to reserve a seat!



## No Experience Necessary BIBLE STUDY

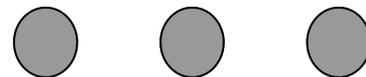


### Everyone's Welcome!

It doesn't matter if it's your 1<sup>st</sup> or 101<sup>st</sup> time in bible study. Now is the time to join a No Experience Necessary

A new bible study is coming to St. Mark's for all young adults! We will start with a kick-off dinner and intro session to "No Experience Necessary" on **Wednesday, September 21 at 6:30 p.m. in the**

**Fireside Room.** Bring a friend, neighbor, co-worker, your spouse or partner and join other young adults for a new concept of bible study in the fall. We are meeting each Wednesday evening from September 21 through November 16. Come as you are and...no experience necessary! Looking forward to seeing you there. For more info contact Marisa or Brent at [nen@stmarks-sf.org](mailto:nen@stmarks-sf.org)



**All SMART events** are open to members, friends, guests, partners and spouses! If you are not on the SMART group mailing list yet, subscribe at [StMarksSMART@yahoo.com](mailto:StMarksSMART@yahoo.com). For more info on the SMART events check your evites or call Pr. Christian at 415-928-7770 x. 226.

For more info on **Parents with Kidlettes** contact Pr. Ekdale at [Ekdale@stmarks-sf.org](mailto:Ekdale@stmarks-sf.org).

# Adult Ministries

Beginning Sunday, September 11, St. Mark's once again invites everyone to the **ADULT FORUMS** that meet Sunday mornings at 10:00 in the Fireside Room in the Urban Life Center. We welcome all to join in learning and exploring together. Our forums for the coming Sundays are:

## **SEPTEMBER 11 - RALLY DAY "STUDY HALL": HOW TO BE A GOOD STUDENT OF SCRIPTURE**

Do you ever feel any qualms about the way you do (or- just possibly - do not) study Scripture? Do you want to learn more about the Bible, but feel intimidated about how to go about it? Come to Pastor Elizabeth Ekdale's "Back to School Study Hall"! Learn about ways and resources that make personal Bible study enjoyable and rewarding.

## **SEPTEMBER 18 - "MARKED WITH THE CROSS OF CHRIST FOREVER" - REPORT FROM ELCA'S CHURCHWIDE ASSEMBLY 2005**

Pastor Christian Jennert is one of 1,018 voting members (and one of the 15 representatives from our Sierra Pacific Synod) at the Church-Wide Assembly in Orlando, Florida. He will report on the discussions and votes on important matters, such as: recommendation to proceed with a new primary book of worship; deliberation on being an evangelizing church in a diverse mission context; two ethnic-specific ministry strategies; the recommendation to enter interim eucharistic sharing with the United Methodist Church; and recommendations regarding ministry with gays and lesbians, and the ordination of gays and lesbians in committed relationships.

## **SEPTEMBER 25 - "JUST WHAT DOES JESUS HAVE TO SAY ABOUT MY MONEY AND POSSESSIONS?"**

Jesus preaches and teaches on money and possessions more than any other subject! Join Pastor Ekdale for a closer look at some of Jesus teachings including taking a look at some of the "thornier" scripture verses on money/possessions. We will also have an opportunity to reflect on our own views of stewardship and money. Bring your bible for a fun, interactive adult forum with Pr. Ekdale and other leaders at St. Mark's.

## **OCTOBER 2 - DIALOGUE ON "FORWARD IN FAITH" - ST. MARK'S CAPITAL CAMPAIGN**

Everyone is encouraged to attend an informative session about the capital campaign, "Forward in Faith - Serving a New Century." The Campaign Core Team (Pr. Ekdale, Greg Jahnke, Marge Okuley, Marie-Jose Baum, Barbara Engmann) will facilitate dialogue and answer questions. If possible, prepare by reading the "Frequently Asked Questions" pamphlet being mailed to all members the week before the forum.

## **OCTOBER 9, 16 AND 23 - BEING THE GOOD SAMARITAN: HEALTH ACCESS FOR ALL CALIFORNIANS**

Using the study guide provided by the California Council of Churches, we'll look at the history of health care insurance coverage in the US as well as emerging new models. Our study will focus on the questions: "What is God calling us to do? What are the underlying values that must be held up as thoughtful people struggle together in this new day? How can we have a just, accessible health care system that will serve all of God's children?"

## **OCTOBER 30 - ACT BOLDLY - REPORT FROM THE 6<sup>TH</sup> TRIENNIAL GATHERING OF WELCA**

St. Mark's member Joleen Caron will share her experience at Women of the ELCA's Triennial Gathering in San Antonio this summer. She was one of 30 "young women" attending the gathering. Learn what issues are calling Lutheran women to act boldly today.

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



# Adult Ministries

## NEW DISCIPLESHIP CLASSES BEGIN SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 25

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? Do you know friends or family members, who would like to join St. Mark's? St. Mark's is offering a new discipleship class series in September and October. Over five weeks, we'll 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. 25 at 10 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 25: "All are Welcome!—Starting our Journey of Faith at St. Mark's." *Evangelism Committee*

October 2: "Baptized We Live—Lutheranism as a way of Life." *Marisa Louie*

October 9: "The Bible—A Book of Life" *Pastor Jennert*

October 16: "The Gift of Time and Talents—Giving Thanks to God in our Lives and in our Community" *Paul Peterson*

October 23: "A Worshipping Church— Experience God and Fellowship at St. Mark's" *Pastor Ekdale*

## TUESDAY, OCTOBER 25, 7:00 P.M.

**GOURMET DINNER** for new and prospective members, hosted by the Evangelism Committee and our own master chef Dean Atkinson.

## REFORMATION SUNDAY, OCTOBER 30:

You are invited to a reception of new members at both 9 & 11 a.m. services! We are meeting on Sunday morning between services at 10 a.m. for about 45 minutes. 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](mailto:ekdale@stmarks-sf.org) or Associate Pastor Christian Jennert at 415-928-7770 x. 226, [jennert@stmarks-sf.org](mailto:jennert@stmarks-sf.org).



## EXPLORING THE EDGES OF ENOUGH

A half-day Retreat for the Women of St. Mark's and St. Paulus

**Saturday, September 24, 2005  
9 am – 1 pm**

**St. Mark's Urban Life Center**

If someone asked me if I had enough, I'd answer, "Enough of what?" I'd make lists, evaluate, do the work and somewhere on the bottom right of my computer screen would be my answer.

But to go to the edges of enough, I'd have to take a journey, not knowing where I was going. If I go to the "edges of enough", and explore, I hope to be startled by what I find, to learn something that points me in the direction of the love and joy God intends for the world. And I hope I never return.

**Rev. Glenda Hope**, Retreat Leader

*Executive Director of San Francisco Network Ministries*  
Glenda Hope has been an activist since she was a young adult in the Deep South as the Civil Rights Movement was beginning. She now works with the poor there, advocating at City Hall for issues of justice, and conducting memorial services for the homeless in the Tenderloin who have died on the streets, so they don't die unnoticed. She speaks directly, and with the deep conviction that her activism is a result of her calling as a Christian to follow the leading of the God revealed in Jesus Christ.

**Please join us!**

**Registration donation: \$5 - \$10**  
**Register at St. Mark's office 415-928-7770 or with Pam Ruh 415-292-4496**

**Bring your Bible, journal and writing material**  
**Child Care Provided**

## TUESDAYS AT 2:00 BIBLE STUDY RESUMES ON TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 13

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 Jenner. Everyone welcome!

# Adult Ministries

**“ON THE ROAD TO EMMAUS”  
ST. MARK’S SECOND ANNUAL  
MEN’S RETREAT AT PTLIS IN BERKELEY  
NOVEMBER 19**

The journey of faith requires purposeful attention. One way to pay extra attention to what God is doing in our individual faith journeys is to spend time in a place that is set apart from our daily life. This ancient spiritual practice is called *retreat*.

**Join the men of St. Mark’s for a day of conversation, reflection, and prayer Saturday, November 19<sup>th</sup> from 9:30-4:00 on the beautiful campus of Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary in Berkeley.** We will use as our theme the story of Jesus and the disciples on the road to Emmaus in the gospel of Luke. We will spend time pondering the story



and discovering how God is speaking to us individually and as a community. Additionally, we will use the story and other activities to reflect on our individual faith journeys and explore the ways in which God is calling us to move and grow.

**Our retreat master will be Sarah Cozzi**, a graduate of PLTS with a Master of Christian Ministry, and a Bay Area consultant working with local congregations to enhance their spiritual lives through retreats, spiritual direction, adult learning, and music. (To learn more about Sarah and the work she does, visit her website at [www.celebrateliving.org](http://www.celebrateliving.org).)

Come, read and ponder scripture with other men from St. Mark’s as we discern the presence of God in our personal faith journeys. Bring your Bible and comfortable clothes. Food and drinks will be provided. The cost is \$40.00 per person (including breakfast, lunch and snacks.) Limited scholarships are available. To register, contact Dean Atkinson at [deanatkison@excite.com](mailto:deanatkison@excite.com). For more information contact Pr. Christian Jennert at [jennert@stmarks-sf.org](mailto:jennert@stmarks-sf.org).

## WELCA

(Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America)

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

**An Invitation to All Women  
Tuesday, September 13**

WELCA members and friends enjoyed a delightful lunch at Eliza’s Restaurant in July. August was a month of rest and now we are looking forward to beginning our monthly September. At meeting we will discussion on “Visions for the plan to attend meeting.



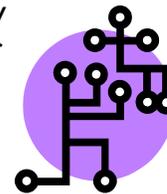
women of St. Paulus meet the of every month at 11:00 a.m. in the Fireside Room of the Urban Life Center. After our discussion we enjoy lunch and fellowship. Please bring a sandwich. Refreshments and dessert are provided. See you September 13.

meetings in September’s continue our WELCA: Future.” Please this important WELCA Mark’s and St. second Tuesday

## Parents with Kidlettes

Resumes on September 9

All families are invited and welcome to join Pr. Elizabeth and her family at the family-friendly restaurant Park Chalet on Friday, Sept. 9 at 6:00 p.m. We will meet on the grassy area behind the restaurant where our children can play and run around. At 6:30, we will join other St. Mark’s folks from the young SMART, for dinner at the Park Chalet. Please RSVP to Pr. Ekdale at [Ekdale@stmarks-sf.org](mailto:Ekdale@stmarks-sf.org) The restaurant is located at 1000 Great Highway at Fulton - at the west end of Golden Gate Park.



Parents with Kidlettes will resume meeting on Sunday mornings on Rally Day, Sept. 11 at 10:00 a.m. We will decide on discussion topics and facilitators at the dinner on Sept. 9. Bring your ideas!

# Church Life

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

## September Birthdays

Lull, Taylor	09/01
Baker, Margaret	09/02
Lull, Mary Carlton	09/02
Armstrong, Gretchen	09/04
Gehrke, Selda	09/06
Gray, Emma	09/06
Jones, Clint	09/06
Kell, Anna	09/07
Kogusuri, Shie	09/10
Gehrke, Janet	09/11
Balestrieri, Marco	09/14
Hilton, Heather	09/14
Lehmann, Carla	09/14
Hamilton-Lam, Kimberly	09/15
Rotter, Bradley	09/15
Gehrke, Christian	09/16
Jencks, Marjorie	09/16
McPhail, James (Bob)	09/16
Gomez, Isabel	09/17
Schendel, David	09/17
Look, David	09/18
Brooks, Christina	09/20
Grimstad, Marilyn	09/20
Bartlett, Agnes	09/21
Lautz, Katherine	09/21
Ocker, Wilhelmina	09/21
Sigafoos, Elbert	09/21
Ferguson, Mary	09/23
Forkpa, Kormasa	09/23
Neal, Leone	09/23
Semonian, Elise	09/23
Connelly, Diana	09/24
Jennert, Christian	09/24
Munn, Elizabeth	09/24
Hagan, Michael	09/25
Kuhn, Alyssa	09/25
Ashton, Elyse	09/27
Battaglia, Violet	09/27
Semonian, Mark	09/28
Elford, John	09/30
Wynne, Diane	09/30

## October Birthdays

Armentrout, Chris	10/01
Ekdale, Elizabeth	10/01
Breitling, Madeleine	10/05
Gilliard, Brandan	10/07
Krauskopf, Christopher	10/07
Schrick, Marilyn	10/07
Culp, Calvin	10/09
Peahl, Jon	10/09
Schildge, Jr., Ted	10/10
Robinson, Nadine	10/11
Broemer, Marlene	10/13
Irvin, George	10/14
Balcer, Marc	10/15
Carlozzi, Nicholas	10/15
Wolfe, Gary	10/15
Floreen, Hali	10/16
Rotter, Blake	10/16
Allen, Jerrold	10/17
Hanna, Alison	10/17
Baum, David	10/18
Lindstrom, Mark	10/18
Carlozzi, Gretchen	10/20
Varian, Astra	10/20
Anderson, Kathryn	10/21
Brooks, Ryan	10/21
Schneyder, Jens	10/22
Zagrabelny, Sue Ellen	10/22
Heinlein, Josephine	10/23
Krauskopf, Linda	10/23
Saari, Norman	10/23
Ruh, Pamela	10/25
Schieber, Evan	10/25
Bryan, Earline	10/26
Jones, Kim	10/26
Peahl, Amy	10/26
Seliga, Matthew	10/27
Utz, Dana	10/27
Jackson, Ilene	10/28
Boyle, Richard	10/29
McClain, Jeremy	10/29
Smith, Robert	10/30
Taylor, Shelly	10/30
Segraves, Arlene	10/31

## PARISH LIFE NIGHT

**Thursday, September 15, 7:00-8:00 p.m.**

All Parish Life Chairs and the members of the Parish Life committees, as well as anyone interested in the parish life activities are invited to come to Parish Life Night. A light dinner served from 6:30 to 7:00 p.m. Join us to discuss the various ministries, programs and events of your committee. Parish Life Night invites people new to the St. Mark's community and all those interested in the ministries of this parish.



## Sunday Coffee Hour Committees for September and October

### September 4

Shirley and Walter Capp, Kurt Putnam and Louis Gutierrez

### September 11

John Elford and Marge Okuley

### September 18

Donna Dindia and Chuck Lewis

### September 25

Karl and Tom Briece and Marie-Jose Baum

### October 2

Barbara Bock and Jim Dallas

### October 9

Yolanda Rivas and Nadine Robinson

### October 16

Earline Bryan

### October 23

Sherri Stieg and Barbara and Herb Lembcke

### October 30

Bob McPhail and Kathy Lautz



# Church Life

## SAN FRANCISCO AIDS WALK

Thanks to members and friends of St. Mark's Lutheran who walked in or sponsored our church team in the 2005 San Francisco AIDS Walk on July 17. This year's team members--Dean Atkinson, Chuck Lewis, Aaron Maurer and Dana Utz (team leader)--raised **\$12,380.00!** for Bay Area AIDS charities. This is a new team record!

More than 25,000 persons participated in the annual event and raised \$3.6 million. The 10 kilometer walk in Golden Gate Park helps raise urgently needed funds and sends the message that the AIDS crisis is not over. In its 19th year, the San Francisco AIDS Walk has raised over \$53 million dollars for the San Francisco AIDS Foundation and 36 other Bay Area AIDS services organizations. The funds raised make an incredible difference. They can help homeless families find an apartment, guide Spanish speakers to life-saving treatment information, and provide persons with the support they need to thrive on HIV treatments.



Left to Right: Chuck Lewis, Dean Atkinson, Dana Utz

The San Francisco AIDS Foundation is a non-profit, community-based organization committed to ending the pandemic and the human suffering caused by HIV. The agency provides a comprehensive array of services - including financial benefits counseling, client advocacy, housing assistance, HIV prevention efforts, needle exchange, and the California AIDS Hotline (800-367-AIDS) - that directly serve over 100,000 individuals. The agency reaches over 1.5 million others through community outreach, public policy efforts, prevention campaigns, and the Web ([www.sfaf.org](http://www.sfaf.org), [www.aids hotline.org](http://www.aids hotline.org) and [www.gaylife.org](http://www.gaylife.org)).

- Dana Utz

### 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 on the SLUDGE 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).



### Interfaith Workshops for Clergy and other Church Leaders begin September 21

You are invited to join a series of six workshops that ask "What does it mean to be a Christian in an interfaith world?" These workshops will explore the diversity of religious traditions in our society, and will emphasize understanding other religions faithfully, and re-appropriating Christian tradition in light of new understandings and relationships. The workshops will generally be held at First United Lutheran Church at Geary and 30th, and the cost is \$90. For more info contact Susan Strouse at 415-751-8108 or [pastorsusan@fulc.com](mailto:pastorsusan@fulc.com).



# Administration

## E-SCRIP

**A great way to support St. Mark's Ministries**  
 St. Mark's is signed up as a beneficiary with the E-Scrip program. E-Scrip is a fundraising program that allows participating merchants to contribute a percentage of your grocery bill and credit card bill to St. Mark's. It's easy to do!

Go online to the E-Scrip website: **escrip.com**  
 Follow their directions - St. Mark's is already pre-enrolled as a participating organization - our group ID # is **158556562**

Enroll your Safeway club card, Macy's card, credit card and other participating merchant card numbers with the E-Scrip program designating St. Mark's as the beneficiary of your purchases. Every 90 days St. Mark's will receive a small percentage of funds from the E-Scrip program based on expenditures.

Thank you! St. Mark's Stewardship Committee

## St Mark's Pictorial Directory is here!



If you took your picture with Olan Mills for the photo directory, your copy is available for pickup after worship at the back of the Auditorium. **Otherwise, the photo directory will be available to church members online.** Contact the church office for the website, username, and password.

## KEEP THE SAN FRANCISCO CONFERENCE DROP-IN CENTER OPEN!

The San Francisco Conference of the Sierra Pacific Synod appeals to all members of the Conference Congregations to help keep the doors of Sts. Mary and Martha's Drop-in Center open. To date, we have managed to fund this new ministry, which provides respite, coffee and Danish, and fellowship to people of all sorts, with a combination of grants and local congregational donations. You are invited to send an offering in support of this ministry. Donation checks can be made out to "SF Drop-in Center" and mailed directly to St. Paulus. For more information, contact Rev. Dan Solberg, St. Paulus Lutheran Church at 415-673-8088.



## Simply Giving Makes Giving Simple!

Simply Giving is a tool for those who would like their offering to St. Mark's to be regular but don't always have the time to follow through. It 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 45 families using Simply Giving—including the 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.

Please save the date for two important annual Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary events:  
 Founders' Day  
 Wednesday, September 28  
 &  
 Luther Lecture  
 Wednesday, October 19  
 Details to Follow, and at  
[www.plts.edu](http://www.plts.edu)

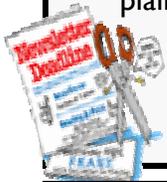
# Administration

## St. Mark's Evangel ONLINE

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

### NOVEMBER— DECEMBER EVANGEL DEADLINE IS OCTOBER 10<sup>TH</sup>!

**Monday, October 10<sup>th</sup>** is the deadline for the November-December 2005 newsletter. Generally speaking the submission guidelines are as follows: each notice or blurb should be no more than 100 words; and each full article should be no more than 350 words. Please email articles and notices—as plain text in the body of the email—to [dayton@stmarks-sf.org](mailto:dayton@stmarks-sf.org). If you do not have email access, please place a hard copy in Ann Dayton's mailbox in the church office. The Evangel is published bimonthly.



**WELCOME ABOARD TO ANN DAYTON!** Ann joined St. Mark's staff as Administrative Assistant in May. Since then, she's been diligently producing all of our church publications, assisting with our website redesign, and helping to keep the church office running smoothly.

This is Ann's second Evangel. As you can tell from its fresh new look, she brings many talents (as well as her pug Zelda) with her to St. Mark's! She can be reached in the church office Monday through Thursday mornings or by email at [dayton@stmarks-sf.org](mailto:dayton@stmarks-sf.org).



## ST. MARK'S IS A

### "RECONCILING IN CHRIST" CONGREGATION

St. Mark's is one of over 315 congregations, 22 synods and 12 organizations across the ELCA and 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](mailto:krefting@stmarks-sf.org) or contact Pastor Elizabeth Ekdale at (415) 928-7770, x. 230 or [Ekdale@stmarks-sf.org](mailto:Ekdale@stmarks-sf.org). Also visit the Lutherans Concerned RIC website at <http://www.lcna.org/ric.shtm>.

## Our Church Council

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[engmann@stmarks-sf.org](mailto:engmann@stmarks-sf.org)

Randy Schieber, VP  
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[schieber@stmarks-sf.org](mailto:schieber@stmarks-sf.org)

Margaret McLean, Secretary  
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[mclean@stmarks-sf.org](mailto:mclean@stmarks-sf.org)

Debra Varian, Treasurer  
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[www.stmarks-sf.org](http://www.stmarks-sf.org)

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

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

**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>
The Rev. Elizabeth E. Ekdale, Pastor .....	Ekdale@stmarks-sf.org	x. 230
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
Jun Ranches, Office Manager.....	Ranches@stmarks-sf.org	x. 225
Ann Dayton, Part-time Administrative Assistant.....	Dayton@stmarks-sf.org	x. 224
Cheryl Garcia, Part-time Bookkeeper .....	Garcia@stmarks-sf.org	x. 229
Duc Huynh, Buildings and Grounds Supervisor, x. 222		
Carl Storey, Weekend Custodian		
Liu Liulaumea, Property Monitor		
Gail Culp, Sunday School Coordinator		
Elvira Markov and Gladys Pozo, Nursery Assistants		
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

