

The Evangel

St. Mark's Lutheran Church

In the heart of the city for ministry to the world

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“RENT” BENEFIT SCREENING

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 21

St. Mark's Lutheran Church cordially invites you to attend a Special Screening of the film “**RENT**” on **Monday, November 21 at 6:30 p.m.** at the **Galaxy Theater on Van Ness at Sutter**. Chris Columbus directed and produced the film, and scenes were filmed in St. Mark's historic Sanctuary. Based on Puccini's classic opera La



Boheme, Jonathan Larson's revolutionary rock opera “**RENT**” tells the story of a group of bohemians struggling to live and pay their rent against the gritty background of New York's East Village.

Thanksgiving Eve Worship at St. Mark's

Wednesday, November 23, 7:00 p.m.
in the U.L.C. auditorium

Join us for worship - giving thanks for all of God's generous and bountiful blessings in our lives. Our international intern, Anke Gebhard, from Germany will be our preacher. Pie and coffee fellowship will follow in the Fireside room. Make this lovely worship service one of your Thanksgiving traditions.



Also, members of St. Mark's are invited to attend an **Interfaith Thanksgiving service** at Congregation Emanu-El (2 Lake St.) on Thanksgiving Day at 10:30 a.m. Join others from the interfaith community for a time of prayer and thanksgiving.

Come watch RENT with us and help us restore our beautiful Sanctuary. **Proceeds will go to St. Mark's church building renovation.** Bring your family, friends and co-workers to watch RENT with us before the movie's formal release.

Send a check or money order payable to **St. Mark's Lutheran Church** for **\$20 per person** by November 14th to St. Mark's Lutheran Church, 1111 O'Farrell Street, San Francisco, CA 94109, or order tickets online at

www.stmarks-sf.org/rent.htm

Parking is available in the church parking lot, and childcare will be provided in the church nursery. For more information, call the church office.





Reflection from Pastor Elizabeth

As I write this reflection, Cancun has been battered by Hurricane Wilma and Florida is bracing for another direct hit. Earthquakes have devastated regions of Pakistan, Afghanistan, and India; and residents of Louisiana and Mississippi are only beginning to comprehend the difficulty of starting their lives over. The poorest of the poor are especially vulnerable when disasters strike.

As people of faith, we reach out to help and care for our neighbors, whether they live across the apartment hall or around the world. We who live in abundance and have all our needs met have much to share with those who struggle for clean water, their next meal, and a blanket to wrap around a child.

These statistics place the needs of the poor immediately in front of us:

- 800,000,000 people worldwide are chronically undernourished and 1,200,000,000 people live on less than \$1.00 per day.
- 30,000,000 people in the United States, **including 13,000,000 children** cannot afford an adequate and balanced diet.

(source – E.L.C.A.)

The Church Council has discussed designating the year 2006 as the year we focus all our efforts in bringing good news to the poor. Through the work of our Peace and Justice committee, there will be special Adult Forums and education on hunger and poverty issues. The Social Ministry Committee will invite you to participate in various servant projects throughout our community. Our preaching, teaching and liturgies will lift up bringing good news to the poor.

In the upcoming year, we will celebrate the enormous accomplishment of the completion of the retrofit. (cont.)

Reflection (cont.)

We are reminded that our newly retrofitted church building is a means for our ministries - a place where we can embody and live out bringing good news to the poor, release to the captives, recovery of sight to the blind, setting at liberty those who are oppressed, and proclaiming the acceptable year of the Lord. Our celebrations will include focusing on the needs of the community around us – especially those impoverished and facing famine.

Let us sing out and ring out that the year 2006 will be the acceptable year of the Lord as we seek in all that we do – in worship and our ministries - to truly bring good news to the poor.

In Christ,
Pastor Elizabeth Ekdale

- Renovation News -

The work continued on the church building as Plant Construction uncovered some surprising evidence of expedient methods used in 1894, such as the bending of the balcony's steel beams to make them fit the space! A painting team surveyed existing surfaces to determine how best to restore the original look to the sanctuary. Layers of brick have been removed to allow for the installation of concrete walls in some areas, the slate roofing is being removed and the roof trusses are being fortified. The concrete installation will create a "building within a building" that will reinforce the beautiful old brick that graces the outside of the church. Steel dowels have been placed to tie the existing brick to the concrete in the exterior walls, and the floors have been reinforced with new wood blocking.

Periodic tours of the site continue to allow church members to view the progress of the renovation, and video coverage of the work is often shown (cont. on next page)

News & Events



Renovation News (cont.)

during Coffee Hour after the 11:00 a.m. service.

The October 9 opening of the time capsule brought a surprise; the box and contents came



not from 1894, but from 1863! It had been moved with the congregation from the original Sankt Markus Kirche on Union Square, and contained San Francisco newspapers in German and English, a German hymnal, a copy of the

1530 Augsburg confession, and a 1863 silver half-dollar coin. The opening was covered by local press both in print and on television, which has helped to focus public attention on the Forward in Faith Campaign to refurbish St. Mark's Church.

For more information, go to www.stmarks-sf.org, and click on the Renovation box.

RENOVATION TOURS

Members of St. Mark's have the 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.



Upcoming tour dates:

Sunday, November 20
Sunday, December 18

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.

We Can End World Hunger!

Special Hunger Presentation
Sunday, November 20
10:00 a.m. in the Fireside Room

Elisa grins and runs and skips around the dirt yard in front of her family's humble home in Mozambique.

Two years ago Elisa was not running or skipping. She was an extremely malnourished little girl. For two years, the maize that her mother and father grew had withered and died; there was no food for the family. Elisa's father left the family to try to find work in the city. Her mother, Celestina, spent her days searching for food and water for Elisa and her six siblings. Her neighbors were all in similar dire circumstances: Life expectancy in Mozambique is 37 years.

Today Elisa skips, and she and her siblings have a hope, thanks to World Hunger gifts to the



World Hunger Appeal support around the

future with the ELCA Appeal. Your World Hunger support efforts

help families break the chronic cycle of hunger and poverty.

Come to a special **Adult Forum** presentation on Sunday November 20 at 10:00 a.m. Hear **ELCA World Hunger activists Edie and Denny Lott** as they describe how we in the ELCA can "make hunger history" in our lifetime.

Questions? Contact Margaret McLean or Mary Ritter (510-895-0336). See the "World Hunger" listings on the **Adult Forum** page.

News & Events



All Saints Sunday, November 6, 2005

In memoriam:

Mary Davis Ethel Helms Alan Gerold
Bill Krupski Daniel Kwong
Gwen Lemone Marybelle Smith

St. Mark's neighborhood Emergency Preparedness

In light of the devastation of the recent hurricanes, St. Mark's is assessing our emergency plans. We know it is a matter of when, not if, a major earthquake will occur.

We are putting together emergency kits in order to be prepared to serve the wider community, church staff, neighbors, residents of Martin Luther Tower, St. Mark's members, Urban Life Center tenants and anyone in need who may find themselves at St. Mark's when disaster strikes. We're gathering food, water, first aid supplies, blankets and other essentials to be on hand when an emergency happens.

Do you have an emergency kit ready to use at home? In your car? Check out these valuable websites for tips and items to have on hand.

www.redcross.org and www.72hours.org

Rest assured that we are doing everything we can do at St. Mark's to be prepared for the next earthquake and/or emergency. We encourage you to do the same.

FROM OUR TEACHING PARISH STUDENT

In the midst of this fall season, I wanted to inform the St. Mark's community of my recent change in plans. After much deliberation, I have decided to take a break from my theological studies. This was not a decision that I came to hastily. As you may know, I moved straight from college to seminary, and last semester I felt particularly worn out from writing papers and reading textbooks. Additionally, my summer clinical pastoral education experience has put some topics in the forefront of my mind, ones that I would like to devote time and energy to.

At the end of October, I am moving to the Sioux Falls, South Dakota area. I hope to find a computer technical support position and spend time with a friend of mine living the area. My plan is to return to theological studies next fall.

I want to thank St. Mark's for allowing me to be a part of it's community. I have enjoyed getting to know the St. Mark's family, and I have learned much from my time with you. Thank you all for your encouragement, patience, and helpfulness.

In peace,
Dave Hettlinger

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY INTERFAITH BUILD

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

The following volunteer dates have been designated specifically for the many San Francisco communities of faith supporting this project. **January 28th is 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. Volunteer times are from 8:30 to 4:00 with a break for lunch. Volunteers will work rain or shine, so be prepared for the weather. Check your calendars now and sign up ASAP. This experience will change your life.



- Joleen Caron

SF Volunteer Dates

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

Worship



THANKSGIVING, ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS 2005

WORSHIP INFORMATION

Thanksgiving Eve Worship

Wednesday, November 23 at 7:00 p.m.
Pie and Coffee Fellowship to follow

Thanksgiving Day

Interfaith Worship Service

Thursday, November 24 at 10:30 a.m.
at Temple Emanu-El

Midweek Advent Services

Wednesday, November 30 and
December 14, 7:00 p.m.

*Joint worship at St. Mary's Cathedral
- and -*

Wednesday, December 7 & 21, 7:00 pm
Holden Evening Prayer at St. Mark's

Christmas Eve Services

Saturday, December 24, 2005

5:00 p.m.: Christmas Pageant and
Holy Communion

8:00 p.m.: Lessons and Carols

11:00 p.m.: Candlelight Choral Eucharist

Christmas Day

Sunday, December 25, 2005

Festive Choral Eucharist at 10:00 a.m.

New Year's Day

Sunday, January 1, 2006

9:00 a.m.: Communion Service with
Children's Time

11:00 a.m.: Choral Eucharist

Regular Sunday Worship Schedule

In the Urban Life Center

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

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

A Service of

Prayer & Healing

Sunday, November 20 at 9:00 a.m.

A special healing service will be held at the 9:00 a.m. worship service Sunday, November 20. If you or a loved one are in need of physical or emotional healing, this service is especially for you. This service will offer special prayers and anointing for healing for those who desire. Holy Communion will be served. Come and experience the healing power of God's Spirit!

Sacred Acts at St. Mark's

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

September 18

Baptism of Matthew Robert Lloyd

Senior Ministries



ST. MARK'S AND MARTIN LUTHER TOWER SENIOR MINISTRIES



Back by popular demand:

HALF MOON BAY WITH LUNCH AT BARBARA'S FISH TRAP Friday, November 18 leaving at 11:00 a.m.

Spanishtown, or Half Moon Bay as we know it, is the oldest settlement in San Mateo County, dating back to the 1840's. Traces of its past are visible in the many historic buildings as you explore the communities that make up the coast-



side. Half Moon Bay and the coastside are proud of their floriculture center where roadside stands sell locally grown artichokes, greens, root vegetables, beans and herbs. You cannot top the fresh seafood available everywhere in restaurants like **Barbara's Fish Trap**, where we will have lunch.

SENIOR LUNCHEON NOVEMBER 16

Dean will be serving up another of his fabulous lunches on Wednesday, November 16 at 12 noon. Watch the weekly bulletin and the website for details!

Festive Senior Christmas Dinner



Friday, December 9 at 5:00 p.m.

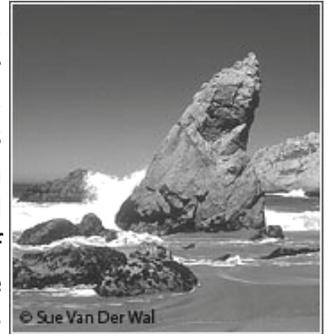
Join St. Mark's and Martin Luther Tower Seniors for a Christmas dinner, holiday music and carol singing on December 9 at 5:00 p.m. in the auditorium.

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

POINT REYES WITH LUNCH AT THE PINE CONE DINER

**Wednesday, December 14
leaving at 10:30 a.m.**

Point Reyes National Seashore is located just an hour's drive from San Francisco. It's a sanctuary for myriad plant and animal species and for the human spirit — for discovery, inspiration, solitude, and recreation — and exists as a reminder of the human connection to the land. Point Reyes contains unique elements of biological and historical interest in a spectacularly scenic panorama of thunderous ocean breakers, open grasslands, bushy hill-sides and forested ridges. The biological diversity stems from a favorable location in the middle of California and the natural occurrence of many distinct habitats. We will stop for lunch at the All-American *Pine Cone Diner* in Point Reyes Station. Most entrees are under \$10.00.



All of Point Reyes National Seashore's Visitor Centers are stroller-accessible. Point Reyes also has numerous accessible paths to various points of interest.

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

Parents with Kidlettes



Parents with Kidlettes meets on Sunday mornings at 10:00 a.m. in the Lower Lobby of the Urban Life Center.

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 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. If you are interested in enrolling your child in Sunday School or have any questions, please call Gail Culp at (415) 647-0290.



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

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

*Approved at St. Mark's Congregational Meeting
January 31, 2005*

St. Mark's has developed policies and procedures to ensure a safe environment for the congregation, free from abuse. Pastors, nursery staff, Sunday School teachers and youth workers have recently participated in training sessions with Dr. Kibbie Ruth of Kyros Ministry. Pastors and paid staff members who work with children are mandatory reporters of child abuse and neglect. Specific policies are being implemented regarding 1) expectations of staff and volunteers, 2) standards of behavior and a "two-adult rule" when working with youth, 3) hiring procedures for all staff, including criminal background checks, and 4) a specific policy in the event that a registered sex offender visits or joins the congregation.

The members of St. Mark's are motivated to develop these procedures because we are entrusted with the spiritual, educational and moral development of our children and youth.

Questions about the "Safe Congregation" policies may be directed to the pastors or the Human Resources Committee.

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)
Holiday Dinner at
Chenery Park Restaurant
Friday, December 2 at 6:30 p.m.

This winter's SMART holiday dinner will be in cozy Glen Park (Pr. Christian's neighborhood) as we meet at *Chenery Park Restaurant*—which has evolved into one of the most stylish places in the Bay Area for homey American food! Who can resist well-prepared comfort food during the holiday season? Just think of all the wonderful desserts: A gingerbread cake cooked in individual bund pans is served with a scoop of pumpkin ice cream in the middle and a



drizzle of butterscotch around the plate. There's a warm apple pie, topped with golden pastry with an apple shape cut into the top. There a lot of other wonderful "homey" menu items with an interesting "San Francisco twist", with a simple, yet elegant menu that will satisfy even the most eclectic of palates. Michael Bauer, San Francisco Chronicle Food editor writes: "Service, like the food, has found a nice compromise between professionalism and the casualness needed to make neighbors feel at home.



Holiday Dinner (cont.)

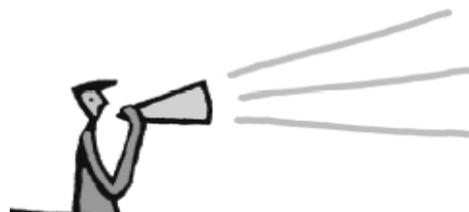
For more info, menu and prices check out the website. www.chenerypark.com. Meet other nice folks from St. Mark's community and don't forget to wear your Santa hat for this dinner! Chenery Park Restaurant is located at 683 Chenery St. (at Diamond St.) in San Francisco.

Please RSVP to your evite or call Pr. Christian at 415-928-7770 to reserve a seat!

S.M.A.R.T events are open to members, friends, guests, partners and spouses! You can subscribe to the group mailing list at StMarksSMART@yahoo.com. For more info on the SMART events check your evites or call Pr. Christian.



No Experience Necessary BIBLE STUDY



Everyone's Welcome!

Join other young adults for a new concept of bible study each Wednesday at 6:30 p.m. through November 16 in the Fireside Room. 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

Adult Ministries

Members and friends of St. Mark's meet Sunday mornings at 10:00 a.m. 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:

NOVEMBER 6 - Meet Anke Gebhard, Our International Intern from Germany

Come and meet Anke Gebhard from the Protestant Church of the Palatinate who will be with us as she does an international internship program in order to get to know the ecclesiastical structure and spiritual life in U.S churches. She studied theology at the Universities of Heidelberg and Mainz and is currently completing her practical training to become a pastor. Come and welcome our international intern.



NOVEMBER 13 & 20 - WE CAN END WORLD HUNGER!

The ELCA Church-wide Assembly in Orlando resoundingly passed a "World Hunger Memorial" acknowledging the consensus that we can now end chronic hunger for the first time in human history. The Assembly asked that we confront the scandal of hunger, commit to the goals of the ELCA World Hunger Appeal, and suggested specific congregational, synod and church-wide goals. Come to these Forums to hear about how we at St. Mark's can further the goal of ending world hunger! We will have a presentation from ELCA World Hunger activists Edie and Kenny Lott on Sunday, November 20th.



NOVEMBER 27 - THE LECTIONARY

It's the beginning of a new church year, and we start using a new lectionary (cycle of lessons used in worship). Pr. Christian Jenernt will lead our class on the history, tradition and background and rationale of our new lectionary, used by most Protestants and Catholics, and we will explore its use in congregational and personal worship.

Adult Forums



DECEMBER 4, 11 & 18 - John's Gospel and Eliot's Four Quartets— Dr. Peter Weltner

Dr. Peter Weltner will devote these Sundays to two closely related topics: the proclamation of the incarnation in the first chapter of John's gospel and T. S. Eliot's profoundly incarnational poetics in Four Quartets, begun in 1935 and completed during the Second World War. Having read John's first chapter with care, we'll compare it to the opening chapters of Matthew, Mark and Luke. Then we'll attend to how John's presentation of the incarnation influenced Eliot's poem, particularly its experiences of the intersection of the timeless with time in each of the four poems' first movements.

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

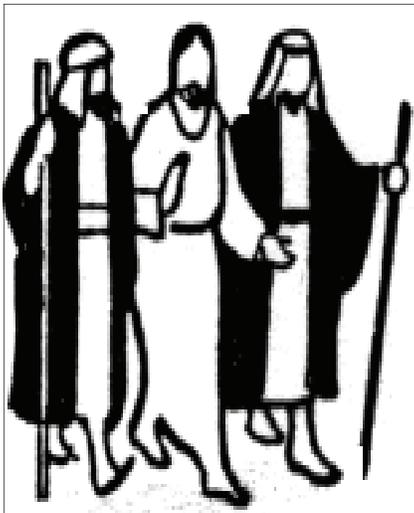


ST. MARK'S SECOND ANNUAL MEN'S RETREAT

"ON THE ROAD TO EMMAUS"

AT PLTS 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 19th 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

MEN'S RETREAT (CONT.)

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.)

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 deanatkinson@excite.com.

For more information contact Pr. Christian Jennert at jennert@stmarks-sf.org.

WELCA

(WOMEN OF THE
EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN
CHURCH IN AMERICA)

An Invitation to All Women
Tuesdays, November 8 &
December 13

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



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

Church Life



St. Mark's Awarded Lilly Grant



It is with great joy that we announce that **St. Mark's has been awarded a grant of \$32,665 from the Lilly Endowment** in support of our sabbatical renewal program for Pastor Ekdale!

The Lilly Endowment is a private philanthropic foundation that "seeks to strengthen Christian congregations by providing an opportunity for pastors to step away briefly from the persistent obligations of daily parish life and to engage in a period of renewal and reflection." This year, the Lilly Endowment awarded 124 congregations grants up to \$45,000 each to send their pastor on a sabbatical.



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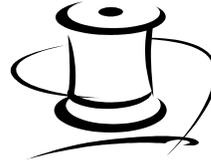
The Church Council was pleased to pass a resolution supporting the three-month sabbatical, which will begin on April 18, 2006. The grant application process was a competitive one, and the awarding of it is a testament to the **eight years of faithful service to St. Mark's by Pastor Elizabeth**. Thanks go out to Laurel Troner and Margaret McLean, who devoted many hours to the grant-writing process.

As she celebrates and honors the Sabbath, the Pastor will take time to rest, read, reflect, worship, play, rejuvenate, and renew her relationships with herself, her family and God. More details



St. Mark's Stitchers

Be part of our new project! We are now knitting infant caps for midwife kits, and 4-foot long bandages. We will mail these to Global Health Ministries in Minnesota, and they will send them to the Lutheran medical missionaries around the world. See their website



the Lutheran missionaries around the world. See at

www.ghm.org

We have patterns and yarn and needles. Please talk to Marge Okuley or Mary Ritter or Linda Jackson. We meet at 10:00 a.m. on Sundays in the Urban Life Center.



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 Jenner. Everyone welcome!

Everyone welcome!

Everyone welcome!



Church Life



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

NOVEMBER Birthdays

Wentker, Jo Ann	11/02
Brohm, Robert	11/04
Childs, Eunice	11/04
St. John, Andrew	11/04
Murphy, Minao	11/09
Breitling, Christopher	11/12
Grant-McPhail, Nedra	11/12
Liu, Maria	11/12
Bock, Barbara	11/15
Larson, Robert K.	11/17
Staubli, George	11/18
Hurley, Catherine	11/19
Lehmann, Monica	11/19
Ness, Kay	11/20
Nirenberski, Austin	11/20
Varian, Blade	11/21
Coulter, Christopher	11/22
Burdulis, Sophia	11/25
Benson, Tom	11/26
Matzke, Derek	11/27
Jackson, Linda	11/28
DeSpain, Larry	11/29
Heden, Rune	11/30
Walter, Anna	11/30

December Birthdays

Baum, Kent	12/01
Bartz, Stephan	12/03
Culp, Calvin	12/04
Seis, Jennifer	12/05
Troner, Laurel	12/05
Brohm, Lynette	12/06
Baum, Natalie	12/07
Zeibot, Felix	12/07
Hart, Jenny	12/08
Ward, Grady	12/09
Nahnsen, Charles	12/10
Beck, Sarah	12/11
Hohl, Kenneth	12/11
Jacobsen, Kathleen	12/11
Au, Howard	12/12
Jacobsen, Robert	12/12
Nirenberski, Carson	12/12
Okuley, Marge	12/12
Morris, Ann	12/13
Breice, Karl	12/17
Gutierrez, Louis	12/19
Atkinson, Jr., Dean	12/20
Schneyder, Helmut	12/21
Krefting, Steve	12/22
Tellschow, Marlo	12/23
Pope, Hilda	12/26
Hanna, Olivia	12/27
DeSpain, Kent	12/30
Jordan, Alexandra	12/30

Church Life



From the Nelsons in Cameroon...

Dear Beloved Partners,

We Nelsons are safely back in our home in Ngaoundere. We arrived in Africa without a hitch - then our adjustment back to life here began. We were unable to catch three different flights up north as they were cancelled at the last minute. We were happy to get on the 4th plane after 3 days and much pushing, yelling and "negotiation".

We arrived in Garoua after midnight and awoke to no electricity or water. Luckily our car is air-conditioned, making the 4-hour drive home quite tolerable. It was frustrating but we were able to laugh at our frustration and find joy in the lovely green of the rainy season, the big hugs from our small mission family and the warm, appreciative welcome back from the Cameroon community. We are both back to work and eager to be of service.

We extend our enormous thanks to you, our beloved partners, for your hospitality during our summer visit to the States. It was truly a joy to meet you in person. We received much encouragement and rejuvenation from our fellowship together. Thank you in particular for the extra financial support that made all the travels possible.

Here are two updates...

1. Our website <camnel.org> remains "under construction" and therefore not accessible yet. Please continue to communicate with us by this email cameroonnelsons@aol.com.

From the Nelsons (cont.)

2. Our Level II projects (child nutrition, mobile surgery for the bush, basic cancer treatment) are awaiting a few modifications and signatures with our mission board but should be open soon for specific sponsorship. We will notify you as soon as all is ready. Thanks for generous considerations and patience.

We'll resume our quarterly newsletter in November so look for news from the Nelsons in Cameroon, where God blesses us richly.

In His peace, with our love,
Holly & Tim



Sunday Coffee Hour Committees for November and December

November 6

Tom & Elizabeth Benson and Susan Stone

November 13

Kathleen & Kurt Jacobsen

November 20

Calvin & Gail Culp and Dean Atkinson

November 23 (Thanksgiving Eve)

Shirley and Walter Capp, Kurt Putnam and
Louis Gutierrez

November 27

John Elford and Marge Okuley

December 4

Donna Dindia and Chuck Lewis

December 11

Karl & Tom Breice and Marie-Jose Baum

December 18

Barbara Bock and Jim Dallas

December 25

Yolanda Rivas and Nadine Robinson



Administration

TREASURER'S REPORT

St. Mark's Year-to-Date General
Operating Budget as of September 30, 2005

Budgeted Income	\$ 314,203
Actual Income	367,276
Income surplus vs. Budget	53,073
Budgeted Expenses	329,995
Actual Expenses	331,231
Expense savings vs. Budget	(1,236)
Actual Net Income Through 9/30/2005 (Actual Income minus Actual Expenses)	\$ 36,045

St. Mark's has been blessed to receive **more income than was budgeted** through September 30, 2005. This is due equally to General Fund giving exceeding budget and the money received from renting St. Mark's church building to the film production of Rent, which was not budgeted. The Rent income is a one-time blessing; however, the continuation of strong member giving is our hope for St. Mark's expanding ministries and our church retrofit. On a year-to-date basis, member giving to the General Fund was \$21,700 higher than this time last year.

The categories of **expenses that we planned for are actually under budget**, enabling St. Mark's to absorb certain unbudgeted costs, such as the church move-related expenses and the implementation of the new sabbatical/clergy renewal program.

As of September 30, 2005, year-to-date stewardship commitments amounting to \$100,000 remain to be fulfilled by December 31, 2005. Consistent with prior years, St. Mark's receives about \$50,000 in giving just in the month of December and thus our budget reflects this. Thank you everyone – members, friends, and visitors – for your generous financial support of St. Mark's and it's ministries in 2005. Note that \$34,000 of the actual giving to date came from members who did not pledge to the 2005 stewardship. Pledging early in the 2006 stewardship campaign will help us plan for growing ministries in the 2006 budget.

- Debra Varian, Treasurer

eScrip

Plan your Holidays with eScrip!

For those of you St. Mark-ers who have already registered your plastic -- your Safeway, Macys, debit and credit cards -- with eScrip fundraising program: Thank you! Please remember these stores as well as other merchants such as Whole Foods, Andronico's, Eddie Bauer, Office Max, and Big 5 Sports Store when you're shopping for your holiday meals and gifts. Every few months, eScrip will donate a check to St. Mark's that represents a total percentage of purchases made at participating stores.

And for those of you who have been intending to register with eScrip but haven't, intend no more. Cross it off your "To Do" list by going to www.escrip.com with your plastic cards by your side and entering St. Mark's Lutheran Church (Group ID# 15855652) as the beneficiary. (A reminder to parents: If you are already registered with eScrip through your child's school, you can also add St. Mark's--just go to "My eScrip" and click on "Update my Group Selection.")

Please contact me at 415-731-4287 or at kamcguire@sbcglobal.net if you have any questions or don't have access to a computer and would like to participate. On behalf of St. Mark's Ministries, I thank you so much for your support of this fundraising program. May you all be graced with safe and blessed holidays with your loved ones

- Kristi McGuire, eScrip Coordinator

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—Forms are available in the church office. We will happily mail you one, just call the office at





Administration

St. Mark's Evangel ONLINE

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

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

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

JANUARY—FEBRUARY EVANGEL DEADLINE IS DECEMBER 10th!

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

ST. MARK'S IS A

"RECONCILING IN CHRIST" CONGREGATION

St. Mark's is one of over 315 congregations, 22 synods and 12 organizations across the ELCA and ELCIC (Canada) which have declared that lesbian and gay people are equally welcome to join fully in the worship and life of this Christ-centered community. For more information, please contact Steve Krefting at (415) 826-3124 or krefting@stmarks-sf.org or contact Pastor Elizabeth Ekdale at (415) 928-7770, x. 230 or Ekdale@stmarks-sf.org. Also visit the Lutherans Concerned RIC website at <http://www.lcna.org/ric.shtm>.

Our Church Council

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www.stmarks-sf.org

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

St. Mark's is a growing Christian community rooted in tradition and open to new expressions. Responding to God's compassionate love, we reach out in service to the community and the world. With openness of heart and spirit, we welcome all.

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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		

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

