



ANNUAL REPORT 2022



Evangelical
Lutheran Church
in America

St Mark's
LUTHERAN CHURCH

A MESSAGE FROM PRESIDING BISHOP ELIZABETH EATON



Dear friends in Christ,

We have seen many changes throughout the years and throughout the world. Sometimes we've been left yearning for the days when things didn't feel so complicated. Other times, we have seen something new happen and have asked, "Why did this take so long?" The church has been through its own changes as well. Some of these have left us wishing for simpler times while others have us waiting for even more to come about.

But, dear church, God still is unchanging. God's love is still the foundation on which the church was built. While we have seen many changes, both in the world and at the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, the eternal love of God and the good news that dwells with Christ's death and resurrection continue to provide hope for everyone. This is why our mission remains steadfast, whether that is through our traditional mission work in places near and far or from new ventures and visions that encourage us to think of different ways to reach even more people.

The writer of Hebrews reminds us: "Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God" (13:16). That could not be truer in the work we have been doing in each expression of the church. Your gifts continue to benefit the good work of spreading the good news throughout your communities, your synods and the whole church. We are all answering the call to continue to do good work with the help of your support, whether that is through your resources, your time or your talents.

I am grateful for your generous support of each expression of the church. God calls all of us to continue to do the good work, and you continue to answer that call. We also continue to join you in that call and will remain true to looking toward God's unchanging promise. There is still much change and learning that will come before us, but God's steadfast love energizes us for the work God is still doing in the world through this church.

In Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Elizabeth A. Eaton". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

The Rev. Elizabeth A. Eaton
Presiding Bishop
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

“Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God”

(Hebrews 13:16).

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

OPENING LITURGY

Spirit of God, Descend upon My Heart

Recognizing that our faith is a living, busy, active and mighty thing, may the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with each of you.

And also with you.

Teach us to love you with all our heart, soul, mind and strength.

Receive our prayer, O God.

Descend on our hearts, that we may love others in the ways Jesus loves us.

Receive our prayer, O God.

Empower us to be enthusiastic in pursuing your vision for our congregation.

Receive our prayer, O God.

Move us to engage issues in our community in Christlike ways, and to pursue deep and authentic relationships with those with whom we serve and partner.

Receive our prayer, O God.

Strengthen us to face the barriers we encounter in doing your work, learning to work with others amid disagreement.

Receive our prayer, O God.

Give us the ability to adapt to the cultural, economic and social changes that occur in the neighborhoods we serve.

Receive our prayer, O God.

Guide us to be a healthy congregation that learns from its failures as well as its successes and offers wisdom to others.

Receive our prayer, O God.

As we strive to become the church that we proclaim to be, raise up leaders who focus on the gospel of freedom, forgiveness and reconciliation as given to us through God's indescribable act of love in the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Renew us daily in our baptism, that we may discover vitality in our relationships with you, each other and those we serve in the world.

Amen.

1 Spir - it of God, de - scend up - on my heart;
2 I ask no dream, no proph - et ec - sta - sies,
3 Have you not bid me love you, God and King;
4 Teach me to love you as your an - gels love,

wean it from earth, through all its puls - es move;
no sud - den rend - ing of the veil of clay,
all, all your own, soul, heart, and strength, and mind?
one ho - ly pas - sion fill - ing all my frame:

stoop to my weak - ness, strength to me im - part,
no an - gel vis - i - tant, no op - 'ning skies;
I see your cross; there teach my heart to cling,
the bap - tism of the heav'n - de - scend - ed dove,

and make me love you as I ought to love.
but take the dim - ness of my soul a - way.
Oh, let me seek you and, oh, let me find!
my heart an al - tar, and your love the flame.

Text: George Croly, 1780-1860

Music: MORECAMBE, Frederick C. Atkinson, 1841-1897

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Interim Pastor Update

REV. LYLE BECKMAN



Serving as your Interim Pastor has truly been an honor and great joy. Thank you for the opportunity to accompany you during this period of pastoral transition. When I began mid-August, 2021 no one knew how long this interim might last, but we imagined 18 to 24 months.

Times of pastoral transition can be challenging and even frightening. Who will become our next lead pastor? How much longer before they arrive? What will change at St. Mark's after they arrive? Will I like them, or relate well to them? Indeed, many more concerns could be added to this list. All these questions and concerns are valid, but we remember that God is active in this interim process—leading, guiding, and enlightening us not only in regard to the calling of a specific pastor, but in the regular engagement in ministry even while we wait for this pastor. What are your worries moving forward? Where do you find your grounding and strength during this period of transition?

Ideally, one participates and connects with a community of faith or congregation for several reasons: majestic worship, inspiring music, a variety of programs, various small/interest groups, affirming core values, opportunities for learning, service and witness, social interaction, and more. There might also be deep, long-lasting and meaningful relationships with other members and friends that keep you connected. In what ways are you connected to the community of St. Mark's? How important are these connections to you?

As we gather together for our annual meeting, I invite you to reflect on these questions; remember a few of the accomplishments of 2022; appreciate some of the highlights of our life together as a community of faith; and on our hopes for 2023 and beyond.

During this past year a Transition Team began to prayerfully consider their task of gathering data and information. A series of Adult Forums, surveys and conversations provided data to draft the Ministry Site Profile. They also engaged the congregation to reflect on these questions: Who are we, who are our neighbors, and to what is God calling us. Later in the year our call committee was installed to begin the next phase of this interim period, that of interviewing candidates.

In addition to the work of the transition team and call committee, several other amazing things happened in 2022, including:

- The adoption of our **Land Acknowledgment Statement**

- A **Confirmation Class** leading to Affirmation of Baptism of 7 young adults
- Hosting the Interfaith **Thanksgiving Service** (with Speaker Nancy Pelosi & Mayor London Breed)
- Our **Mural** "All Creatures Great and Small" was completed and blessed
- A series of **Jazz Vespers** was initiated
- The branding of "**St. Mark's Square**" with several community events
- Megan McIver became our "**Ministry in Context**" student
- Prayer services for the **Healing of Ukraine** were held (with prayer squares)
- Our live **Christmas Pageant** returned.

In addition to worship, our ministry together was blessed in several ways, including:

- Being a **Watering Congregation** for the Center for Climate Justice and Faith
- Continued support for the residents of **Martin Luther Tower**
- Supporting our sister congregation **Iglesia Luterana Cordero de Dios**
- Participation in the **Interfaith Food Pantry**
- Ongoing meetings of **WELCA** (Women of the ELCA), Knitting Ministry Group, Young Adults Group, Sunday School, Ministry Teams, and committees—all working behind the scenes to support our congregational life, and to reach out in love and service to others
- **Regular events** such as Oktoberfest, Blessing of the Animals, and "God's work, our hands" Sunday
- Our commitment to support the non-profits who use the **Urban Life Center**
- Our commitment to our **ministry partners**, the Sierra Pacific Synod, and the ELCA through our offerings and direct financial support.

So, what can we look forward to in 2023 and beyond? Some things we can be fairly certain of, such as: calling a new lead pastor, having the Winter Shelter Return, a new Journeys in Faith class, breaking Ground for the Ella Rohlf's Place, and more. Perhaps we might even see:

- Expanded ministry to youth and families with children
- Upgrades to our virtual experiences
- More Jazz and alternative worship services
- The establishment of a Capital Campaign for maintenance of the sanctuary

- Planting an ethnobotany garden with native species
- More bible study, small groups, and outreach possibilities
- Evangelism, Stewardship, and Congregational Life strategies
- A St. Mark's Music Series
- More St. Mark's Square events
- Expanded staff to support the work we do together.

Serving as your Interim Pastor has truly been an honor and great joy. God's spirit has blessed our ministry at St. Mark's and our community as a whole. Let us continue to work to strengthen our congregation and respond in faith to these

questions: Who are we, who are our neighbors, and to what is God calling us.

AN INTERIM PRAYER

Loving God, be with us and guide us during this time of transition and discernment. Fill our leaders with your wisdom. Keep us mindful of the work you would have us do. Lead us and guide us, O God, to be about the work of establishing your reign here on earth as the search for a new pastor continues. Bless all who have taken on extra responsibilities and fill them with a sense of your love and presence. We pray in the name of Jesus Christ our Savior.

Respectfully submitted,
Lyle J Beckman, Interim Pastor



Director of Music Update

DR. TIMOTHY ZERLANG

The transitions begun in 2021 continued through 2022. I have been through several clergy call processes in my prior parish and I have come to know that while these transitions can be difficult times for a congregation, they can also be very exciting times. I am eager to see what 2023 brings to the St Mark's community.

As always, I am very grateful for the volunteers that serve in our Choir so faithfully. Our singers may be diminished a bit in numbers, but not in dedication. I am equally grateful for the support shown by the congregation in the 2022 budget, support that enabled me to pursue hiring professional singers as section leaders in our choir. While I have only been able to identify and hire two section leaders (Soprano and Alto), their leadership has been indispensable. The quality of our choral offerings and leadership in

worship has been greatly improved and stabilized, and my stress levels have significantly lessened. I hope to add two additional section leaders in 2023.

The instruments of St. Mark's (the Taylor and Boody organ and the Sauter grand piano, along with other instruments owned by the church) are all in good shape. The organ continues a very wise investment in the worship life of St. Mark's, and should be for years to come.

It has been my honor to serve as Director of Music at St. Mark's for this, my thirteenth year.



Respectfully submitted by Dr. Timothy Zerlang, Director of Music

Director of Operations Update

JOHN L. WRIGHT

This time last year I was sitting in what for me was a new office, in a new building, talking and listening to new people, discussing their functions and roles and how those roles would impact me in this new job. I wondered what the new year would hold and how the new job would engage and stretch my worldview. I was confident about what I knew; I was curious as to how what I did not know would be managed in this new environment. We have seen substantive changes in the church office staff; the Facilities Team has helped us manage daily functions on campus and we have successfully navigated the restructuring of building usage.

SUBSTANTIVE STAFF CHANGES

It is hard to overstate the historical importance of what was the Events Administrator position. Deidre was a highly valued and effective member of the staff. There are moments in each week when I think of her and how she might make something events-related work for all of the stakeholders. The decision to eliminate this position and restructure things to include a full-time staff member with sales sensibilities was not one we approached without thinking through the consequences. The price of the ticket was that some things fell through the cracks and long-term renters saw us stumble. Working together we strategized and began a search for a suitable candidate for our new Sales and Marketing Manager position. Joanna Lopez joined the team as a result of this search.

The Event Host position is one that often is thinly covered by a small number of individuals who come and go. We had the good fortune this year to have Curtis Huth rejoin the staff after some time away. His return to the fold allowed us to cover events in ways that we may not have been able to do otherwise.

The nursery lost Gigi and we have struggled to find a suitable replacement. We now have two very good candidates that we believe will be excellent help as Edda Mai continues to set a high standard of childcare. The recent departure of Tony Hughes left us the gift of Lisa Sanchez after a detailed search for a replacement.

FACILITIES TEAM AND SECURITY CAMERAS

The Facilities Team has been indispensable over the last year. Their knowledge of the buildings and campus, relationships with vendors who are uniquely qualified to work on equipment at SMLC and their flexibility when it comes to onsite events all help the staff provide service at a high level.

Due to security issues on campus, we worked with Facilities to install security cameras inside the church, in the courtyard, garden area and in the front parking lot of the church. Using current lighting as hubs this was a very seamless process after research was completed. This unique visibility has been helpful when we have needed the services of SFPD. The cameras also serve as a great

deterrent as those who might behave in indecent ways may decide otherwise when they notice they are being filmed.

Among other things, Facilities helped us navigate the following:

- Inspection and Maintenance of the Boiler
- Elevator Fully Serviced
- Five Year Sprinkler Inspection
- Installation of New Security System (Bay Alarm)
- Renewal of Lease with Project Homeless Connect
- Extensive PG&E Parking Lot Project
- Smog Check for Church Van
- Cameras Inside and Outside of the Church Facilities

BUILDING USAGE

The non-profit organizations and others that returned to SMLC for rehearsals and performances (during a pandemic no less) are to be commended. The fact that building usage is well above the budgeted amount is a tribute to the respect that SMLC engenders in the larger San Francisco community.

CONCLUSION

On balance 2022 was a very productive year operationally for SMLC. I learned a great deal about SMLC and even more about myself in the process. Thank you to all of my teachers. We took some risks in the area of staffing and depended upon Facilities as appropriate, while maintaining and deepening relationships with customers and clients.

*Respectfully submitted by John L. Wright, M.A.,
Director of Operations*



Martin Luther Tower, Inc. Board

The Board of Trustees of Martin Luther Tower, Inc. (MLTI) is pleased to report on the 2022 activities.

- 1 Martin Luther Tower continues to be a wonderful residential facility with chaplaincy and activities provided by St. Mark's, social services provided by the Institute on Aging, along with resident services with an Activities Director and a Health Educator. Continued investment in the facility such as the window replacement project and apartment maintenance ensure our stewardship of the tower.
- 2 In 2023 we have planned for additional capital improvements including addressing the existing plumbing infrastructure and improvements to St. Mark's Square.
- 3 We also continue to develop the St. Mark's Square facilities maintenance program. When you visit you will see enhanced landscaping and on-site facility staff to ensure the safety and maintenance of the square.
- 4 We are in compliance with the host of regulations and agreements that again focus on the sustainability of the project.
- 5 The Urban Life Center continues to provide office and program space for like-minded nonprofit organizations providing important social services that energize the nature of St. Mark's Square and our community.
- 6 Our financial stewardship has allowed us to make a \$75,000 grant to support the ministries of St. Mark's Lutheran Church.
- 7 And along with St. Mark's Lutheran Church we celebrated the wonderful mural brightening St. Mark's Square.

Under the continued leadership of board members Barbara Engmann (Development Committee Chair) and Shannon

Cheng, and Jon Moeller, along with Pastor Beckman and Jeff Kohler (MLTI Executive Director), we continued our efforts during 2022 towards the development of the "Ella Rohffs Place" (the development will be built on the existing Ellis Street parking lot behind the church). A reminder that the ongoing development discussions continue to align with the St. Mark's Square Development Guiding Principles (provided by the SMLC Church Council):

- 1 To serve a special needs population
- 2 To serve as a community-oriented space for people who live and/or work in the area (based on St. Mark's Lutheran Church mission and community need)
- 3 To maximize the amount of space designated and utilized for St. Mark's Lutheran Church, St. Mark's ministries, and ministry partners (Night Ministry)
- 4 To consider the integration of the Square (space) with design for functionality, accessibility, and efficiency of foot-traffic, and the flow for St. Mark's office staff and ministries
- 5 To integrate and make accessible the design of the Square to increase the visibility of St. Mark's Lutheran Church
- 6 To serve as an inviting sanctuary for the community.
- 7 To sustain parking for St. Mark's Lutheran Church congregation

Highlights of the Ella Rohffs Place are provided in a joint report for the annual meeting from both St. Mark's Church Council and Martin Luther Tower, Inc.

Respectfully submitted by **Jerry Lundblad**,
President, Board of Trustees

Social Ministry

Thanks to St. Mark's members for walking with God's people in 2022!

St. Mark's provided meals in January 2022 for 60 to 70 men who slept in winter **Interfaith Homeless Shelter** at churches in San Francisco. We will host Shelter at St. Mark's from January 23 to February 12, 2023. 60 to 70 men will sleep in the Urban Life Center. We will prepare breakfast for them each morning and will jointly provide dinner with other congregations in the city. Thanks to the many volunteers who will make this happen!

St. Mark's **Racial Equity Team (RET)** members continued conversation in 2022 about dismantling racism and addressing white privilege at St. Mark's.

The St. Mark's Racial Equity Team seeks to build congregational awareness, solutions, and leadership for racial equity by generating faith-driven transformative ideas, education, information, and experiences. Rooted in the

foundation of Christ's teachings, we are committed to using our hearts, minds, and soul to confess our own racism and dismantle the systems and the culture of white supremacy by enacting antiracist policies in our congregation and in our community.

2022 Racial Equity Team activities:

St. Mark's is a "Watering Congregation" with the Center for Climate Justice and Faith at Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary with a focus on the intersection of racial and climate justice.

Racial Equity Team has received an endowment grant from St. Mark's Endowment to fund an ethno-botany garden on St. Mark's Square. The grant will also fund a member of St. Mark's to participate in the Center for Climate Justice and Faith workshop at Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary in 2023.

RET has continued conversation with Dr. Jonathan

Cordero, Executive Director, Association of Ramaytush Ohlone. A land acknowledgment has been written for St. Mark's Square, in consultation with Dr. Cordero; read it at stmarks-sf.org/about.



In December 2022, St. Mark's members donated Christmas gifts for children and blankets for adults at **Bernal Gateway**, a housing project of Lutheran Social Services in San Francisco. Thanks to the St. Mark's members who participated.



St. Mark's advocated in 2022 for hungry, impoverished, needy brothers and sisters in our neighborhoods, throughout the country, and around the world. St. Mark's members wrote letters with **Bread for the World** to congressional representatives and senators regarding hunger issues, both local as well as national and global. In 2023, St. Mark's will advocate with Bread about reauthorization the 2023 Farm Bill. Bread reminds us that the Farm Bill is "legislation that touches farms, food and climate and impacts us all". St. Mark's is a **Bread for the World Covenant Church**. See bread.org for more information.

St. Mark's volunteers continue to provide lovely fresh food to over 300 households at the **Interfaith Food Pantry**. See Interfaith Food Pantry report for more details.

We continue our accompanying relationship with our sister parish, **Cordero de Dios** in Soyapango, El Salvador.

We hold the Cordero de Dios and Santa Fe congregations and Pastor Rafael Menjivar and his family in our prayers. Because of the COVID pandemic and travel restrictions, we were again unable to visit Cordero in 2022, and Pastor Rafael and his wife Briseida were unable to come to visit us. We have continued regular phone calls with Pastor Rafael and Bris. We were delighted to hear that they have been able to continue to gather resources and staff and students for workshops including bakery skills, jewelry skills, math and English language reinforcement, and sexual and reproductive health. St. Mark's was able to

share \$4500 of unspent travel funds to support the workshops. We encourage the St. Mark's congregation to keep our Sister Parishes Cordero de Dios and Santa Fe in our prayers. A group from St. Mark's will hopefully travel to Soyapango again in November 2023. Consider joining the trip. Watch for information about the El Salvador Ministry.



In September 2022, St. Mark's hosted Pastor Christian Chavarria from the Salvadoran Lutheran Church for dinner and conversation. He brought us information about the work of the Lutherans in El Salvador. Watch for more information about how we can join the Synod to support ministries in El Salvador.



St. Mark's is a **Sanctuary Congregation**.

Genet and Marta, our refugee family, were able to move on to a new home with family in Indiana in 2022. They taught us so much about accompaniment and relationship with immigrants!

Our Sanctuary work in 2022 has focused on education about immigrants and refugees. During Lent 2022, St. Mark's Sunday School made Lenten Boxes for the congregation to use to make contributions to ELCA Disaster Response in Eastern Europe and Ukraine. More than \$1500 was raised. Sanctuary Team did an Adult Forum to lift up the work of the ELCA Disaster Response during Lent 2022, and then in June 2022 did a second Adult Forum, entitled "Act on your prayers" about the work of Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Services (LIRS) with Ukrainian refugees in Ukraine and in the United States.

Sanctuary Team members are exploring ways to work with Jewish Family and Children's Services and Catholic

Charities and Interfaith Movement for Human Integrity and the San Francisco Immigration Courts as they provide services to immigrants in our community.

We continue to include prayers for **Middle East Peace** and remember Christian friends in the Holy Land and Palestine. Members of St. Mark's participate in webinars and other advocacy activities presented by Bright Stars of Bethlehem.

For more information about advocacy for our brothers and sisters in the Holy Land, see brightstarsbethlehem.org.



We continue to support the work of **Rwandan Lutherans with People Improving Communities through Organizing in Rwanda (PICO-Rwanda, now Faith In Action International)**. Lutheran Pastor John Rutsindintwarane works with the poorest of the poor in Rwanda, walking with them, providing them dignity and helping them establish livelihoods. A third clinic was built in 2021 in Nyarubuye. In 2022, Rwandan organizers in Nyarubuye constructed a school and built a new road to the school. Truly faith in action!

St. Mark's knitters continue to make scarves and hats and prayer shawls and prayer squares for San Francisco Night Ministry and a variety of recipients in San Francisco. Our "Knitting and Handicraft Retreats" are a joy to experienced as well as novice knitters and handcrafters. All handcrafters and knitters are welcome to participate! If you are interested, contact Jeremy McClain.

Women of the ELCA (WELCA)

Our Purpose Statement: "As a community of women created in the image of God, called to discipleship in Jesus Christ, and empowered by the Holy Spirit, we commit ourselves to grow in faith, affirm our gifts, support one another in our callings, engage in ministry and action, and promote healing and wholeness in the church, the society, and the world."

The women of the ELCA from St. Paulus and St. Mark's meet monthly on the second Tuesday of the month, from 11am to 1pm. We meet for bible study and discussions, fellowship, prayer, lunch and support of our fellow sisters in Christ. All women are welcome and encouraged to join us. This past year we met each month on the Zoom format except for July. In July we had a special Conference 5 Sierra Pacific Synod WELCA educational program on Saturday, July 23rd. We had a luncheon, a fun raffle, and a dynamic speaker talk on the significant topic of "Human Trafficking." The event was open to all, and it was a good turnout.

In addition to our members who lead us in bible study, in April our Interim Pastor Lyle Beckman led us in a discussion of "A Lenten conversation concerning the church and the need for repentance, particularly around issues of racism." Bible study topics came from Gather magazine



St. Mark's Social Ministry will continue to walk with and minister to those in need here in San Francisco as well as throughout the country and around the world in 2023. All St. Mark's members are encouraged to participate.

Respectfully submitted by Mary Ritter, Chair

and included "Announcing the Reign of God," "Parables, banquets, and children," "Summer of rest and renewal," and "Jesus and nature."

Unfortunately, we lost two dear WELCA sisters this past year: Marge Okuley and Geraldine Bailey.

The knitting ministry continues to be supported by our group. Our members continue to knit scarves, hats and prayer squares for Night Ministry and others.

We donated a total of \$1,100.00 to the following organizations: Ammparo, Augusta Victoria Hospital in Jerusalem, Days for Girls International, Katie's Fund, Kerry's Kids, Rwanda School Project, San Francisco Night Ministries, San Francisco Safehouse for Women and the Lutheran Church in El Salvador Pastor's Pension fund.

CURRENT OFFICERS:

Gail Culp, Elaine Lanier-Bohan, Co-Presidents; Pam Ruh, Secretary; Suzanne Smith, Treasurer; Pam Dannenberg, Program Organizer; Donna Dindia, Sunshine Lady

Respectfully submitted by Elaine Lanier-Bohan, Chapter Co-President

WELCA Book Group

The WELCA book group met on the second Saturdays of the month from 10:00 a.m. to noon. All women are invited to come for study, discussion and fellowship. With the COVID pandemic we moved to a virtual Zoom meeting at our regular time. This year we read and discussed a rich variety of books while zooming together.

We looked at coming of age from the perspective of youth in Asian and Latino American cultures. *Last Night at the Telegraph Club* by Malinda Lo, *Gold Diggers* by Sathian Snjerna and *Breaking Through* by Francisco Jimenez showed us how culture, both foreign and domestic, can affect our youth. *Homegoing* by Yaa Gyasi expanded on the tug between cultures through the history of a family

that moves to America and one who stays in Ghana. We discussed *Steeped in Stories* by Mitali Perkins and how important stories are to us and enjoyed the story of *The Personal Librarian* by Marie Benedict. We also focused on John Lewis in his biography, *His Truth Is Marching On* by Jon Meacham and Native American indigenous wisdom by Robin Wall Kimmer. Most recently we read the newest mystery by Louise Penny, *A World of Curiosities*.

Please consider joining us! If you have any questions, please contact Suzanne Smith at 415.285.7438 or sjss85@comcast.net.

Respectfully submitted by **Suzanne Smith**, Coordinator

Food Pantry

St. Mark's continues to participate as a sponsor church of the Interfaith Food Pantry. The model has still evolved since the pandemic and we are now operating as a farmers market style pantry, as we did pre-pandemic, however we are entirely outdoors with the distribution. This has turned out to be a great change as it runs very smoothly and requires fewer volunteers and physical labor week to week.

The five churches who participate rotate every week on who is responsible for coordinating and staffing the pantry. We greatly appreciate the St. Mark's members and friends who volunteer on the St. Mark's weeks to serve our neighbors. We also rely on the volunteers from other churches and our community who show up faithfully week to week to round out the volunteers. It's been a special part of how the pantry has changed in the past years as the strength of the collective churches and community to make sure we are staffed. However, we would love to have

more St. Mark's members and friends continue to join us on our assigned dates.

St. Mark's financial contribution to the management of the pantry is \$1,000 per year; additionally, we donate \$2,000 to the Food Bank as a contribution to the cost of the food.

We look forward to continuing our support of the pantry. The pantry is held at Old First Presbyterian Church, 1751 Sacramento St. Parking at Old First Garage is free through validation. We begin unloading the food at 7:30 on Saturdays and finish around 11:30 and there is always lots of treats, coffee and camaraderie! If you would like to join us, please sign up at smlc.live/fp or reach out to us at rachelmboles@gmail.com and kellibroin@gmail.com.

Respectfully submitted by **Rachel Boles and Kelli Broin**



St. Mark's Endowment Committee

THE MINISTRY OF THE ENDOWMENT

The St. Mark's Endowment Fund is a ministry of the congregation which entitles members and friends to permanently continue their financial support of the mission and the ministry of St. Mark's Lutheran Church, as well as support of organizations and ministries with similar values in the San Francisco Bay Area, across the country and around the world.

THE ENDOWMENT COMMITTEE

Committee members in 2022 were Marisa Lee (Chair), Jane Borg, Nathan Francis, Shelly Taylor, Omer Voss, Matthias Will, and Kenneth Martin (Council Liaison).

Marisa Lee and Nathan Francis are completing their limit of two consecutive terms on the Endowment Committee. The committee expressed their appreciation to Nathan and Marisa at its November 2022 meeting.

The committee welcomes new members, especially those with an interest in growing the Endowment and extending the Endowment Fund's impact to local ministries. If you have an interest in joining the Endowment Committee, please contact endowment@stmarks-sf.org.

INVESTMENT POLICY

At the request of Council, the Endowment Committee developed an investment policy to guide the investment of the Endowment Fund, which is held by Thrivent Charitable. The policy was approved by Council at its October 2022 meeting

ENDOWMENT GRANTS FOR 2022

In 2022, the Endowment Fund received 19 applications for a total of \$45,945 requested. After careful discussion and review, the following eight grants were recommended and subsequently approved by St. Mark's Church Council:

Lutheran Social Services of Northern California - \$1,800

Community building activities at affordable/supportive housing senior residence in San Francisco

St. Mark's Racial Equity Team and Martin Luther Tower, Inc. - \$2,000

Creation of ethnobotany garden on St. Mark's Square, racial & climate justice education for St. Mark's members, Earth Day event with mural artists

Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary- \$1,000

Food pantry and therapy/spiritual direction for seminary students

St. Timothy's Episcopal Church (Brookings, OR) - \$1,500

Book study group for caregivers accompanying youth during climate crisis

Project Commotion - \$2,300

Tuition assistance for students in after-school movement classes in the Mission District

Rwanda School Project - \$2,000

Laboratory supplies for biology lab at Rwamagana Leaders' School

St. Andrew's Refugee Services (Cairo, Egypt) - \$2,400

Funding for Medical Access Program, provision of menstruation supplies for students

St. Mark's Music Ministry - \$1,000

Jazz Vespers worship services

TOTAL GRANTS AWARDED - \$14,000

The 2023 grant application period will begin in May 2023. Contact endowment@stmarks-sf.org for more information.

GIVING TO THE ENDOWMENT

Established in 2014, the Endowment is a permanent fund to receive bequests and estate gifts made to St. Mark's. The assets of the Endowment are invested at Thrivent Charitable. Approximately 5% of the Endowment's assets are spent each year in grants to ministries and organizations at the recommendation of the Endowment Committee.

When you make estate plans or establish a will, please consider including the St. Mark's Endowment as a beneficiary, either for a specific dollar amount or for a percentage of the total value. You may also designate appreciated assets, including stocks, mutual funds or real estate to the Endowment, or name the Endowment as a beneficiary of your pension, 401K, IRA, or life insurance policy. Donations of all amounts—thanks to compound interest—have lasting impact. Please use this language when listing the Endowment as a beneficiary: "St. Mark's Lutheran Church Endowment, San Francisco."

WITH GRATITUDE

We gratefully acknowledge commitments through the Endowment to the future mission and ministry of St. Mark's Lutheran Church and to the many local, national and global organizations and ministries the Endowment supports annually. Thank you!

*Respectfully submitted by Marisa Lee, Chair,
St. Mark's Endowment Committee*



Sunday School

St. Mark's Sunday School resumed in-person in 2021, and continued throughout the school year with a core group of St. Mark's children taught by Adrienne Nelson Brown. Our Sunday School class met outdoors and in the Urban Life Center auditorium, with lessons and crafts inspired by scripture drawn from the Spark Story Bible.

Adrienne retired from her volunteer role as Sunday School Coordinator and Teacher at the end of the 2021-2022 school year, having led our Sunday School ministry through the pandemic. Her home visits to individual families to deliver materials and craft kits during quarantine, and her many weeks of teaching Sunday School via Zoom, were an incredible inspiration to our families. We are so thankful for her care and dedication to sharing Jesus' love with our children. Adrienne created a community of children whose friendships have been foundational to our Sunday School program this year, and we offer gratitude for her years of teaching and leadership, particularly during the pandemic.

Nursery

2022 has been a wonderful year of growth for the St Mark's Church Nursery!

We have been so pleased to welcome into our weekly Sunday care several new babies, many along with their toddler siblings. Nursery preschoolers and kindergartners eagerly befriended the new attendees with a show of kindness and caring.

The Nursery has been blessed with new needed equipment to best meet the needs of our children. Purchases included a new diaper changing pad, a pack & play crib, two new wooden play tables, toddler play balls and a toddler indoor climber.

For the first half of 2022, the Nursery employed the two required Nursery Adult Attendants. Since July 2022,

For the 2022–2023 school year, Teaching Parish Student Megan MacIver has been at the helm of the “big group” Sunday School. Students meet weekly with Megan in the auditorium, as she offers opportunities for play and learning the Gospel. Lesson themes have included the Annunciation, John the Baptist and Jesus, the prophet Isaiah's call, and Moses and the Burning Bush. Megan also re-designed and led a simple, beautiful multigenerational Christmas Eve pageant. Please check out the (literally!) shining examples of Sunday School student art projects, which are hanging in the hallway adjacent to the church kitchen and nursery.

Children between the ages of PreK-5th grade are invited to join Sunday School! We meet at 10 AM in the Urban Life Center. Adult volunteers who have taken Safe Congregations training are also needed. Please contact info@stmarks-sf.org if you are interested in more information.

Respectfully submitted by Marisa Lee, Sunday School Parent

the Church Office has been actively trying to fill the second Nursery Attendant position.

Thankfully, a new qualified and trained Nursery Attendant has recently been hired to start end of January! The Nursery was able to stay open and welcome our youngest children because of the parent community stepping up week after week to generously assist in the Nursery! We are so grateful for their time and caring in the Nursery!

New for 2022, the Nursery (thanks to Pastor Lyle) added weekly “Spark Bible Children's Curriculum Lessons.” The learning lessons align with the Church's Calendar and weekly Worship.

Respectfully submitted by Edda Mai Johnson, Nursery Coordinator



Property Team

The Property Team remains a valuable ministry that can help connect Church members to the Saint Mark's community. Coming together to help maintain and improve this beautiful property reveals the rewards of stewardship. Our spiritual connections are deepened experiencing God's work, our hands in this way.

THIS YEAR (2022):

- April Property Day: Prepared the Church for Holy Week and Easter
- September Property Day: Secured the ladders on the West Side of the Church building, Removed weeds and trash from around the Church building, replaced light bulbs on 2 of the sanctuary chandeliers, organized the Property room storage spaces.
- Property is meeting with the Church to help prioritize and plan for upcoming major maintenance and improvement:
- Restoration of the Church exterior brick repairs.
- Assisted with the focus of an upcoming Capital Campaign
- Church Christmas decorating: Advent Wreaths and garland hanging.
- Installing the sanctuary Christmas tree, the outdoor tree at the Church entrance and the lighted wreaths over the three entrance doors

The Property Team will soon schedule the upcoming Property Days in 2023.

Respectfully submitted by **Tim Bohan**, Chair



Hospitality

2022 was an exciting year for hospitality. Volunteers were able to safely bring back the Easter Vigil Reception and Oktoberfest for the first time in two years. Full post worship coffee hours also resumed and we are very grateful to our coffee hour chairs for making this happen every week, even with fewer volunteers. It was great to see St. Mark's members and friends gathered in Heritage Hall enjoying these important traditions and I look forward to even more events and fellowship in 2023.

Respectfully submitted by **Lindsey Carlin Martin**, Chair

HR Committee

The Human Resources (HR) Committee provides advice and assistance to the Pastor and Director of Operations regarding human resources issues, including policies, guidelines, compensation, benefits, job descriptions, staffing levels, compliance, etc. The committee meets quarterly, or as needed, and submits recommendations to the Church Council on specific issues. The committee members are Becky Burad (chair), Pastor Beckman (Interim Pastor), Nancy Nielsen, and John Wright (Director of Operations).

St. Mark's has outstanding staff who work to provide a high quality of support to our mission. We currently have 3 full-time staff members and 9 part-time staff. In 2022 we hired several new staff: Joanna Lopez, Sales & Marketing Manager; Megan McIver, Sunday School Administrator; Dylan Benander and Bethany Hill, Guest Singers.

We also continued our work through the clergy transition in 2022, in anticipation of calling a new pastor to St. Mark's. Pastor Lyle Beckman continued as our intentional

Interim Pastor throughout the year, and we renewed his contract in August.

During this past year, the HR Committee also met to update our security policies and procedures, update our Employee Handbook, maintain a safe and legal work environment during COVID-19, develop a job description for the Sales & Marketing position, and respond to issues regarding reopening the church.

We currently have an opening on the HR Committee and welcome members to contact Becky Burad at bburad@msn.com if you are interested in serving on this committee.

Please join the HR Committee in our appreciation of the professionalism, talent, and hard work that the staff bring to our St. Mark's community on a daily basis.

Respectfully submitted by **Becky Burad, Chair**

2022 Membership Statistical Summary

	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Baptisms	6	1	3	1	4	2
Confirmations	5	3	5	0	0	7
Weddings	9	2	5	1	2	6
Deaths	0	2	0	3	3	10
New Members Received	15	7	11	0	11	8
Baptized Members	387	389	396	375	379	386
Confirmed Members	296	301	313	304	304	310
Average Worship Attendance	144	140	140	99*	123*	123*

* Average Worship Attendance is calculated based on the number of views of our virtual worship services as reported by YouTube, as well as in-person attendance.



Through your generosity, God is at work across the ELCA. A portion of your offering, called Mission Support, advances the ministry of our church, helping the ELCA nurture Christian community, raise up leaders, serve our neighbors and strive for justice. Read stories and learn more at [ELCA.org/SOFIA](https://www.elca.org/SOFIA).



Evangelical
Lutheran Church
in America

St. Mark's Worship Schedule

SUNDAYS

9:00 am.Holy Communion (Sanctuary)

10:00 am. . . .Adult Forum or Coffee Hour (Heritage Hall, Zoom)

10:30 am. Sunday School (Auditorium, Square)

11:00 am.Choral Eucharist (Sanctuary, YouTube)

12:15 pm Coffee Hour (Heritage Hall)

Stay Connected

For upcoming events and activities
at St. Mark's, check our weekly
Parish Announcements:

smlc.live/announcements

Church Office Hours

Monday through Friday, 9:00 a.m.– 5:00 p.m.

415.928.7770



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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