



2015
ANNUAL REPORT
St Mark's
LUTHERAN CHURCH



LEAD PASTOR

PASTOR ELIZABETH EKDALE



One of the joys of serving on the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America Church Council is to watch our Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton in action. At our bi-annual meetings, our Presiding Bishop sits and serves alongside us as a member of the Council. She has an enthusiasm for the gospel that is contagious. She isn't afraid to ask the hard questions about what we are doing or shouldn't be doing as a church.

She is faithful to our Lutheran tradition. And, she has a delightful sense of humor. We are served well by her vision, her commitment, and her down-to-earth approach.

Almost 2 years ago, she introduced four emphases which apply to every congregation (almost 10,000) including St. Mark's. These statements resonate with me because they are simple but not simplistic and clearly remind us what the St. Mark's community is to **be** as a people of God.

We are church

We are Lutheran

We are church together

We are church for the sake of the world

I've reflected on these statements regarding our life together as a congregation. It is the "we are church" which is claiming my attention as I write this report.

We are church. We do many wonderful ministries as a congregation. You will read about them in this Annual Report. We are blessed with many dedicated volunteers. We feed the hungry, we house the homeless and seniors, we visit the sick, we teach the faith and we welcome the stranger. We are a busy people of God serving on and beyond a busy corner in our beloved neighborhood on Cathedral Hill. We are a people who love to put our faith into action. *God's work – Our hands* is second nature to us.

I'd like to challenge us on tending to our individual and corporate spiritual life as passionately and enthusiastically we do all of the things described in this annual report. As the Body of Christ, we need to be nourished by basic spiritual practices in order to thrive: worship, bible study, prayer, giving, silence, discernment, and service.

These are ways God comes to us, speaks to us, and transforms us. These disciplines create an openness for God's Spirit and make space in us to receive God's mercy and compassion. These disciplines remind us that God is God and we are not! They make us acutely aware of God's presence and activity in our lives and our world.

These spiritual practices have been part of the Christian tradition for millennia and are part of our Lutheran Tradition. Tending to our spiritual life is right up there with caring for our physical and our emotional well being.

However, the intention must be there also. We are active, busy people distracted by many tasks and over-committed by the demands of life. I invite you to set aside the time to be fed by worshiping regularly – every Sunday. Then show up! Bring your children to worship with you or invite a friend to join you in worship. Give God your complete attention. **Take a Sabbath from your cell phone, e-mail and tablet on Sundays.** And then, be curious. Check out the 9:00 service if you only worship at the 11:00 or vice versa. Come to Wednesday Worship at 6:45 pm to recharge your batteries mid-week. Practicing these disciplines is not about productivity – it's about being fully and expectantly present to God and being nourished by God's goodness.

We are church and the center of our life together is worship, and at the center of our worship is the crucified and risen Christ. **Come and worship** and then serve at St. Mark's and all the other places you are called to serve in the world. In this order, your service will be exceedingly joyful and meaningful.

Worshiping and serving together in Christ's name,
Elizabeth Ekdale
Lead Pastor
St. Mark's Lutheran Church

PASTOR TITA VALERIANO, INTERIM PASTOR

The last quarter of 2015 has given tremendous joy by being able to serve as St. Mark's Interim Associate Pastor. It has been a blessing to learn and share my gifts through the various ministries of this blessed community:

- Worship: Contribute in planning, preaching, presiding and most especially being able to worship with you all both on Sundays service and



Wednesdays evening prayer. It is gift for me reflect on the scripture, administer the sacrament and pray and sing songs of praise with you all.

- **Confirmation:** Plan, prepare, teach and facilitate classes and other activities with our current group of youth. This ministry truly gives joy to me – seeing our youth being formed both by their peers and the whole community. We have been focusing on themes like Church Year, Worship, Bible and Discipleship. Building friendship and forming a community is also part of our journey. I am looking forward to going out with our youth for service, advocacy and more learning in our neighborhoods. I also appreciate the Safety Training I attended so that I can serve our children and youth better and with utmost care.
- **Pastoral Care:** Share the responsibility in visitation and praying for our members who are in need and sick.
- **Young Adult:** Even though we have not gathered together formally, I have had the privilege to know and meet many of the young adults in our community. We hope to be able to meet for support, spiritual growth and more in the near future.
- **Guest and Visitors:** St. Mark's is a place of hospitality and it is very important to connect and reconnect with those who have come and visit us. This includes sending a thank you postcard, email or calling, and most especially being able to talk to them in person on their first visit. The latter is sometimes a challenge as I still continue to get to know the community. But doing this ministry is very important in our evangelism.
- **Evangelism:** Walking around our neighborhood helps me know more about "who is our neighbor?" Sharing our flyers during the last Christmas season was quite a learning opportunity for me. And we know that there are many more opportunities given the gifts of this community.

Others: What a delight to share with the Women of the ELCA during their Christmas Party. My first introduction to SF Interfaith Council was to plan and prepare for the AIDS Memorial service in December with leaders from other religious communities. Coffee hour is the best time for me to meet and talk to many of you and especially our guests and visitors. Our first partnership with Grace Lao Lutheran Church last Christmas was truly an abundant blessing.

I have been blessed and continue to grow in learning and

servicing St. Mark's community. My family, Jennifer and Taal, have been warmly received that Jenn now sings with the choir and Taal has been a regular at the Nursery (he said he wants to bring his bed there). Finally, I also would like to thank you for all the prayers and support I have received from all of you, especially during my recent illness. I pray for you all daily and I hope that in all we do together, our love for Jesus Christ grows more and more, our service and care for others within and outside our community becomes stronger, and our faith becomes deeper and wider through the power of the Holy Spirit. Maraming salamat po (Many thanks)!

DR. TIMOTHY ZERLANG, DIRECTOR OF MUSIC

During 2015, I completed my sixth year as Director of Music here at St. Mark's. The years continue to fly by, and it is hard to believe I have begun my third three-year lectionary cycle in the worship life of this congregation. My appreciation for this community, its leaders, and the worship and music culture nurtured here continues to deepen.



As Director of Music, I have been privileged to help lead approximately 150 liturgies this past year. Those liturgies range from our loud, festive, Easter Sunday celebration with orchestra, guest singers and many visitors, to quiet, intimate gatherings around the altar on Wednesday evenings. While quite different, all of these liturgies contribute to the rhythm and vitality of our worship life here at St. Mark's, a worship life that I would describe as rich and healthy.

I continue to be asked to host events and ensembles here at St. Mark's, and I am quite happy when we can accommodate some of them. Two examples from this past year:

St. Mark's hosted the 42nd Annual Convention of the American Institute of Organbuilders for a day. Over two hundred organbuilders arrived in time for lunch, and then listened while John Boody and I gave a talk/recital featuring our Taylor and Boody organ.

The Stavanger Cathedral Choir from Stavanger, Norway, gave a concert in our sanctuary, preceded by dinner hosted by members of our choir. I

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enjoyed very much both the concert and my lunch with their organist (a very non-norsk Norwegian, from the country of Georgia).

This past year I received from you, the St. Mark's community, the gift of sabbatical time (the first of my 35-year church music career) for which I am most grateful. Because of my teaching commitments at Stanford I was only able to use some of this time this year, but this time was spent as a participant in the 25th Thüringische Orgelakademie, and touring places that were important in the life of Martin Luther (Eisleben, Eisenach, Wittenberg, and Erfurt).

This past Summer I attended the National Conference of the Association of Lutheran Church Musicians, which was held in Atlanta, overlapping with the ELCA's Worship Jubilee. One of the themes of the conference was clergy/musician partnerships, from Martin Luther and Johann Walther to the present day. It was fascinating to learn how clergy and musicians have worked together (or not worked together) in different contexts and times, and to hear people describe their own work situations in their own churches today.

I am honored to work each week with the small, but dedicated group of volunteer musicians that make up the St. Mark's choir. I would welcome any of you that wish to join us. We are all members of the choir here at St. Mark's; it is just that some of us sing from the balcony most Sundays.

Our Taylor and Boody organ continues in excellent condition. I am happy to report that during a discussion of local organs at a recent AGO board meeting, St. Mark's was described as "the premier organ venue." Also, an organist here to play a program for the San Francisco Early Music Society in November told me he considers our organ the best in California.

I continue to serve on the board of the San Francisco Chapter of the American Guild of Organists and teach full-time at Stanford, where I also serve as University Carillonneur.

I appreciate very much the enthusiastic song of the entire St. Mark's community, and the wonderful support the music program here enjoys. In particular, I am thankful for the dedicated volunteer musicians that support our worship throughout the year.

Respectfully,

Dr. Timothy Zerlang
Director of Music

The year in numbers:

104 Sunday Services
30 Wednesday Evening services
11 Additional services (Christmas Eve, Christmas, Triduum,

etc.)

8 Weddings
4 Memorials
40 Choir rehearsals
600+ Hymns
140+ Choir anthems and psalms
Advent Lessons and Carols with St. Mary's Cathedral Choir
Advent Festival at First Unitarian
Buxtehude's *Today in Triumph Christ Arose* on Easter
Buxtehude's *Das newgebohrne Kindelein* on Christmas Eve

Special Thanks to

- Pastor Ekdale, Pastor Valeriano and all the staff for making St. Mark's such a wonderful place to work
Our choir for all their dedication and hard work
- Elizabeth Lowry for her wonderful work with the Sunday School children
- Lin Cerles for their instrumental support at the 9 am service
- Greg Gomez for his help organizing instrumentalists for special occasions
- Phyllis DeSpain for her help with the music library
- Gary Schilling for his willingness accompany the choir and fill in for me

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

This year I was one of several St. Mark's members assisting with administrative matters as we discerned our staffing needs and went through the process of advertising, interviewing and hiring new staff. This work took me more deeply into the minutia of running St. Mark's than I ever intended to delve.

When I accepted the position as president of the congregational council, I truly thought all I would do was put together agendas and facilitate meetings. I had my monthly and annual plans and I was set.

To paraphrase an old saying, "People plan. God laughs."

I was blessed with the opportunity to engage the congregation in considering improvements to make St. Mark's a more welcoming and accommodating place for people with mobility issues, and to improve building integrity. I was moved by St. Mark's loving, compassionate response as we accompa-



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nied members coping with life-altering health issues. I was brought low sharing the grief of our sisters and brothers of Cordero de Dios and the family of Pastora Norma grieving her death.

But this report isn't about me; it's about us as a congregation, part of the body of Christ, our spiritual life as a community and as a part of a larger community. In that regard, our congregation is strong thanks to each and every one of you. Indeed, I'm reluctant to list everyone to thank for fear I this report will read too much like an Academy Awards acceptance speech.

We are strong thanks to your commitment, which is manifest not only by our financial support, but equally by our commitment to each other individually and collectively, and our commitment to the larger communities of San Francisco, the ELCA and world-wide church ministries. Many members gave generously of their time and specialized skills, filling in staffing gaps. We continued our support for the Interfaith Winter Shelter, housing 60-70 men overnight for 3 weeks. We gave to the ELCA Malaria Campaign, receiving an award from ELCA World Hunger for St. Mark's leadership in that campaign.

We are strong thanks to our compassion. When Pastor Bekah resigned her call to focus on treatments for Hodgkin's lymphoma, we quickly pull together both a farewell celebrating her time at St. Mark's and a team led by Mutual Ministry to provide practical and emotional support. When Pastora Norma fell ill, our compassion led many to help with expenses and many more with heart-felt prayer.

We are strong thanks to our confidence in God's redeeming love.

Finally, we are strong thanks to our humility. When talking about ministry with our members, I am touched by the spirit in which any contribution of time, skills or money is given. There is an abiding understanding that with our hands we do God's work.

Jeremy McClain
Council President

WOMEN OF THE ELCA (W-ELCA)

In 2015, The Women of the ELCA of St. Mark's and St. Paulus continued their monthly meetings. The meetings are held on the 2nd Tuesday of each month. It is a time of bible study, prayer, singing and friendship.

In January, we continued our bible study with: Transforming Life and Faith. As is our tradition, we selected the groups to

which we would give our benevolence gifts. A \$100 gift was donated to the following organizations: Cordero de Dios, Kerry's Kids, Rwanda School Project, Maya Works and W-ELCA Synod Project - PLTS. In addition \$200 will be given to the Augusta Victoria Hospital in Jerusalem.

In February, we began the meeting with a Litany, celebrating "Bold Women's Day".

Our treasurer reported that in addition to our benevolence gifts we gave a gift to Pastor Ekdale's ecumenical trip. In addition, the \$200 that was approved for the Augusta Victoria Hospital in Jerusalem will be designated for the Mt. of Olives Housing project.

Also in February, the Knitting Ministry was able to distribute scarves to all the men who stayed at St. Mark's during the inter-faith homeless shelter this month. In addition, reservations have already been received for the Sierra Pacific Synod - W-ELCA Retreat which will be held October 9 - 11th at the Echo Retreat Center in Oakhurst.

The Bible Study for the March meeting, was "Suffering & Endurance". Prayers were said for the continuing healing for Nadine, our Co-President as she recovers from surgery.

Our Knitting Ministry continued. The Knitting Ministry, this year continued it's focus on scarves and hats for the homeless, distributed by the San Francisco Night Ministers. The ministry also continued to knit prayer shawls for members & friends of St. Mark's who were ill, suffered a loss or needed comfort.

During the April meeting, Pastor Elizabeth reported on her recent ecumenical trip with ELCA Bishop Elizabeth Eaton and other men and women clergy. They traveled to the Vatican and The Lutheran World Headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland. She also updated us on her recent Synod Council Meeting in Chicago. While there, she and others met with Linda Post Bushofsky, Executive Director of W-ELCA.

We were pleased to hear that Nadine was home from the hospital and recovering well. During her recovery, Nadine continued to maintain her role as Vice President of the SPS - W-ELCA board. We were reminded of the retreat in October.

At the May meeting, Suzanne spoke to the group regarding the expansion of W-ELCA to be more inclusive of the younger women in our congregation. A bible study, using the Gather Magazine, was discussed. The 2nd Sunday of the month at 10 am is the proposed time. It was approved that \$100 from our treasury be designated to the purchase of subscriptions



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to Gather Magazines for St. Mark's.

In June, the bible study topic was "Give in Secret", in the Gather Magazine. Nadine gave an update on the SPF-W-ELCA retreat to be held in October. We will be using the St. Mark's van to transport members to the Retreat. Bertie Brouhard has volunteered to drive the van.

Our "WELCA Celebrates Summer" Luncheon was held in July at Eliza's Restaurant where we experienced wonderful Chinese dishes. This luncheon is an annual event.

After our August summer break, we resumed our W-ELCA activities in September. September begins the new bible study year. The September 2015 thru May 2016 bible studies will be contained in the Gather Magazine. The teaching manual will no longer be used. At the September meeting the bible study was "Sabbath Keeping".



Nadine again reported on the plans for the W-ELCA retreat in Oakhurst. She asked the "in

kind" gifts to be donated to Manna House, which serves many migrant workers in Oakhurst. Funds will also go to the Thank & general offerings. She also requested that members consider becoming officers as elections are in November.

In October bible study was: "Make Haste, O Lord". Nadine reported on the W-ELCA Retreat in Oakhurst. Over 80 women attended. Some of the highlights were the gifted speakers, two of which were St. Mark's members, Magaret McLean and Mary Ritter. Representatives for the W-ELCA Church-wide Triennial Conference (July, 2017) were elected and the Manna House received a large collection of donated items.

Nominations for 2016 officers were made and those nominated, who were not at the meeting, will be contacted to see if they wish to remain on the slate. Election in November.

At the November meeting, the bible study was "Tempo Giusto" and the annual Thank Offering was collected. Elections were held. The results were as follows: Co-President - Marlo Tellschow; Co-Secretary - Debby Halladay; Treasurer - Suzanne Smith; Program Coordinator - Bertie Brouhard. Marlo will serve with Nadine who will remain as a Co-President. Debby will assist Pam Ruh, Secretary.

Our annual Christmas luncheon and program was held in December. The theme was Christmas in the Phillipines. Pastor Tita was the guest speaker. She spoke of Phillipine Christmas traditions and related her own personal experience, which really brought the traditions to life. The lunch-

eon and program was enjoyed by all attendees.

Nadine Robinson continues on the Synodical Board of the Women of the ELCA as Vice President until the current election process is completed. She was a strong presence on the board and we were very pleased to have the women of St. Mark's represented.

The women of St. Mark's and St. Paulus meet from 11:00 am to 1:00 pm the second Tuesday of each month. The meeting is held in the Fireside Room in St. Mark's Urban Life Center. Please bring your sandwich or salad for lunch. Dessert and coffee is provided. Please join us for prayer, bible study, fellowship and fun. If you would like more information please contact Nadine Robinson or Marlo Tellschow.

Submitted by: WELCA Co-Presidents
Nadine Robinson
Geri Bailey

SUNDAY SCHOOL AT ST. MARK'S IS THRIVING!

This school year we have a new volunteer for the Preschool Group; Elise Semonian, who has stepped forward to teach our



youngest age group. Simultaneously, our Preschool population has increased. Since the Sunday School year started in September, Elise often has 8 young children in her class. This growth in attendance will carry on through to the upper grades in the years to come. Adrienne Brown, our Kinder-2nd grade teacher, brought a fresh and inspirational approach to Reformation Sunday this year. Adrienne

wrote and performed a wonderful puppet show about Martin Luther, which all of the children enjoyed. We look forward to doing more puppet shows in the future, the kids just loved it! We are so lucky to have such a dedicated group of volunteers. Gail Culp, still teaches the older group of students. She has graduated quite a large number of students to confirmation over the last 2 years. Consequently, her class this year is rather small. But, Gail is enjoying teaching new updated curriculum from Augsburg Fortress which includes videos, scripture and art projects.

Submitted by,
Jenny Hart
Sunday School Coordinator

ENDOWMENT COMMITTEE



The St. Mark's Endowment Fund was established with a \$25,000 opening balance in 2011 and reached over \$120,000 in 2015. The funds are held in an account at InFaith Community Foundation, a non-profit organization. Appreciation to those who have made a gift to the Endowment Fund either directly or through their estate plans.

The Committee hosted Chris Andersen, President and Executive

Director of InFaith Community Foundation, for delicious strawberry shortcake and "Stories from the Heart" on April 19th in Heritage Hall. This was our first event aimed at raising awareness and understanding of the Endowment Fund among members of the congregation. Chris told heartfelt stories of possibility, generosity, and dreams coming true.

"Dream it! Make it happen!" was the theme for the 2015 Endowment Committee grant cycle. Because the Endowment funds projects specifically outside of the congregation's annual budget, these grants help to innovate and bring new ideas to how we serve our community locally and globally. In this our second year of grant giving, the number of grant requests doubled from two to four and we became acutely aware of our global reach as funding requests winged in from 3 continents—Africa, North America, and South America. These requests were double the funds available. After careful consideration, we formulated a recommendation that was subsequently approved by Council. With an increase in available funds from \$2000 in 2014 to \$3600 in 2015, we were able to support three high impact projects, all of which will heighten



you:

Kigali Lutheran Parish in Rwanda received \$2000 to support the building of a children's learning and worship space. The

our existing local and global relationships.

Here are the dreams destined to come true because of generous giving to the Endowment Fund from donors like

funds are being used to partially fund the building of a "children's worship room" by clearing land, purchasing rocks and cement, and constructing the foundation in 2016.

St. Mark's Global Mission Ministry was awarded \$1000 to support a "home visit" by our sponsored ELCA missionary, Pr. Kate Warn. Every two years, ELCA missionaries return to the States to visit their sponsoring congregations. The grant is providing travel expenses associated with Pr. Warn's visit to St. Mark's in the spring.

St. Mark's Music Ministry received \$500 to fund a choir retreat in early 2016, including bringing in a professional vocal coach.

Truly amazing grace! Dreams coming true on the red dirt of Rwanda and in our choir loft!

The Endowment Committee will be reporting 2015 financial information to the Congregation. At the time this report was written, the final information for 2015 was not available from the InFaith Community Foundation.

When all the numbers are in, we look forward to sharing with you more details about recent gifts and 2015 Fund activity.

The Endowment Committee's agenda for 2016 includes: further increasing congregational awareness of the Endowment Fund, our third grant cycle, and the on-going consideration of investing in InFaith's Mission Fund, in which funds are invested in companies that have a positive impact on our shared community.

Your 2015 Endowment Committee members were: Becky Burad, Stacy Cullison, Allana Helland, Greg Jahnke, Marisa Louie Lee (Council Liaison), Margaret McLean (Chair), Robert Rathmell, Randy Schieber and Debbie Varian (Secretary and Fund Advisor).

Having served since the Committee began, Stacy Cullison and Margaret McLean have completed their terms. We thank



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them for their service to doing God's work with our hands through the Endowment Fund.

For additional information about the St. Mark's Endowment Fund and how you can participate, please contact the church office by phone at (415) 928-7770 or by email at endowment@stmarks-sf.org.

Respectfully submitted,

Margaret R. McLean, Chair
Debra Varian, Secretary

ST. MARK'S PROPERTY MINISTRY



Ten years ago, St. Mark's was in the midst of a major renovation and seismic strengthening of our landmark church building. Since returning to our historic building, the Property Ministry Team has actively maintained our newly restored building and implemented minor projects to further improve our facilities and better support St. Mark's programs. With nearly a decade of use, our building is starting to show the normal signs of wear

and tear. This year, with the leadership of Events Administrator Chiara DeJoy, we helped plan the renovation of the kitchen, replacing cabinets near the sinks and installing new ceramic tile flooring, a project that will be completed in January 2016. This is the first significant improvement to the building since its rededication in December 2006 and the need for this project demonstrated the intensive use of our building by St. Mark's and the greater community.

Typically, the Property Team members gather every 6-8 weeks on a Saturday morning to complete routine and special projects. In 2015, these projects included:

- Removing wood and debris on the west side of the church
- Anchoring toy appliances to the Nursery walls
- Reinstalling signs for accessible entrances
- Removing graffiti on the building and walkways
- Re-lamping and focusing the theatrical lighting instruments in the church
- Organizing storage areas
- Sprucing up the Sanctuary and Heritage Hall
- Weeding the planting beds in front of the church and tidying up the grounds at St. Mark's Square
- Coordinating the ordering, installation, decorating and un-decorating of the Christmas trees

Picking up trash at Half Moon Bay as part of a National Day of Service

There are many St. Mark's members who have helped the Property Team this past year, but I especially want to recognize the efforts of our team members who have made our Saturday morning projects possible this year (my apologies to anyone I've missed): Jane Borg, Ed Chitty, Cal and Gail Culp, Pastor Bekah Davis, Pastor Elizabeth Ekdale, Carl Foster, Sharon Furiosi, Debby Halladay, Philip Krikau, Marisa Lee, Mary Carlton Lull, Jerry Lundblad, Jeremy McClain, Tina Niu, Marge Okuley, Jennifer Parker, Mary Ritter, Nadine Robinson, Sig Sigafos, Viknesh Silvalingam, Rachel Letchumanan and Titus, Suzanne Smith, Pastor Tita Valeriano and Omer Voss. I also want to thank the church staff for their attentive maintenance of the building, especially Chiara DeJoy and Stefani Lawrence who have assisted with many projects in their new positions at St. Mark's. Finally, I extend my appreciation to the many leaders of the congregation – Pastors, Church Council and President Jeremy McClain – for supporting Property Team projects.

Respectfully submitted by:
Gary Schilling
Property Ministry Chairperson

WOMEN'S STUDY GATHERINGS



The Gatherings book group continues to meet on the first Tuesday from 6:30pm to 8:30pm. All women are invited to come for study, dessert and fellowship. This year we read and discussed a variety of books including Things Fall Apart by Chinua Achebe and Knocking on Heavens Door: The Path to a Better Way of Death by Katy Butler. We also read about the church today in City of God by Sara Miles, For Such a Time as This by Kathryn Mary

Lohre, and Transformative Lutheran Theologies edited by Mary Steufert.

The mystery for January was Alexander McCall Smith's The Minor Adjustment Beauty Salon. We explored the times of Jesus in Zealot: The Life & Times of Jesus of Nazareth by Reza Aslan and Testament of Mary by Colin Toibin. For February, 2016, we will be reading A Walk at Midnight by Catherine Y. Wanjoihl and in March, Life Together by Dietrich Bonhoeffer.

NEW - A new women's Bible Study group was formed to meet on the third Sunday of the month at 10:10 in the Con-

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ference Room. We use the national Gather Magazine's study guide and will be studying Philippians for the next four months.

All women are invited to join the Bible study or book group. If you have any questions, please contact Suzanne Smith at 415.285.7438 or suzathome@comcast.net.

WORSHIP

Worship: "the reverent love and devotion accorded a deity . . . religious forms by which this love is expressed." (American Heritage Dictionary of the English Language. 15th ed. 2011). We worship as our response to the living action of God's extravagant grace which gives life and breath to all sentient beings. This life- and breath-giving grace is an innate call to community since this gift has been given freely and equally to all. All are included.



At St. Mark's we are blessed with a rich and robust worship life built upon our Lutheran

catholic traditions. The Holy Eucharist is central to our corporate worship experience as a community of faith in Jesus Christ in this place, in our city and in our world. We meet around the holy Table to offer our "sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving" (Book of Common Prayer. 1989) simply because "it is right to give our thanks and praise." (op. cit) We and all that we do in Christ's name are fed and nourished at this Table; so in turn our lives can become immersed in worship, a continuing sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Our human need to come together in worship is met by our celebrations of the Eucharist on Sundays (9am and 11am), Wednesdays (6.45pm), special holy day commemorations, often at weddings and funerals; and there are also special seasonal worship opportunities during Advent and Lent. We are a church at worship.

Ritual worship of course doesn't just drop out of the sky all ready to go in some kind of cosmic "ta-da!" moment. In our weekly bulletin is the list of the several ministries which play vital roles in the beauty and devotion characteristic of worship at St. Mark's – and a very special thanks is here given to all who serve so lovingly and faithfully in those important ministries. Thanks as well to our office staff and volunteers whose diligence in preparing our weekly worship and announcements leaflets should not go unrecognized. They too are part of our worship team.

We are always interested in enlarging our corps of worship leaders, especially acolytes, lectors and assisting ministers.

Presently our need for assisting ministers is particularly acute. If you feel you might be called to service as a worship leader, please speak with Pr. Ekdale, Pr. Valeriano, my Sacristan colleague Ed Chitty, or me. Appropriate training will be given. Experience is helpful but not necessary. The training is not particularly difficult. Or perhaps you'd like to serve on the Worship Committee. All that is needed is a willing commitment. Aspiring choristers and other music makers should speak with Dr. Tim Zerlang, our gifted Director of Music.

"Let nothing be preferred to the work of God." – Benedict of Nursia (ca. 480-545)

Richard Boyle, Sacristan

ADULT FORUM

Adult Forum offers a space for people in the St. Mark's community to engage in a variety of topics that help us to learn and grown in faith. Thank you to all who attended and participated in Adult Forums, with special thanks to all who led Adult forums in 2015. While we welcomed several guest presenters, we also benefited from the gifts and teaching of members of the St. Mark's community. Thank you to Pastor Ekdale, Pastor Davis, Tim Zerlang, Kyle Schiefelbein, Viknesh Silvalingam, Mary Ritter, Courtney Henson, John Barton, the Luther Tour Travelers, and members of the church council.



In 2015, topics ranged from life and death with Dr. Herbert Anderson discussing his book *The Divine Art of Dying*, to global ministry, to Biblical Studies, to discussions of what it means to be church, to faith in films, to confronting racism, to advocacy by means of letter writing.

One of the highlights of the year was the opportunity to study topics in the Old Testament with the scholar Dr. Steed Davidson. He led a series of four forums "Encountering the Old Testament": How the Old Testament Became a Book/ Bible, God's Grace in the Old Testament, Leading Ladies in the Old Testament, and Understanding Violence in the Old Testament.

From the auditorium in the Urban Life Center on St. Mark's Square, we were able to explore issues of faith and ministry in global contexts. At the beginning of the year, Pastor Elizabeth gave us a view of Bishop Eaton's Ecumenical Pilgrimage with global ecumenical partners in England, Geneva, and Rome. Dennis Frado of the Lutheran Office from World Community told us about his delegation to Palestine/Israel with

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Bishop Eaton, and opportunities to be effective advocates for peace and justice in the Holy Land. Courtney Henson described the challenges and trials faced by prospective immigrants and refugees coming to this country. In May, Pr. John Rutsindintwarane told us about faith and organizing in Rwanda. This Fall, we heard an update about the ministries of the Lutheran church in El Salvador.

As we get closer to the 500th anniversary of the Reformation, we had an opportunity to study more about the land and teachings of Luther. Our music director, Dr. Timothy Zerlang, gave us a report of his experiences after his sabbatical in Germany and then shared his reflections on the relationship between Bach and Luther. Dr. Kyle Schiefelbein guided us through some of Luther's most important reforms and writings. Pastor Elizabeth led us in a discussion about how to commemorate the 500th anniversary. And in December, we welcomed back St. Mark's travelers who recently returned from their own trip to the land of Luther as they brought us wonderful stories and insights.

We look forward to another year of being inspired, challenged, and engaged by adult forum presentations.

JOURNEYS IN FAITH

For the church to grow and continue as a community of faith in mission, it must be open, affirming and supportive of newcomers and members asking the questions of faith and our times. Journeys in Faith is a team-based ministry of accompaniment for those seeking Baptism or affirmation of Baptism. While most participants in Journey in Faith are also simultaneously discerning deeper incorporation into St. Mark's parish life, Journeys in faith groups are open to anyone who desires to renew and grow in their faith.

As part of our overall mission, Journeys in Faith also works to encourage all congregants to continually welcome new people into our congregation and deepen our connections as part of the Body of Christ.

During 2015, Journeys in Faith offered a complete cycle from welcome to Affirmation of Baptism, three individuals affirmed their baptism and became members of St. Mark's. At the present time we are currently in the beginning of the next Journeys in Faith group who will be invited to baptism or affirmation of baptism at the Easter Vigil on March 26, 2016.

None of this would be possible without the entire congregation working together to welcome new people into our midst. Every time you greet someone new or refer someone to a Journeys' team member, you help us in remarkable ways. We are also especially grateful to all those who have served as sponsors for Journeys during this past year.

Current Team members are: Nick Cottrell, Matthias Will, Liv

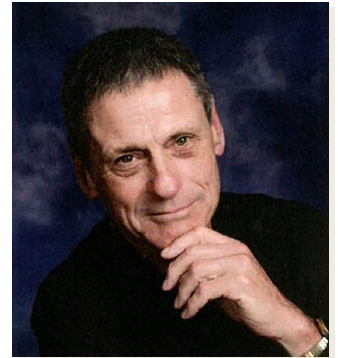
Beck, Kyle Schiefelbein and Suzanne Smith. We would love to have you join us in this ministry.

Submitted by,
Liv Beck

SOCIAL MINISTRY

First, thanks to the congregation for the support of our many projects for the hungry, poor and needy in 2015.

- We continue to provide love-ly fresh food to nearly 300 households at the **Interfaith Food Pantry** every six weeks on Saturday mornings at Old First Presbyterian Church in San Francisco. A team of 12 to 15 people volunteers from 7:30 to 10:30am. St. Mark's purchases over \$300 of healthy food from the San Francisco Food Bank – fruits and vegetables, protein and packaged foods – to be distributed to many households in the neighborhood. It is an amazing project! We are starting the year with new coordinators and our usual great volunteers. All members of the congregation are encouraged to participate.
- St. Mark's again hosted the **Interfaith Winter Homeless Shelter** in January 11–February 1, 2015, then again for several days in December, and will host men January 17 – February 7, 2016. We provide shelter in cooperation with other churches in the city. 60 to 70 men will share our space in the Urban Life Center for dinner, a warm safe place to sleep, and breakfast before they head out for their day, some of them to work. Thanks to the many of you who provide breakfasts and suppers as well as monetary support. Again, St. Mark's knitters are knitting scarves for the men. And our Sunday School has prepared socks and toiletries for our guests. Our guests will have colorful scarves around their necks and warm dry feet this winter!
- Social Ministry in partnership with Adult Forum sponsored three showings of the first of a series of webcasts by the ELCA and ELCA Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton entitled "Confronting Racism". We will continue the conversation started by this webcast by viewing another ELCA webcast with Bishop Eaton entitled "Confronting Racism: A Holy Yearning" which will look at perspectives on the U.S. criminal justice system. Our focus in these conversations will be on the interrelationship of racism and poverty and hunger. We hope to engage many mem-





bers of St. Mark's in this conversation.

- We continue our accompanying relationship with our sister parish, **Cordero de Dios in El Salvador**. We heard from the congregation that Pastora Norma Castillo was very ill early in the summer of 2015, and then were saddened in August 2015 to hear that Pastora Norma had died. We have continued to hold the Cordero de Dios con-

gregation and Pastora Norma's family in our prayers. Her husband, Pastor Rafael Menjivar, has been asked by the Cordero de Dios congregation and the Salvadoran Lutheran church to be pastor of Cordero de Dios in addition to his congregation Apostoles de Cristo. Liv Beck and Mary Ritter attended the 4th El Salvador Encounter (Encuentro) of Sister Churches November 1-6, 2015. We were able to bring greetings from St. Mark's to the Cordero de Dios congregation and Pastor Rafael and family, and meet and get to know the pastor of Cross of Life and members of St. Peter's Lutheran in the Greater Milwaukee Synod, other sister parishes of Cordero de Dios and Pr. Rafael's other parish Apostoles de Cristo. We have begun regular phone and email conversations with Cross of Life and St. Peter's in Wisconsin, and Pr. Rafael and Cordero de Dios. Our ministry and partnership promises to continue and grow! Watch for information about continued engagement with our Sister Parish and keep Cordero de Dios in your prayers.

- We continue to include prayers for **Middle East Peace**. Events associated with our partners in ministry of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land are prayerfully lifted up throughout the year.
- We continue to advocate with Bread for the World for the poor and hungry. St. Mark's is a "**Bread for the World Covenant Congregation**".
- We continue our sponsorship of ELCA Pastor and Missionary **Pastor Kate Warn**, the coordinator of the ELCA Young Adults in Global Mission (YAGMs). The YAGMs are young adults graduated from college, working as volunteers in global sites around the world. Pastor Warn coordinates the group who work with the Lutheran Church of Rwanda. Pastor Kate sends occasional reports of the work of the YAGMs, which we have featured in the VOICE newsletter. We look forward to her St. Mark's visit in the summer of 2016 as she makes her biennial visit to the ELCA in Chicago and to her sponsoring congregations.

- Several St. Mark's members prepare a worship service and communion for the **Central Garden's Nursing Home** community on the second Sunday of every month. We are pleased to be joined by the St. Mark's Eucharistic Ministers.
- Our **community garden project** continues to grow quietly on the sunnier south side of the sanctuary. If you are interested in volunteering in the garden, talk to Mary Ritter or John Elford.
- We continue to support the work of Rwandan Lutherans with **People Improving Communities through Organizing in Rwanda (PICO-Rwanda)**. Pastor John Rutsindintwarane, the Deputy Bishop of the Lutheran Church of Rwanda, works with the poorest of the poor in Rwanda, walking with them, providing them dignity and helping them establish livelihoods.
- Our 2015 **Lenten Box offering was split between the ELCA 25th Anniversary Campaign "All Things Made New", and Lutheran Social Services of Northern California**. You can read more about the work of the ELCA Campaign at ELCA.org/campaign. \$1379.11 was collected and distributed between the two designees. Thanks to all who donated.
- **St. Mark's knitters** have made scarves and lap robes and prayer shawls and baby blankets for Central Gardens, San Francisco Night Ministry, our Winter Homeless Shelter guests, and a variety of recipients in San Francisco and El Salvador. Our newest project is "Twiddle Muffs" for people with Alzheimer's dementia. Our "Knitting Retreats" are a joy to experienced as well as novice knitters. All knitters are welcome to participate! If you are interested, contact Marge Okuley or Mary Ritter.
- St. Mark's Social Ministry will continue to minister to those in need here in San Francisco as well as throughout the country and around the world in 2016. All St. Mark's members are encouraged to participate.

St. Mark's Social Ministry

NURSERY COMMITTEE

Brandee Marckmann

St. Mark's nursery committee works hand-in-hand with the nursery attendants and pastors to ensure that our nursery is a safe and welcoming ministry for children ages 6 and under. The committee is comprised of Aaron Greig, Joe Haller, Cristin Owens,



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and Brandee Marckmann (chair). We are thankful for the partnership we have our safe congregation training leaders Mary Ritter and Margaret McLean. We encourage parents of children who are served by nursery and as well as all members of the congregation to seek us out with any questions you may have about the nursery.

In 2015, the nursery was open during Lenten and Holy Week services to make worship accessible to parents with young children.

The committee purchased more books with Bible themes that will help nurture the nursery children's spirituality. We are deeply grateful for the gifts we received toward this effort.

In 2015 the nursery committee worked to develop more specific protocol that reflects our commitment to love, care for, and ensure the safety and spiritual development of each child who is served by our nursery. The nursery committee sends out a newsletter two to three times a year that contains updates and reminders for parents and guardians.

The nursery committee would like to express our gratitude to all who devote their time and energy to our nursery ministry at St. Mark's.

ST. MARK'S ELEVATOR COMMITTEE

This year saw the beginning of our community's highest priority on our "to-do" list: installing an elevator to provide access, for all, to the three floors in the building, especially the balcony. Church members have been waiting for this project since the seismic improvements, new organ and renovations were completed in 2006. At that time the rehabilitation, design and construction team and Plant Construction included plans in the renovation project for adding a Limited Use/Limited Application (LU/LA) elevator on the west side of the building, just south of the northwest tower.

Saint Mark's Lutheran Church Elevator Addition began with the first meeting of the Elevator Committee on April 21, 2015. Members of the committee in attendance include: Pastor Elizabeth Ekdale, Jeremy McClain, Gary Schilling, Greg Jahnke, Nadine Robinson, Deborah Halladay, Roger Ostrem, Omer Voss, and Tim Bohan.

The Committee selected Architectural Resources Group (ARG) as the architect. ARG assisted the Committee in confirming that the location on the west side of the building is best for our needs and circumstances. They also helped in selecting our General Contractor (GC) for Preconstruction and Construction services. After narrowing the field to three very competent GCs, and seeing impressive presentations the Committee recommended Plant Construction Company. Plant worked very hard to win our project, reducing their fees to a more competitive level. Given their excellent collaboration with Saint Mark's as the GC on our 2006 renovation, and their

knowledge of the building, the Committee is confident that Plant will do a great job for us.

In October we received clarification that our plans meet the requirements for an Article 15 elevator in our historic building without a variance. Therefore, the Committee withdrew our application to the Department of Industrial Relations for a variance to allow our planned LU/LA elevator to rise 26.5 '(1.5' above the 25' limit for a LU/LA). This cleared the way to begin the City building permit application process.

In December the Committee, with ARG, met at the City Planning Department and submitted an application for a Certificate of Appropriateness. This is the first step in the process of moving our Building Permit through the Planning Department. It is anticipated the reviews and approval may take about six months. Once the plans are approved they will go out to bid, and subcontractors will be chosen. Construction could start in late summer this year, with completion by December, 2016. This project is proceeding on schedule.

I want to recognize the Committee members for their time and thorough review of documents and figures, and questions and recommendations thus far.

Tim Bohan, Elevator Committee Chairperson

MARTIN LUTHER TOWER

Martin Luther Tower Corporation (MLT), established in 1961 during redevelopment, oversees our St. Mark's Square including the 121-unit Tower,



the Urban Life Center (ULC), parking lots, and the Plaza – everything except the church itself. For nearly 50 years, the Tower has been an independent-living, affordable-housing community for seniors aged 62 and over. In 2005, MLT accepted a multi-million dollar debt, in a plan providing major funding for St. Mark's retrofit.

In the ULC, MLT offers affordable offices for non-profit organizations and meeting facilities for community organizations, arranged ably by St. Mark's staff. At the Tower, MLT provides affordable rental apartments, a well-managed building, friendly and effective staff, an active Residents Association (RA), and a convenient location. Services for residents include: onsite property management; onsite social services, chaplaincy, and pastoral services; Senior Center outings and field trips in conjunction with the RA; Brockie Lounge (wide-screen TV, DVDs, games); computer room; laundry facilities; a reasonably-priced Guest Suite (*available to St. Mark's mem-*

bers); the Bock Fund for residents' special needs (*donations welcome*); a non-profit produce market open to all; exercise classes; and, more!

Some MLT residents are members of St. Mark's, and two residents are on MLT's Board of Trustees. The Board of twelve Trustees consists entirely of St. Mark's members. The Board works closely with its property management company, The John Stewart Company (JSCo), and with St. Mark's to coordinate activities and services, and MLT also provides financial and other support to St. Mark's.

Highlights of 2015 for MLT Corporation and the Tower

- Managed transitions for chaplaincy, social services, and property management
- Retained 100% occupancy rate at the Tower
- Contracted with the Institute On Aging for residents' social services needs
- Met the budget's objectives for the Tower, MLT's Limited Partnership
- Passed all inspections, property audits, and the many housing-compliance audits – with zero negative findings
- Continued hard work to develop the Square and affordable housing initiatives
- Improved security around MLT, the church, and the Square with patrols and lighting
- Made extensive repairs and safety improvements to the Square, ULC, and parking areas
- Completed all tax returns for MLT Corporation and the MLT Limited Partnership
- Implemented MLT Corporation's investment policy
- Pledged \$250,000 to St. Mark's Capital Campaign
- Continued heating-audit reviews for ways to improve MLT's heat retention
- Installed energy-efficient lighting and began major onsite projects with PG&E
- Continued the Tower's amazing water efficiency, saving 1.5 million gallons in two years
- Co-sponsored with St. Mark's and JSCo our Oktoberfest and residents' Christmas Party

The Board notes JSCo's excellent management team at MLT, including: Steve McElroy, VP; Lavinia Marlin, Senior Regional

Director; Lydia Lau, Assistant Property Manager; Phil Hunter, Maintenance Supervisor; Tan Trinh, Maintenance Technician; Sonia Jimenez, Administrative Assistant; and welcomes Paul Warnow as the new Property Manager. The Board also extends its deep appreciation to Jeff Kohler and JM Lapeygrade who left their roles at JSCo and MLT during 2015.

The Board also acknowledges the social services work of William Foster (Episcopal Senior Communities) early in 2015 and, since last fall, welcomes Josh Martin and Brent Sturgill (Institute On Aging) to their roles providing social services support to MLT's residents.

The Board thanks Pastor Ekdale, Pastor Bekah, and Pastor Tita for their work to enrich residents' lives through activities, chaplaincy, and support of MLT. We also thank Jeremy McClain and Andrew Sallach for their work as Church Council liaison to MLT and on the Development Task Force, and Chiara DeJoy and Stefani Lawrence for their support to the Board. We further note the good work of MLT's Residents Association and its 2015 officers: Randy Hicks, President; Gilbert "Sonny" Francis, Vice President; Rev. Genie Kinney, Secretary; and Kathi Sparkes, Treasurer.

The highlights above and many other accomplishments at MLT in 2015 took significant amounts of time, commitment, and thoughtfulness by the Trustees, working on multiple committees and the task force. We are grateful to the MLT Board's officers and members: Adrienne Brown, Vice President; Scott Taylor, Treasurer; Jerry Lundblad, Secretary; and, Pastor Elizabeth Ekdale, Aron Bohlig, Barbara Bock and Jo Chadwick (both MLT residents), Lin Cerles, Shannon Cheng, Barbara Engmann, and Jon Moeller.

If you are interested in furthering St. Mark's and MLT's ministries to seniors and to the community, please talk with either me or Pastor Ekdale (MLT Nominating Committee Chair) as soon as possible.

Interested potential residents, 62 and over, may complete an application to be placed on MLT's waiting list. Contact the Tower's Property Office for an application at 1001 Franklin Street or 415-885-1084 (TDD 415-345-4470). See the flyer in the Annual Meeting's materials.

Omer Voss, Jr.
President

CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

A Capital Campaign Committee was formed in 2015 to raise funds to install an elevator in the church building, install new flooring in the sanctuary and restore and repair the sanctuary's stained glass windows. The work of St. Mark's Stewardship Committee was rolled into a larger and more compre-

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hensive Capital Campaign Committee which had an expanded role that included two components: (1) an annual stewardship pledge to the general fund to financially support the missions and ministries of St. Mark's through the next calendar year, and (2) a 3-year capital campaign pledge to fund the proposed elevator, flooring and window restoration project.



Due to the enlarged, dual nature of the campaign the James Company was engaged to assist and advise the Capital Campaign

Committee in its fundraising efforts. The James Company was engaged in a similar manner during the 2005 and 2008 Capital Campaigns.

Our campaign slogan, "Forward in Faith...Lifted by Love", was chosen as a subtle play on words that reflected the campaign focus of installing an elevator but was also intended to deliver a sincere spiritual message of faith. Sunday announcements, direct correspondence and social media were utilized to inform and encourage the congregation to support both the annual stewardship pledge drive and the capital campaign. During four consecutive Sundays, campaign related temple talks were presented by members and guests of the congregation. An off-site advance gathering event was hosted by the committee at the San Francisco Conservatory of Music to encourage donors to become involved in the campaign by making an early pledge of support, thereby setting an example of generosity and encouraging others to do the same.



A twenty-four hour prayer vigil was held prior to Commitment Sunday, when pledges were presented during Sunday services. The committee introduced on-line pledging to the congregation as an easy and efficient way to make a financial commitment to the campaign. In an effort to model the basic principles of Christian stewardship, a congregational vote committed our campaign to tithe 10% of all capital campaign pledges received to the ELCA's new campaign entitled Always Being Made New.

Pledges received as of 01/15/2016 are as follows:
Capital Campaign: \$940,367 pledged, 86 pledges, 45% of member households
Annual Stewardship: \$350,810 pledged, 92 pledges, 48% of

member households

There are a small number of late pledgers who have not yet turned in pledge cards, but are expected to do so. As these additional pledges are collected, the final pledge totals will likely increase moderately.

The Core Group of the Capital Campaign Committee consists of Roger Ostrem (co-chair), Greg Jahnke (co-chair), Mary Birkel (Stewardship Committee chair), Jane Borg, Susan Sall, Sharon Reinbott and Laura Evenson. The committee would like to thank the members and friends of St. Mark's for their generosity and personal commitments. May we all be "Lifted by Love".

MUTUAL MINISTRY REPORT 2016



The Mutual Ministry Committee supports the partnership between the pastors and parishioners as we live out our baptismal calling. We look for developing trends within the congregation, listen to the

needs of members, and provide recommendations to the pastors and Church Council to help calibrate the mission of our congregation at large.

The Committee meets regularly with the pastors to ensure they are supported in their work. We check in individually with all the members of the staff. Each member of the church staff, including the pastors, is assigned to a Committee member who acts as a connection between the staff member and congregation and is a supporter of that staff member.

The committee annually recognizes milestones for our pastoral staff, like ordination anniversaries, and coordinates a pastor appreciation each fall. This year each of them were recognized with a gift basket and card as well as an announcement in the bulletin to thank them for all their contributions.

This last year's committee membership included: Jo Chadwick, Jerrold Allen, Marge Okuley, Brian Richards, Pastor Elizabeth, Pastor Bekah and Susan Sall, who serves as Committee Facilitator. We will welcome a new member this spring as Jerrold transitioned to other activities. Please contact Susan Sall if you are interested.

We strive to support church staff and continuously listen to the members of St. Mark's. Please seek us out - we're here to listen and to represent your needs to our larger faith community.

Submitted by,
Susan Sall

Staff

The Rev. Elizabeth E. Ekdale,

Lead Pastor, ekdale@stmarks-sf.org

The Rev. Tita Valeriano,

Interim Pastor, valeriano@stmarks-sf.org

Dr. Timothy Zerlang,

Director of Music, zerlang@stmarks-sf.org

Rachel Friedland,

Bookkeeper/Accountant, friedland@stmarks-sf.org

Stefani Lawrence,

Communications & Media Coordinator

lawrence@stmarks-sf.org

Chiara DeJoy,

Events Administrator, dejoy@stmarks-sf.org

Carl Storey, Security

Elvira Markov & Johanna Najera, Nursery Attendants

Jenny Hart, Sunday School Coordinator

The Rev. Chuck Lewis, Visitation Pastor

Jeremy McClain,

Church Council President...mcclain@stmarks-sf.org

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Statistical Summary

	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Baptisms	4	9	9	5	5
Confirmations	4	0	2	0	1
Weddings	24	13	8	11	8
Deaths	0	2	3	3	2
New Members Received	14	21	16	19	3
Baptized Members	407	425	438	451	452
Confirmed Members	322	332	341	349	348
Average Worship Attendance	202*	190*	196*	187*	167*

*Includes Midweek Worship Attendance figures



St. Mark's Worship Schedule

Sundays

9:00 am.....**HOLY COMMUNION** with Children's Time

10:00 am.....Refreshments and Fellowship Hour

11:00 am.....**CHORAL EUCHARIST**

12:15 pm.....Refreshments and Fellowship Hour

Wednesdays

6:45 pm.....Mid Week Worship

Check our weekly Parish Announcements

(<http://www.stmarks-sf.org/blog/>)

For more events and activities at St. Mark's!

Church Office Hours

Monday through Friday 9:00 am to 5:00 pm

Reconciling in Christ

St. Mark's is a "Reconciling in Christ" Congregation. St. Mark's is one of over 500 congregations, synods and organizations across the ELCA and the ELCIC (Canada) which have declared that people of all sexual orientations and gender identities are equally welcome to join fully in the worship and life of this Christ-centered community.

For more information, please speak to one of the pastors.

Other Important Numbers

Martin Luther Tower...(415) 885-1084

Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary...(510) 524-5264

Sierra Pacific Synod...(800) 275-3522

ELCA (national office in Chicago)...(800) 638-3522

