

THE MARKER

St. Mark's Lutheran Church

January 2016

3051 Putnam Blvd. Pleasant Hill, CA 94523

Dear members and friends,

A New Year is peekabooing at us from just around the corner of our calendars, so I will share two timely things with you.

First, some words from the opening of an article in the January, 2016 edition of The Lutheran magazine. The Article is called, "Starting Fresh". Readers were asked to share stories about things they found when cleaning out their churches – presumably, around this time of the year.

They reported finding things like mimeograph supplies, a poker table, a Sunday school Christmas program from 1942, chicken incubator lights ... the hilarious list goes on a bit. The real 'meat' of the article, however, is four brief questions. "As a nod to the new year, one reader asked **"What does your congregation need to toss (literally and figuratively)? Old hymnals or old attitudes? Felt boards or outdated programs? What have you cleaned out that caused both a chuckle and relief?" (author Julie B. Sevig)**

Very good and timely questions for people here at St. Marks, and all churches when you stop to think about it.

Second, some folks who have been visiting and getting involved at St. Marks have asked me about becoming members. You may recall that St. Marks received new members last year around this time and now one of them is a new Church Council member! (Hi, Mona).

St. Marks has been blessed with a growing number of visitors in recent months (as many as 17 on some Sundays) so I am asking you to help me. If you know someone who is coming here and is not a member, please gently ask if they might be thinking about joining. If so, remind them that in the ELCA people can belong to more than one congregation (we call this associate membership). Folks can be full members in both. This may be attractive to folks who have moved and wish to remain members of their former church while also being involved here. I look forward to hearing from anyone with an interest in belonging. Feeling like we 'belong' is the most solid foundation of every lasting and healthy relationship!

Peace and good health to you in Jesus' name,

Pr. Marv Abrahamson

Council News:

from the November Congregational Meeting and the December Council meeting

The Congregational Meeting Part I was held on Sunday, November 22, 2015.

Five candidates were presented and elected to serve on Council for the term 2016-2018. The nominees were presented and accepted by majority (unanimous) vote. Installation to be held at January 10 congregational meeting.

Presentation and vote of the 2016 Budget. Ballot slips were handed out along with additional copies of the budget. Since the budgets have been available for the month, and special Forums had been held to review and discuss the budget and answer any questions, there was not much discussion. The budget passed with a majority vote.

December Council Meeting

Treasurer's Report – Continued good news as our finances are holding steady.

Property – Work is in progress on the sidewalk outside the kitchen.

Pulpit Supply schedule: Pastor Beckman: 1/17, Pastor Pielhoop: 1/23

Pastor Marv also gone April 9 and 16; no schedule as of yet for February or March.

Music & Worship – Organ sound board replaced.

Social Ministry – Discussion regarding beneficiary for next Endowment distribution – possibly Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service. Other suggestions welcome.

Evangelism Committee need; initial work to identify all service opportunities within St. Mark's. Interested folks should contact Pastor Marv.

Notes of Thanks –

To the Sunday School: for the Christmas program.

To the Property Committee: for overseeing fixing of the sidewalk.

Upcoming:

January 10, 2016 will be Congregational Meeting Part II – presentation of Annual Reports.



November Financials

	<u>Monthly</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>YTD Actual</u>	<u>YTD Budget</u>
Giving	18,731	14,935	176,547	164,285
Monthly Outreach Giving	654		3275	
Total Expenses	14,363	14,977	154,233	164,743

Current financial statements and council minutes are available in the binder on the shelf in the back of the sanctuary.



**The Annual Report will be presented
1/10 at 9:40am in the sanctuary**

Attention, adults that are young at heart and love to play!



The council of St. Mark's Lutheran Church is working on filling the nursery attendant position vacated by our last nursery attendant, Gabriella Soto. We will be advertising in the local area. If anyone in the congregation knows someone who might be interested in the position please direct them to contact council members Chris Farnitano or Marian Bachofer or contact Karen Klingelhafer in the St. Mark's Office 925-934-6114 or officeadmin@sm-lc.net. The position is for 10:00am – noon, Sundays, as well as on Wednesday nights for Advent and Lent mid-week services. The pay is \$24/Sunday (\$12/hour). The nursery attendant is expected to engage in play, change diapers as required and clean toys and straighten Nursery as needed. Our nursery is for children up to 5 years old. References and fingerprint check will be required.

Sharing Social Ministry

Outreach Emphasis for January



“As you did it to one of the least of these...you did it to me.”

Matthew 25:40

What is the San Francisco Night Ministry?

It is a ministry which provides compassionate, non-judgmental pastoral care to people in San Francisco. Ordained clergy listen, comfort, and counsel people in distress. Trained volunteer counselors are available via telephone to those who call for support.

The Night Ministry also celebrates open air worship services with Holy Communion each Sunday to which everyone is welcome.

How can we support this ministry here in Pleasant Hill? Come to the Forum on January 17th at 9:45am to hear more. Pr. Lyle Beckman, the Night Minister (and our Interim Pastor 9 + years ago), will be the presenter and will suggest how we can make this ministry continue with our prayers and gifts.

Bring socks, scarves, hats, gloves, coats, etc. They will be distributed to those in need.

Monetary gifts are welcome as well. Issue your check to St. Mark's, designate: Night Ministry.

Thank you to all who contributed to our food drive in December.

From the Call Committee



The call committee has received a new slate of names from the synod, and we are currently in the interviewing process with this set of candidates.

A copy of our completed Congregational Profile available for review in the narthex and in the office.

As always, please continue to keep the work of the call committee in your daily prayers. Please pray for the members of our committee and the potential candidates.

The synod has provided the following estimated timeline for congregations in the call process:

Activity	Time to Accomplish	Our Progress
Nominate & Elect Call Committee	3-6 weeks	Complete
Call Committee Forms Congregational Profile	3-6 months or more	Complete
Call Committee Receives Names & Profiles of Candidates	1-2 months	Complete (Slate 2)
Call Committee Pre-Screens Candidates	2-4 weeks	Complete (Slate 2)
Call Committee Interviews Candidates	2 weeks - 3 months	In Progress (Slate 2)
Call Committee Decides on Final Candidate	2 weeks - 1 month	
Congregation Meets Final Candidate	2 weeks - 1 month	
Congregation Votes on Final Candidate	1 month	
Candidate Discerns Sense of Call and Accepts	1 week - 1 month	
Candidate Concludes Ministry in Current Setting	4-6 weeks	
Candidate Moves & New Pastor Begins Ministry	2-4 weeks	
Total Estimated Call Process Timeline	10-20+ months	

Call Committee Members

Mike Doyle	mikedoyle01@gmail.com	h. 925-689-2373	c. 925-550-9003
Lisa Farnitano	lisa.farnitano@gmail.com	h. 925-935-9535	c. 925-408-1546
Brian Marrs	brian.marrs@sbcglobal.net	h. 925-372-7317	w. 925-788-3151
Olivia Mendez-Alm	omendez@hnu.edu	c. 510-589-4847	w. 510-436-1333
Rosalie Zablocki		925-945-1398	

Crafty Ladies News

Please save Box Tops for Education, used cards and used stamps (deposit in the container in the back of the sanctuary). Various groups benefit from these items.



We welcome fabric donations (all kinds) especially cotton fabric for quilts and adult bibs. We accept donations of small new or gently used items for our bargain table at our craft sale.

Holiday special

Package of Christmas Cards \$1, Christmas Gift Bags 5 for \$1, year around everyday greeting cards \$.50 each

Volunteers needed: Please contact Sherris for more information

Sew squares for quilts (at home or at church)

Mark fabric for quilt squares (at home)

Help Sherris assemble quilts for tying (4x in Jan/Feb about 2hrs each time) in St. Mark's Center

Starting Wed February 3rd, the Crafty Ladies will meet each Wed from 10am-2pm for our craft and outreach workshop in St. Mark's Center. Come for as long as you can. Bring a sack lunch. You do not have to know how to sew to help us.

Save the date

March 5th Tie and Tea

Quilts are tied for local charities.
Includes salad luncheon

SAINT MARK'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

A Reconciling in Christ Congregation
3051 Putnam Blvd. Pleasant Hill, CA 94523
(925)934-6114 ☒ www.sm-lc.net ☒ officeadmin@sm-lc.net

Interim Pastor: Marv Abrahamson
(218) 205-1040 Email: pastor@sm-lc.net
Office Administrator: Karen Klingelhafer
Directors of 2nd Service Music: Sherry & Mike Doyle
Choir Director/Organist: Joyce Porter

Martha Circle Bible Study

Tuesday, January 5, 2016 -- 1:30 p.m.



In the January session of the Bible study, the theme verses are **Philippians 1:27-2:18**. In exploring the text, *...Paul's tone changes from narration and reflection to exhortation and teaching for this beloved faith community. This session's verses give the heart of Paul's message—living as a united community following Christ.*

Please join us in the meeting room. All are welcome. Please remember to bring your Bibles with you.

Bible study leader: Valerie C.

Refreshments: Norma B.

For Prayer ☩ Visitation

We pray for Connie's husband, Tom; Ed; Jan; Sean; Lupe's wife Judy; Geoff's family; Lee; friends of the Waids).

If you would like to be included in the prayer chain or if you have a prayer request, you can email the office at: officeadmin@sm-lc.net
