Dear Friends of St. Mark's,

A St. Mark's member recently heard me use the expression, "Always mind your P's and Q's" and he asked me if I knew what the "P" and "Q" stood for. "No idea!" was my response. It turns out this is a reference to "pints" and "quarts," who knew? But alas, I digress.

Our Lutheran world spans the globe yet can also be quite small; you never know how deeply connected you might be to a fellow Lutheran. I serve on the board of the San Francisco Night Ministry alongside Lyle Beckman, former interim pastor here at St. Mark's. The San Francisco Night Ministry was written about in this month's issue of Thrivent Magazine (page 10 *Planting the Seeds of Service*). These shared connections across the Lutheran world help us to see the myriad number of ways God is at work in the world. If you are interested in supporting their ministry, this October 8th will be the annual Night Ministry Gala. Tickets are available at www.brownpapertickets.com/event/2589844

I look forward to the start of our fall programming here at St. Mark's, and the reminder that we are God's hands at work in the world!

Peace,

Pastor Bekah

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Sept 11th help assemble school and personal kits for Lutheran World Relief in St. Mark's Center at 9:45am

Thanks to Thrivent for their support of this ministry!
The council formally met Pastor Bekah at the council meeting. Pastor Bekah shared with the council her interest in building a stronger relationship with the Mt. Cross Lutheran Youth Camp, and encouraging families and youth to attend events there. The Christian Education committee has also been interested in this. She also discussed her interest in getting parents more involved in confirmation class. The Lutheran Bishop of Rwanda is coming to the Bay Area in November, and Pastor Bekah is trying to arrange for him to come to St. Marks during that time, as she has a personal connection with the Bishop. Endowment Fund distributions for the 3rd quarter will be given to Shelter, Inc., which runs the Mountain House family shelter in Martinez (their funding has been recently cut back) and 4th quarter funds to Youth Homes in honor of their 50th anniversary. Pictoral directory photo shoot dates have been set for September 25&26. Signups are in the church narthex. There is no cost to the church or members except if members choose to order extra photos for themselves. The council is planning for next years council membership. We have 11 members currently and would like to have a full complement of 12 members next year. Council elections will be in November. Interested members are asked to communicate their interest to a current council member. Hearing loop installation is in progress in the sanctuary. This will assist those who are hard of hearing. Committees have been sent financial information and have been asked to submit budget requests for 2017 to the finance committee by September 25.

**July Financials**

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<tr>
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<th>Monthly</th>
<th>Budget</th>
<th>YTD Actual</th>
<th>YTD Budget</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Giving</td>
<td>19,619</td>
<td>15,341</td>
<td>118,865</td>
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<td>Monthly Outreach Giving</td>
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<td>Total Expenses</td>
<td>23,418</td>
<td>15,341</td>
<td>108,163</td>
<td>107,387</td>
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Current financial statements and council minutes are available in the binder on the shelf in the back of the sanctuary.
Outreach Emphasis for September
Heifer Project International

Help make the world a better place,
support:

Heifer’s vision of a world living in peace and equitably sharing the resources of a healthy-planet, Heifer’s mission that all communities work together to end hunger and poverty,

Heifer’s strategy “to pass on the gift” by giving families the means for self reliance by providing more than 25 kinds of livestock, as well as trees, seedlings and training in agriculture.

You are instrumental by making much of this possible. How?

Check out the Heifer gift catalogue

Decide to donate, pray, volunteer, and advocate on behalf of Heifer

Make a gift of items in the catalogue in honor of a friend or relative

Monetary donations may be made to St. Mark’s, designated ‘Heifer’.

Mike and Charlie will distribute piggy banks to our youngsters - let’s see what they can do again…

Need more information? Check out their web-site: www.heifer.org

(Remember the last 2 years? We were able to buy a cow, flocks of ducks & bees...our youngsters - with the help of Mike and Charlie - were enthusiastic participants in raising funds! Can we do this again?)

More.....

A huge Thank you to all who served dinners to the residents at Shelter, Inc. August 1-5. As in years past, Joy F. spearheaded this event with great expertise and Thrivent Financial provided funds to purchase the meals.

We are grateful to our helpers: Karen, Jace, Mark, Don, Ljs, Marilyn, Joy, Chris, Daniel, Dorothy and all other supporters of the August outreach!

Are you interested in helping others?

Check us out.....you are needed!

Our Social Ministry group meets on the second Tuesday of almost each month, 1:00p.m. at St. Mark’s. Come and join us!
Community Service Day
Assemble needed items for local charities
Saturday Sept 24th
8:30am-2pm

Come for all or part of the day, at St. Mark’s 3051 Putnam, PH. Stuffing pillows with fiberfill, Cutting, Pinning, and Sewing Adult Bibs, and sewing quilt blocks (for quilts) to be donated to local charities (Shelter Inc, Hospice, STAND, Bay Area Crisis Nursery and local care centers).

People with sewing machines are welcome to bring their machine. We will have something to do for everyone, all skill levels.

You do not need to sew or know how to make quilts to attend.

Light lunch will be provided. Fabric donations are always appreciated.

Sign-up through the City of Pleasant Hill website and a free breakfast and t-shirt are provided at Pleasant Hill Park at 7:30am. Here is the link: http://ci.pleasant-hill.ca.us/
The Puppets of Praise would like to thank all of those members of St Mark’s who helped make our Yard sale a success. We brought in $802.38 which will greatly help with the expenses for our March 2017 production at the Lesher Center of The Big Bad. Special thanks to Dayton who spent the entire morning setting up, selling and cleaning up is very own spot all proceeds going to Puppets of Praise. His sales alone brought in more than $150. THANK YOU DAYTON!!! Also a special thank you to Liz and Don for their donation of boxes and boxes of quality sale items which contributed to a large monetary boost to our numbers. THANK YOU LIZ AND DON!!!!!

And again thank you all who silently dropped by donations. Every little bit helped. All items that did not sell went to the local non profit organizations for yet more community benefit. All left over stuffed animals went to the seniors at Windsor Rosewood Manor. What a wonderful end to the day seeing smiles and expressions of gratitude for a simple stuffed animal gift.

The secondary benefit was the interaction that was had by all those who stopped by to look and shop. We had several invites to share our upcoming performances with them so that they could help us get the word out to their friends too. Seeing kids in action for a cause (Dayton included) speaks volumes.

Thank you St Mark's!!!! -Mark Pitzlin and the Puppets of Praise
In the September session of the Bible study, the theme verses are from Jonah 3:10 - 4:4.

In this passage near the end of the book of Jonah, the prophet cries to God: “O Lord, please take my life from me, for it is better for me to die than to live.” How did Jonah get here? We might sympathize, imagining that the prophet is speaking from a place of deep suffering and pain. As it turns out, Jonah’s complaint isn’t that God is punishing him—it’s that God is forgiving someone else.

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

Bible study leader: Connie Refreshments: TBD

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For Prayer & Visitation

We pray for Mark’s Dad, Orlie Uttech; Sherris’s nephew, Kevin Kahle, Sherris, Kim Bell, Dale and Marlanna Bathel; Tom; Ed; Lee, Jan; Sean; Lupe’s wife Judy and Geoff’s family

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