

THE MARKER

St. Mark's Lutheran Church
3051 Putnam Blvd. Pleasant Hill, CA 94523

June 2017

Greetings friends of St. Mark's,

In 2017, the world will mark the five-hundredth anniversary of the Protestant Reformation, an event that tradition tells us began on October 31, 1517 when Martin Luther posted his ninety-five theses on the door of the Castle Church in Wittenberg, Germany. At the center of this movement stands Luther's rediscovery of the Gospel message:

human beings do not earn their salvation by doing good works, but rather God freely offers salvation to all who believe.

For Luther, this message liberated humanity to engage in all kinds of new undertakings and activities, chief among them lives of service to others.

Meanwhile, across Europe the impulses coming out of Wittenberg inspired others to interpret the Bible in new ways, thereby calling into being many of the Protestant denominations that exist to this day. The Catholic Church responded too, introducing its own reforms that would change the face of that institution. This watershed event in Western history also gave the world a variety of concepts that are still deeply relevant today: plurality in society, freedom of conscience, toleration, individualism, freedom of religion, freedom of thought, the idea of the equality of all humans, literacy and universal education, and the importance of public discourse. Certainly the Reformation also had a dark side, one that fostered suspicion and conflict between confessions, but out of this crucible, the modern western world was born.

To commemorate this religious and historical milestone, you are invited to two services later this fall. The Pleasant Hill clergy are planning a service on Oct 22nd at 4pm at Christ the King Catholic Church. Additionally, Grace Cathedral in San Francisco will host a service on Oct 29th at 4pm. Elizabeth Eaton, presiding bishop of the ELCA, encourages all of us to use this anniversary year as a chance to (re)read the small catechism and reflect on our Lutheran heritage.

Blessings to you this Pentecost,

Pastor Bekah

Council News: Highlights from the May meeting

St Mark's faculties use is on the rise. The German classes have increased in number! Accommodations for the increase is in the works. And the Sanctuary was a buzz the end of April. A colony of Bee's seeking refuge for a time. The bees have gone on to a new home now. We are blessed to have daily use of the church facilities.

Reformation 500 is coming to a church near you! A special celebration will be held at Grace Cathedral in San Francisco. October 29th at 3:00. More information will be released as the summer wears on.



April Financials

	<u>Monthly</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>YTD Actual</u>	<u>YTD Budget</u>
Giving	24,950	17,535	78,937	70,140
Monthly Outreach Giving	430		2,100	
Total Expenses	17,758	17,535	71,966	70,140

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

Martha Circle – Tuesday, June 6, 2017 - 1:30pm

In the June session of the Bible study, *"Scripture holds up a mirror, helping us to think about things a little differently and question what we see in ourselves, in our congregations and in our world."*

The text is from Revelation 3:14-17a. Please join us in the meeting room. All are welcome.



Sharing Social Ministry for June

Social Ministry Outreach – June 2017

Our Social Ministry Outreaches for the month of June are Lutheran Social Services and Lutheran World Relief. If you would like to make a monetary contribution, please indicate this on your offering envelope or check



Lutheran Social Services (LSS) of Northern CA

Lutheran Social Services (LSS), as part of a network of nearly 300 Lutheran social ministry organizations across the country, strives to promote stability and honor the dignity of those they serve by providing supportive housing services that lead to self-sufficiency. Every year, LSS helps thousands of individuals with acute needs, including the elderly, young families, people with mental illness or disabilities, the chronically homeless, victims of domestic violence, individuals fighting addictions, people living with HIV/AIDS and young people who are struggling to transition from the foster care system to independence.

(from the LSS webpage)

During June, we will be collecting items in preparation for a project for Lutheran Social Services (LSS), providing Transitional Housing Baskets for residents of Mi Casa (transitional housing program for homeless, former foster care youth) who are being transitioned into their own homes. Items needed include soap, toothbrushes and toothpaste, towels, washcloths, laundry detergent, cleaning supplies, and other items that will help ease the transition. Please look for more information in the narthex.



Lutheran World Relief
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT. LASTING PROMISE.

Lutheran World Relief (LWR)

We often hear about LWR during a short-term response to a specific disaster, however, LWR has a long history of building the resilience of vulnerable communities by assisting communities around the world in achieving long-term sustainable development. Their approach is to develop and implement both relief and development projects by partnering with local institutions and equipping them with the tools and capacities needed. They are working on agriculture projects, water supply issues, and management of natural resources in many countries including Uganda, Mauritania, Haiti, Syrian refugees in Jordan and Iraq, India, Indonesia, South Sudan, and the list goes on. You can support LWR through a donation or shopping through the LWR Gift Catalog.

Looking Ahead

Mark your calendars for our annual week of meal support for **Shelter, Inc.**, to take place the week of **July 31 – August 4**.

St. Mark's Fifth Sunday Celebration

The fifth Sunday celebration is intended to bring the people of St. Mark's together to interact and get to know each other better. We will have one combined worship service and some sort of workshop or activity and share a meal. Our workshop in July...

The ABCs of Thrivent



Action Teams (Money to create a better community)



Build (Thrivent Builds with Habitat)



Choice Dollars (Money to your favorite charity)

You can help St. Mark's and the community! Thrivent can help!

July 30th

10am-11am Combined Worship Service

11am-12 noon ABCs of Thrivent (speaker is Manny Solis)

Noon-??? BBQ (potluck) in the back 40 (lawn in the back of the St. Mark's parking lot)

We need help planning and coordinating this event.

Please Contact Brian, Laurie, Sherris, Marian or the office if you can help.



**THRIVENT
FINANCIAL®**

Connecting faith & finances for good.®

Thrivent Financial creates financial strategies that help Christians be wise with money and live generously. We offer a broad range of financial products and services, including life insurance, annuities and mutual funds, plus tailored guidance from financial representatives nationwide. For more than a century, we've helped our member-owners show God's love to others by being good stewards of the gifts they've been given.

Puppets of Praise Corner

The Puppets of Praise are taking on a new identity, "POP Theater". After two successful attempts at theater productions, thanks to God's blessing and St Mark's and friends support, we have decided to promote our theater involvement. Our goal is to bring more interest and participation into puppetry through theater, to help make a positive difference in our surrounding community.

So what is POP Theater up to next? We have decided to find another musical production which could reuse some of the newly created puppets. We have chosen, by popular choice, "Alice @ Wonderland". Alice @ is described as "The folly of 21st century colliding with the madness of Wonderland. Alice is a texting, tweeting, and Googling girl of the modern era falling into the Wonderland of old. With many of the favorite characters of Wonderland, the musical imagines a present-day Alice encountering the Wonderland so many of us treasure."

Many of us will relate to the reality of our texting, tweeting social networking world. What is the reality of our new communication, what are we missing? Alice @ Wonderland helps us better understand just that in a sharply told, crisply paced ride.

This musical expands the demands of the puppeteers as it is a 90 minute, 2 act play, yes it has an intermission. That means time for us to be able to personally network with our friends and visitors attending. Great outreach opportunity for St Mark's we believe. The initial production schedule is for early November at the Leshner Center and the outside opportunity of an earlier date at the Martinez Campbell Theater.

WE NEED YOU!!!! Yes, we need the help of St Mark's even more for this production. Stay tuned for ideas where you may be able to be involved but for our immediate needs **WE NEED ADDITIONAL PUPPETEERS AND STAGE HANDS**. We can use adults and kids (preferably 5th grade and older). If you are interested or know of someone who may be interested with a little friendly personal invitation please let Mark Pitzlin or any puppeteer know.

Please continue to pray for our ministry and share your ideas with us. We would love to hear from you. Thank you!

ST. 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

Pastor: Bekah Davis

Cell: (415) 335-3599

Office Administrator: Karen Klingelhafer

Directors of 2nd Service Music: Sherry & Mike Doyle

Choir Director/Organist: Joyce Porter

Pianist: Lisa Farnitano



Join us for a choral journey...

Summer Travels

"The Diablo Valley's own chamber chorus"

DIABLO CHORAL ARTISTS
Sharing the harmony!

Mark Tuning,
Music Director
John R.S. Walko,
Accompanist

includes
Rossini's Il Carnevale di Venezia,
Mendelssohn's Sechs Lieder, Op.48,
Elgar's From The Bavarian Highlands
and more...

featuring works by
Mendelssohn, Elgar,
Rossini & Copland

**Friday,
June 9, 2017, 8:00 pm**
Mt. Diablo Unitarian
Universalist Church
55 Eckley Lane, Walnut Creek

**Sunday,
June 11, 2017, 3:00 pm**
St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church
1601 Mary Drive, Pleasant Hill

(reception after
Sunday concert)

Diablo Choral Artists is a California
501(c)(3) non-profit corporation,
Tax ID # 68-0414813

For Prayer ✨ Visitation

We pray for Pastor Brewer, Joyce's brother-in-law Bill, Ann's friend Robbie; Adam McCullough; Tom; Ed; Lee, Jan; Sean; 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