

THE MARKER

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

July 2017

Greetings friends of St. Mark's,

"Suffering produces endurance and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not disappoint us . . ." -
Romans 5:3-5

Summer is upon us, and with it comes the occasional day when life's tumults pause ever so briefly, and you have the chance to simply breathe and savor the moment. This bliss of these occasions might seem to happen all too infrequently, but these occasions to be still give clarity to life's marathon pace. Change is one of life's few constants. Seek out these moments to be still. Savor them.

Thank you God for hope, endurance and character in hard times, and the promise of better times to come. Amen.

Blessings to you this
summer,

Pastor Bekah



Council News: *Highlights from the June meeting*

No highlights from June



May Financials


	<u>Monthly</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>YTD Actual</u>	<u>YTD Budget</u>
Giving	16,673	17,535	95,610	87,677
Monthly Outreach Giving	1,350		7,230	
Total Expenses	17,653	17,535	89,620	87,677

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


Youth Retreats

**SIERRA PACIFIC
SYNOD YOUTH
RETREATS**


**Elementary School
Oct 13-15, 2017**



**Middle School
Nov 10-12, 2017**

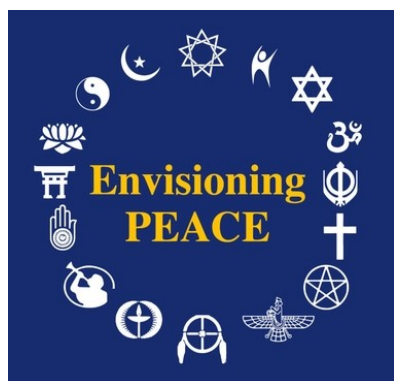


**High School
Feb 23-25, 2018**



Learn more @ www.spsyc.org

Sharing Social Ministry for July



The Interfaith Council is a collection of 108 congregations, monasteries and retreat centers that work together to make Contra Costa County a place where faith and service matter. Membership and affiliation comes from a wide range of Christian and other faith traditions, including Jewish, Buddhist, Baha'i, Unitarian, Islamic, Hindu, New Thought, Sikh, Sufi, Unity, Latter-Day Saints, and Religious Science.

Program areas include the Singing Messengers (which Lisa Farnitano accompanies, providing music to over 60 Nursing Homes in the county), the Winter Nights shelter program, a new Defusing Hatred Program, service to the Juvenile Detention Center and many other interfaith initiatives. Additional information can be found on their website <http://interfaithccc.org>

Our St. Mark's congregation has supported the Interfaith Council and its goals for many years and ask that you keep this ministry in your prayers. If you wish to support the work of the Interfaith Council in other ways, please participate in their programs, volunteer, advocate, or issue your check to St. Mark's, designate: Interfaith Council.

Looking Ahead – August Ministry is Shelter, Inc.

Our annual meal service to Shelter, Inc., homeless shelter will take place the week of **July 31 – August 4, 2017** at 1391 Shell Avenue, Martinez (corner of Orchard Drive). Helping is easy!! All the food will be pre-purchased and located at the Shelter thanks to **Thrivent** funding and Joy Fehrenkamp. All you have to do is **sign up in the narthex**, call Shelter at 228-6920 on your chosen day, ask that the food be heated in time for the 6 pm dinner hour. Then go, set up and serve the residents.

Adult Forum at 9:45am in the meeting room on the Church Sanctuary Movement on July 23rd

"When an alien resides with you in your land, you shall not oppress the alien. The alien who resides with you shall be to you as a citizen among you; you shall love the alien as yourself, for you were aliens in the land of Egypt: I am the LORD your God." (Lev 19:33) At the Synod Assembly this past May, our Sierra Pacific Synod voted to become a "Sanctuary Synod."

What is a Sanctuary Synod, what is a Sanctuary Church, and what if anything should St. Mark's as a congregation do to respond to the current plight of undocumented immigrants in our community, given the current federal administration's actions and policy proposals that target and seek to deport millions of undocumented immigrants?

Bob Lane, from the Multifaith Immigration Coalition for Action, will be guest speaker at an adult forum on Sunday, July 23. He will share what other local churches are doing to welcome, assist and/or walk alongside the undocumented immigrants in our midst.

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: Cheryl Wight

Directors of 2nd Service Music: Sherry & Mike Doyle

Choir Director/Organist: Joyce Porter

Pianist: Lisa Farnitano

WALNUT CREEK CHORUS PRESENTS:

Summer SING-A-LONG

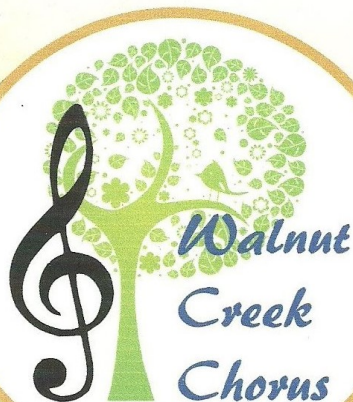
Music From Broadway Shows & Disney Movies

THURSDAY, JULY 27TH

2317 BUENA VISTA AVE, WALNUT CREEK

Evening will include sheet music,
singing and dessert reception afterward.

Walnut Creek Chorus Director
Suzie Peterson & accompanist
Rebecca Stein will lead the fun.



ADMISSION: \$20

(includes tax deductible donation of \$10)

CHILDREN 12 & UNDER: FREE

TICKETS AVAILABLE AT
wccsingalong.brownpapertickets.com

LOVE TO SING?

We invite you to sing with us for our Fall season!
For more information: Walnutcreekchorus@gmail.com.

Walnut Creek Chorus is a registered 501c3 non-profit
organization. We thank you for your support!

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

(Not far from BART & Hwy 24. Ample, FREE parking!)

For Prayer ⚡ Visitation

Prayers for Pastor Brewer, Joyce's brother-in-law Bill; Adam McCullough; Tom; Ed; Lee, Jan; Sean; Mona's Mom, Doris, 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