

THE MARKER

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

August 2017

Greetings friends of St. Mark's,

"One of my most wonderfully surreal moments in ministry was when I found myself standing in my alb and stole at the altar of St. Mary's Cathedral in San Francisco, celebrating a joint prayer service in Advent between the seat of the Catholic archdiocese and the Lutheran church where I was serving at the time.

Something so simple as common prayer can be a refreshing chance for reflection, introspection, and growth. We have the opportunity the afternoon of October 22 to share in a joint prayer service with Christ the King Church in Pleasant Hill. I strongly encourage you to attend.

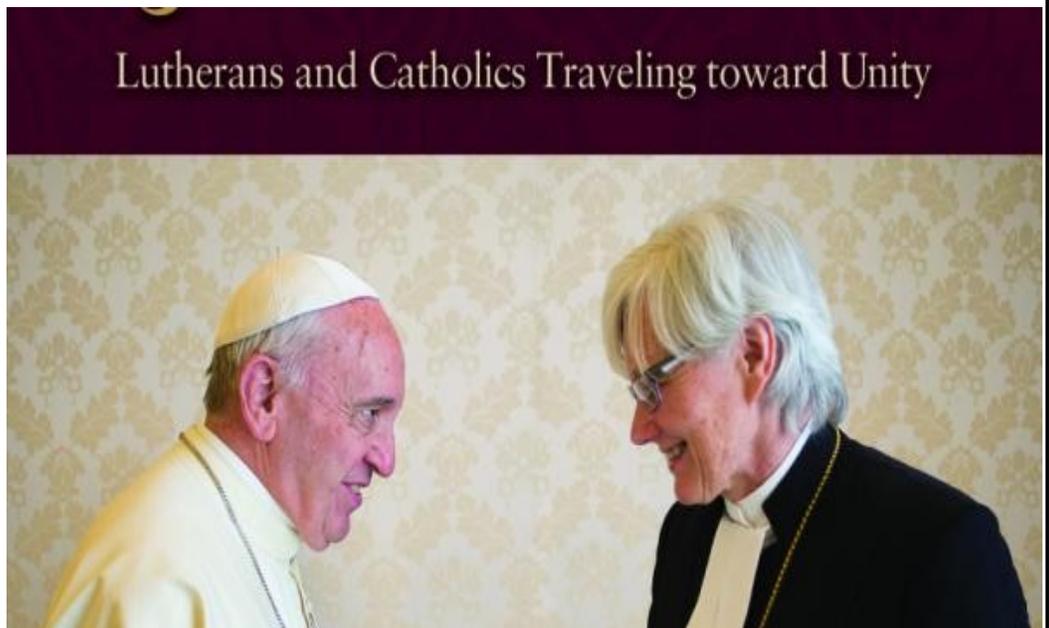
Throughout this year, Catholics and Lutherans jointly look back on the event of the Reformation and reflect on 50 years of official worldwide ecumenical dialogue during which time the communion we share anew has continued to grow.

This encourages Lutherans and Catholics to celebrate together the common witness to the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Yet, amidst this celebration, we also have reason to experience the suffering caused by the division of the Church, and to look self-critically at ourselves, not only throughout history, but also through today's realities. Come, be part of this 500th anniversary Commemoration of the Reformation.

Blessings to you this summer,

Pastor Bekah

Lutherans and Catholics Traveling toward Unity



Council News: *Highlights from the July meeting*

Highlights from July
Thrivent Meeting & BBQ



June Financials

	<u>Monthly</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>YTD Actual</u>	<u>YTD Budget</u>
Giving	18,191	17,591	113,801	105,268
Monthly Outreach Giving	2,075		7,230	
Total Expenses	16,116	17,591	106,571	105,268

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



AUGUST CALANDER OF EVENTS

Sunday

8:30am Worship (Traditional with Choir & Organ or Piano)

Social 9:30am in Saint Mark's Center

10:30am Worship (Contemporary with Guitars & Drums)

August 1st ~ Martha Circle Study 1:30 in the Meeting Room

August 6th and 13th ~ New Member Classes 11:45 in the Meeting Room

August 6th ~ Council Meeting 12:00 pm in SMC

August 8th ~ Social Ministry Committee Meeting with Speaker at 1:00 pm
in the Meeting Room

August 26th ~ Viewing Reformation Movie, Narrated by Rick Steves

Potluck Dinner at 6:00 pm, Movie at 7:00pm

Every Monday Night Crafts Meeting at 6:00 pm in St. Mark's Center

Every Wednesday Crafty Ladies meet at 10:00 am in SMC

Every Saturday Worship Band practices at 10:00am in the SAN

Upcoming Events

September 10th ~ Confirmation Bowling at 12:00 pm

October 1st ~ Blessing of the Animals

October 13-15 Mt. Cross ELCA Synod Elementary School Retreat

November 10-12 Mt. Cross ELCA Synod Middle School Retreat

February 23-25 Mt. Cross ELCA Synod High School Retreat



Sharing Social Ministry for August

Our August Outreach is **Shelter, Inc., of Contra Costa County**, which lists as their mission:

Preventing Homelessness: Prevent the onset of homelessness through rental assistance, case management, and housing counseling services.

Ending the Cycle of Homelessness: Provide 3 to 24 months of housing in combination with supportive services such as employment services, educational services and counseling.

Providing Affordable Housing: Provide housing for nearly 250 low-income households, including such special needs groups as transition-age youth, people with HIV/AIDS and those with mental health disabilities. (<http://shelterinc.org>)

When: St. Mark's will be providing meals the week of July 31 – August 4

Where: 1391 Shell Avenue, Martinez (corner of Orchard Drive)

Most food has been pre-purchased and is at the Shelter location, thanks to Thrivent and Joy F. (unless you have chosen to bring your own entrée. Volunteers call Shelter (228-6920) on their chosen day, ask that the food be heated in time for 6 pm dinner hour. Go to Shelter, set up and serve dinner to the residents.

Also, if you are unable to help with providing meals, monetary donations are also welcome – please designate Shelter Inc. on your offering check.

UPDATES:

Thanks to all who helped with our June outreaches. 16 Welcome Baskets were assembled and delivered to **Lutheran Social Services**.

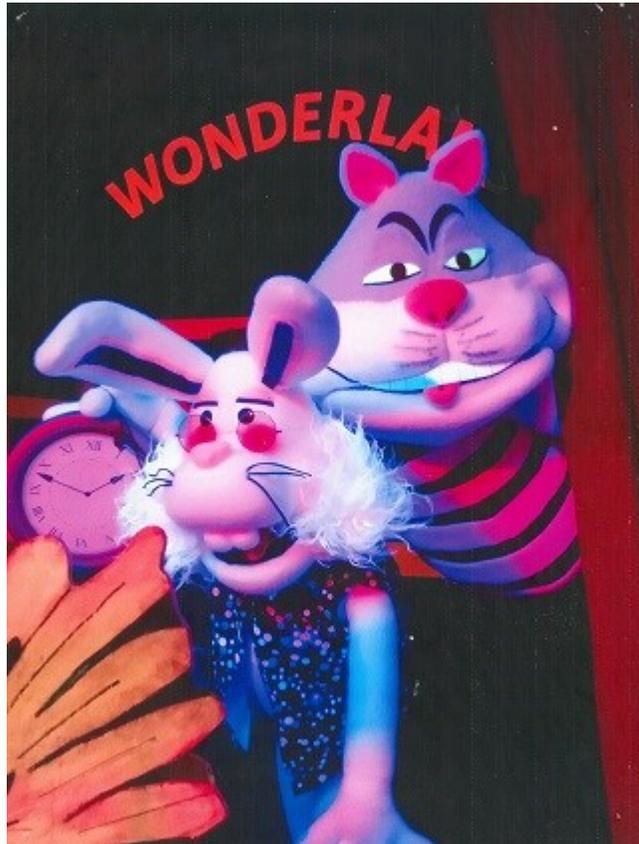
The Monument Crisis Center has an ongoing need for travel/hotel size toiletries for homeless, youth and senior programs. If you have too many little soaps, shampoos, lotions, etc. Please bring them to St. Mark's for delivery to the Monument Crisis Center.



Puppets of Praise Corner

POP Theater continues their preparation of "Alice @ Wonderland". To refresh your memories, 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. To this end we are recreating many of the favorite characters of Wonderland to give a new and "Puppets of Praise" type production.

So that means we are incurring expenses in creating a March Hare, Dore Dumpty, Tiny Door costuming. We come donations to Our biggest need few cast members. SOME INTEREST TO BE A PART. We rus group of 4 or tion the scenes Adults are welcome Anyone with acting or interest may see if there could along with the pro- interact with the be a puppet but includes a chorus and assistance in also be needed. Al- offering ticket pur- neighbors. Perfor- mance dates are No-



are incurring expens- new, Mad Hatter, Mouse, Humpty and a few extras plus therefore always wel- help with the costs. however is still in a THIS MAY INCLUDE FROM A FEW OF YOU are looking for a cho- more to help transi- with the audience. in fact encouraged. or dance experience want to contact us to be a fit. You can sing vided sound track and puppets. You will not costumed per set that number. Stage hands costume changes will so help promoting and chases to friends and mance dates are No-

On a separate note, we have again asked to be a part of Pleasant Hill's Art and Wine event the first weekend in October. We will be performing both Saturday and Sunday so that is great publicity prior to our performance in November.

WE NEED YOU!!!! Yes, we need the help of St Mark's even more for this production. Stay tuned for other ideas where you may be able to be involved but please make your interest known so we can contact you. Please continue to pray for our ministry and share your ideas with us. We would love to hear from you. Thank you!

Puppets of Praise and POP Theater
Mark Pitzlin

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

For Prayer ✨ Visitation

Prayers for Marilyn; Tom; Ed; Lee; Jan;
Sean; Cindy and Thomas Hutchings; 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

Martha Circle Study – Tuesday, August 1, 2017 -- 1:30 p.m.

The text is from Romans 13:1, 6-7

In this third session of the Bible study, "The biblical story is filled with characters who challenged unjust systems, took action that turned societal norms upside down and spoke truth to power. What systems are you a part of that need to be challenged? What counter-cultural, justice-making actions are you being called to take? Are you ready?"

Please join us in the meeting room. All are welcome.

Bible study leader: TBD

Refreshments: TBD