

THE MARKER

St. Mark's Lutheran Church

September 2017

3051 Putnam Blvd. Pleasant Hill, CA 94523

Greetings friends of St. Mark's,

A colleague of mine is known to have told her congregation, "If there isn't somebody here who rubs you the wrong way, you need to come around more often." Perhaps that is what Paul meant when he wrote about "the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace." That somehow if we hang in there with another member of the body of Christ, even someone we seem to have no natural affinity for, God's Spirit brings a change of heart in both parties.

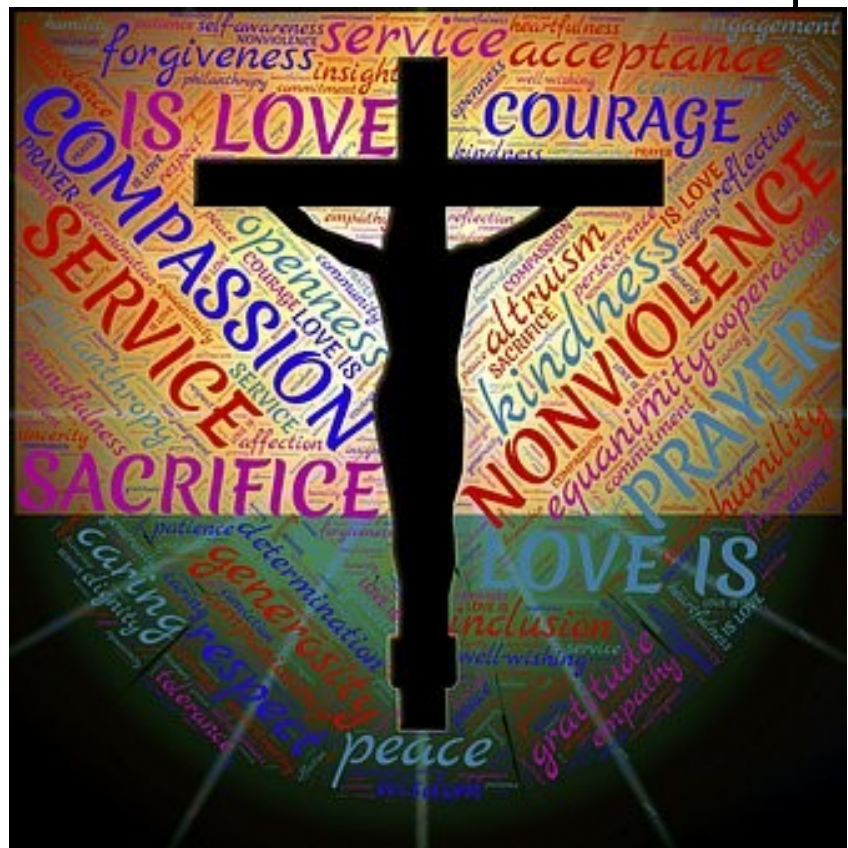
This dynamic is something that I firmly believe is an important part of what the church is, a kind of laboratory of love. Too often we betray this aspect when we look for our congregations to be homogeneous enclaves of the like-minded. Try a little experiment: next time you are in coffee hour, don't migrate to a person you love and delight in. Pick out someone who rubs you the wrong way and start a conversation. It might be the first steps on a new road God has called you to travel.

Blessings to you,

Pastor Bekah

Ephesians 4:1-3 The Message

4 1-3 In light of all this, here's what I want you to do. While I'm locked up here, a prisoner for the Master, I want you to get out there and walk—better yet, run!—on the road God called you to travel. I don't want any of you sitting around on your hands. I don't want anyone strolling off, down some path that goes nowhere. And mark that you do this with humility and discipline—not in fits and starts, but steadily, pouring yourselves out for each other in acts of love, alert at noticing differences and quick at mending fences.



Council News: *Highlights from the July meeting*

Highlights from August



Volunteers feeding at Shelter Inc. and working on donation of an oven to help in preparing meals. Reformation Movie and Potluck, Confirmation Bowling Party needing adult volunteers, and future fellowship event this fall.

July Financials

	<u>Monthly</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>YTD Actual</u>	<u>YTD Budget</u>
Giving	17, 898	17,591	131,699	105,268
Monthly Outreach Giving	925		8,155	
Total Expenses	16,193	17,591	123,544	105,268

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

**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

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

DATE

1	MYRTLE	CUTRIGHT
6	NICK	GRANGE
8	ALAN	KLINGELHAFFER
9	ANN	PALMER
11	LISA	FARNTIANO
12	ELLIOTT	RODRIGUEZ
12	LUKE	RODRIGUEZ
15	CANDACE	SNYDER
21	WILL	EGLER
24	TROY	ERICKSON



SEPTEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

DATE

1	GORDON & LAUREL	DEAN
4	DAYTON & CONNIE	GERANEN
28	MICHAEL & SUSAN	WAID

Martha Circle Study – Tuesday, September 5, 2017 ~ 1:30 p.m.

The theme verse is from Philippians 2:1-2

In this session of the Bible study, "Wherever two or more are gathered, Jesus is certainly present among them (Matthew 18:20). Also present at such a gathering are multiple opinions."

Share yours with the group.

Please join us in the meeting room.

All are welcome.



SEPTEMBER 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)

September 4 ~ Labor Day Office Closed

September 5 ~ Martha Circle Study 1:30 in the Meeting Room

September 10th ~ Council Meeting 12:00 pm in SMC

September 10th ~ Confirmation Bowling at 4:00 pm
Diablo Valley Bowl, 1500 Monument Blvd, Concord ~ Meet inside

September 17 ~ Social Ministry Outreach Forum, Monument Crisis Center,
with Speaker Sandra Scherer, Exec. Dir., at 9:45 am, Temple Talk and at the
2nd service.

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

Every 1st Tuesday of the Month Martha Circle at 1:30 pm

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

Every Thursday Night Choir Practice 7 pm starting Sept. 7th, SAN

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

Upcoming Events

October 1st ~ Blessing of the Animals at 10:30 Worship

October 9th ~ Columbus Day Office Closed

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

October 22 ~ No Morning Worship Services at St. Mark's

October 22 ~ Joint Reformation Worship Service at Christ the King
Pre-Service Music begins 3:30 pm

Worship begins at 4:00pm A Reception Will Follow

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

November 18th Crafty Ladies Holiday Craft Fair 9:00am-3:00pm

November 19th ~ Social Ministry Outreach Forum, STAND!, 9:45 am
Temple Talk at Second Service

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

Calling all 8th—12th graders for the National Youth Gathering In Houston, TX
June 26—July 2, 2018

Registration begins Sept. 15, 2017

Sharing Social Ministry for September

OUTREACH FOR SEPTEMBER – MONUMENT CRISIS CENTER

OVER THE LAST YEAR, WITH THE HELP OF HUNDREDS OF VOLUNTEERS AND DONORS, MONUMENT CRISIS CENTER DISTRIBUTED A FIVE DAY SUPPLY OF FOOD TO OVER 12,000 INDIVIDUALS, THEREBY PROVIDING ONE MILLION MEALS TO THOSE MOST AT RISK IN CONTRA COSTA COUNTY. IN ADDITION TO FOOD SERVICE PROGRAMS, MONUMENT CRISIS CENTER ADVOCATES FOR AT-RISK FAMILIES AND INDIVIDUALS AND STRIVES TO UNITE THE COMMUNITY IN A FORWARD EFFORT TO ALLEVIATE POVERTY. MONUMENT CRISIS CENTER : 1990 MARKET STREET, CONCORD, CA 94520, PHONE; (925) 825-7751

FOOD DISTRIBUTION HOURS: MONDAY –THURSDAY 9:00AM–12:00PM AND TUESDAY EVENINGS 5:00PM–7:00PM

DONATION DROP OFF HOURS: MONDAY –THURSDAY 9:00AM–12:00PM AND 1:30PM–4:30PM, TUES. 1:30–6:30PM (IF PERISHABLES PLEASE BRING ON MONDAY, TUESDAY OR WEDNESDAY ONLY.)

HOW TO HELP.....

DONATE: PRIZES FOR SENIOR MOMENTS

OUR SENIOR MOMENTS COORDINATOR IS ASKING FOR DONATIONS OF TEA AND CUPS/ MUGS TO GIVE AS PRIZES FOR OUR SENIOR MOMENTS BINGO PROGRAM.

DONATE: NEW HOTEL SIZE TOILETRIES

THIS IS AN ONGOING NEED AND AN EASY DRIVE FOR OUR CLIENTS ESPECIALLY THE HOMELESS.

SANDRA SCHERER, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF MCC, WILL VISIT OUR CONGREGATION ON 9/17 TO MAKE US AWARE OF THE NEEDS AND GOALS OF THIS MINISTRY. SHE WILL FACILITATE OUR FORUM AT 9:45 AM AND GIVE A BRIEF TEMPLE TALK AT THE SECOND SERVICE. COME, BRING YOUR COFFEE TO THE MEETING ROOM –BE INFORMED.



*Please help those who help others. Pray,
volunteer, advocate.*

*If you wish to support this ministry financially,
issue your check to St. Mark's, designate:
MCC*

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Worship and Music

Summer is cooling down but things at St. Mark's are heating up in preparation for fall activities.

Music has been selected and choir rehearsals for the early service start on Thursday, September 7th at 7:00pm.

Even though the choir took a vacation during the summer, we were blessed with anthems from individual vocalists and musicians. Thank you to the following people who enriched the early worship services.

Dorothy Englund David Englund Edith Yuh John Yeh
Travis Keshemborg Joyce Porter Lisa Farnitano Lois Hickson
Don Hickson Brian Mars Jared Wilson Sally Hein



Did you know that we have a number of young musicians sharing their developing musical talents as part of the band at the second service?

Casey Jones Jared Wilson Garrett Hein

I have been a regular attendee at the 8:30 service for several years. I decided to mix it up this summer to see how the other half lives at the 10:30 service. I wasn't sure how I would feel about a contemporary service. I liked it! I guess you can teach 'an old dog new tricks'. And, I was fortunate to be at the service the day Jace Klingelhafer sang with the band. What an awesome voice! ***Thank you to all the singers and musi-***

Like to sing but can't read music? Not a problem.

Like to play guitar or other instrument but don't have a lot of experience? Not a problem.

Both music groups are always looking for people to sing or play an instrument.

Beginners.....young.....old.....everyone is welcome to come try it out.

The early service choir rehearses on Thursdays at 7:00pm in the church.

The band rehearses on Saturdays at 10:00am also in the church.

If you are interested in being a part of the music programs at St. Mark's or would just like more information, please talk to any of the following people:

Joyce Porter 1st service Choir Director and Organist

Lisa Farnitano Pianist at both services

Mike Doyle 2nd service Music Director

Sherry Doyle 2nd service Music Director

Puppets of Praise Corner

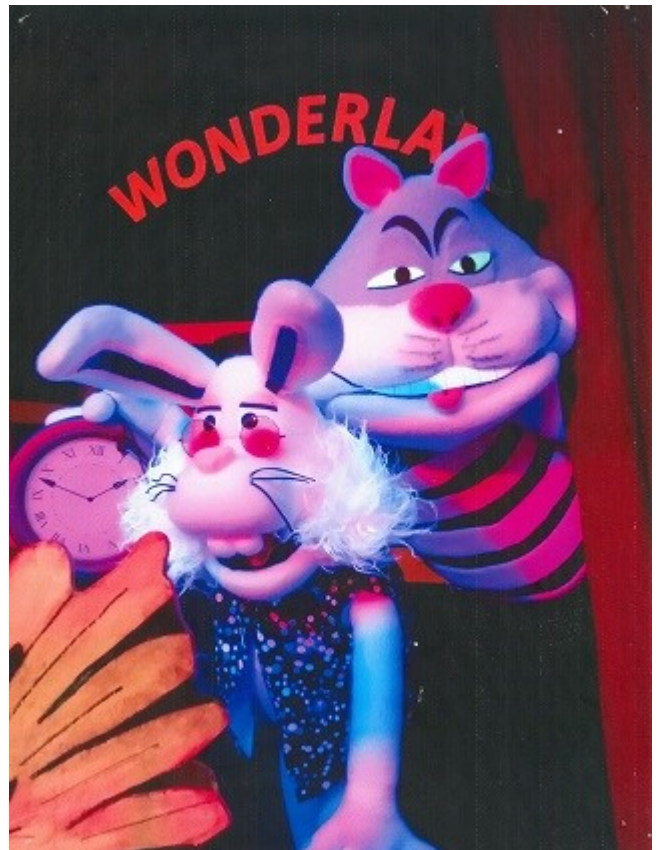
POP Theater continues their preparation of "Alice @ Wonderland". To refresh your memories, Alice @ is described as "The folly of 21st century colliding with the madness of Wonderland. Alice is a texting, tweeting, and Googling girl of the modern era falling into the Wonderland of old. To this end we 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 new, Mad Hatter, March Hare, Dore Mouse, Humpty Dumpty, Tiny Door and a few extras plus costuming. We therefore always welcome donations to help with the costs. Our biggest need however is still in a few cast members. **THIS MAY INCLUDE SOME INTEREST FROM A FEW OF YOU TO BE A PART.** We are looking for a chorus group of 4 or more to help transition the scenes with the audience. Adults are welcome in fact encouraged. Anyone with acting or dance experience or interest may want to contact us to see if there could be a fit. You can sing along with the provided sound track and interact with the puppets. You will not be a puppet but costumed per set that includes a chorus number. Stage hands and assistance in costume changes will also be needed. Also help promoting and offering ticket purchases to friends and neighbors. Performance dates are November 3-5.

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; Bob & Sherris' friend, Ursula Blackburn; Glenn Porter's brother, John, who passed away: the Yuh family for the loss Edith's Grandfather; Brian Marr's friend Sara; 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

"We would like to express our gratitude and thanks for your kind thoughts, cards, and support for this time during Marilyn's illness. We feel great comfort in knowing that we have a wonderful Christian family, and that you are there for us in time of need. God bless you all!"

Marilyn & Guy