

THE MARKER

St. Mark's Lutheran Church

January 2018

3051 Putnam Blvd. Pleasant Hill, CA 94523

Dear Friends of St. Mark's,

I love Epiphany. There is something so steadfast in the arrival of the three wise kings to celebrate Jesus' arrival...two years later! I cherish that this year we will have a congregational celebration on Epiphany day to welcome Baby Skavhaug, all are welcome.

On the First Sunday after Epiphany, the church remembers the baptism of Jesus by John the Baptist as recounted in the gospels. In that story, the power of the Holy Spirit is evident at the very outset of Jesus' public life of faith. Jesus surfaces from the waters of the Jordan, the heavens open, a dove descends, and a voice from heaven declares, "You are my beloved Child; with you I am well pleased."

The word Epiphany comes from the Greek epiphania, which means manifestation or revelation and suggests a shining light. On this day, the church recalls God's manifest presence in this and the many other episodes of Jesus' life. As we reflect on Jesus' baptism, we might follow Martin Luther's advice, in his larger catechism, to consider and recall our own baptism as well. Luther did not support repeating baptism but called on us to make repeated use of our baptism. He said, "A truly Christian life is nothing else than a daily baptism once begun and ever to be continued." Whether we have been baptized or not, remember it or not, we have opportunity today to claim and rejoice in the very real ways in which God comes to light in the church and in our lives. Through baptism, God declares that we are beloved children of God.

Blessings to you this Epiphany,

Pastor Bekah



Council News: *Highlights from the December meeting*

News of the Church fire was discussed and measures to be taken in response and the use of the facility. The Heifer project's successful purchase of animals, equipment, training and seeds with the \$1040.00 that was raised. The great weekend the Confirmation students had at the ELCA Retreat at Mt. Cross.



November Financials

	<u>Monthly</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>YTD Actual</u>	<u>YTD Budget</u>
Offering	18,019	17,535	191,764	175,353
Monthly Outreach Giving	1,983		14,805	
Total Expenses	20,551	17,535	184,240	175,353

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

Happy New Year

The Lord bless you and keep you;

*The Lord make His face shine upon
you, And be gracious to you;*

*The Lord lift up His countenance
upon you, And give you peace.*

Numbers 6: 24-26

JANUARY CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Sunday

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

Social 9:30 am in Saint Mark's Center

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

10:30 am Sunday School

11:40 am Confirmation Class

This Month

New Year's Eve, Dec 31st, one worship service at 10:00 am

Office Closed on and January 1st and 15th for holidays.

Starting January 5th, Every Friday, Adult Bible Study, 10:00 am SMC

Maria & Iain Skavhaug's Baby Shower, January 6th, 12:00 pm, at SMC.

Please bring a luncheon dish to share. Desert and drinks are provided.

All Men & Women are welcome!

Council Meeting & Retreat, January 13th, 8:30 AM

Second Congregational Meeting, January 14th at 9:40 am Sanctuary

January 21st, Outreach Forum speaker, Harold Leffall, of Juvenile Hall

Closet Auxiliary 9:40 in the MR and Temple Talk at the 10:30 Worship

1st Tuesday of the Month Martha Circle 1:30 pm. MR

2nd Tuesday of the Month Social Ministry Meeting 10:00 am MR

Thursday Night Choir Practice 7:00 pm in SAN

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

Upcoming Events

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

June 24th- July 3rd, ELCA Youth Gathering, Houston, TX



**Please join us to celebrate a new life at the
Baby Shower for Iain & Maria Skavhaug**

January 6th at 12:00 pm

in the St. Mark's Center

All adults are welcome!



Please bring a luncheon dish.

Dessert and drinks will be provided.



JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

DATE

5	LOIS	HICKSON
9	GUY	ERICKSON
13	ALEC	DOYLE
14	EDITH	YUH
15	GRACE	BROWNE
21	DANIEL	FARNITANO
25	LEE	LARSON
27	JOYCE	PORTER
29	JULIANNE	COLEMAN

Happy
Birthday



Sharing Social Ministry for January

Sharing Social Ministry

January 2018 Outreach: **Juvenile Hall Auxiliary**

The Juvenile Hall Auxiliary supports youth in the Contra Costa County juvenile justice system through scholarships, paid internships and youth mentoring programs. This support has enabled at-risk young people to finish high school, learn life skills, attend college or vocational certification programs, get workforce training and successfully re-enter the community as productive adults.

On **Sunday, January 21**, we will welcome Harold Leffall from the Auxiliary, who will speak at the **Adult Forum** in between the services. Please join us at 9:45 am to learn more about this important service in our community.

How can you help? Attend the forum to learn more about how to offer your time or talents, prayers and advocacy and consider a monetary donation through St. Mark's (indicate J. H. Auxiliary on your check).

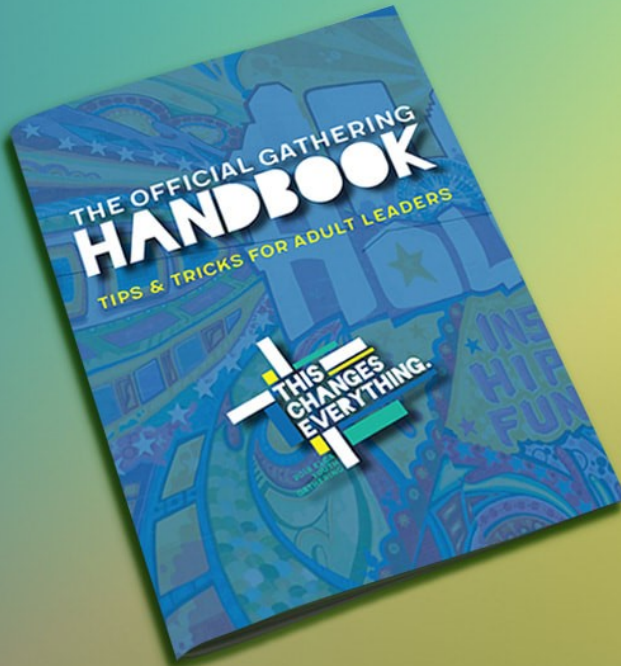
You can also donate to or shop at the Hall Closet Thrift Store, located at 100 Glacier Drive, Martinez. Please check the website (www.reachingouryouth.org) for 2018 hours of operation.



Youth Retreats

2018 ELCA YOUTH GATHERING
IN HOUSTON, TX

JUNE 24TH ~ JULY 3RD



**SIERRA PACIFIC
SYNOD YOUTH
RETREATS**



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



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



Learn more @ www.spsyc.org

Puppets of Praise Corner

The totals are in and here is how they compare to Big Bad:

	Big Bad	Alice @ Wonderland
# of Shows	4	3
Total Attendance	295	292
Leshar Charges	\$1492	\$1227
Ticket Sales Gross	\$3052	\$3125
Check from Leshar	\$1929.80	\$2197.95

Summary is we made a little more with less shows and almost equaled our attendance.

The cost to produce was about \$3900 so with \$2197 from Leshar we only were in the red \$1703. Getting much better. What a great investment of our mission money to outreach to our community. GOD IS GREAT!!! And because He is great He has made the Puppets of Praise team great too! Please continue to keep us and our ministry in your prayers.

THANK YOU ST MARK'S!

Mark Pitzlin and the
Puppets of Praise



The Puppets of Praise Theater finished a very busy and successful 2017. We had two productions at the Lesher Theater for the Arts with several smaller performances thrown in the mix. Christmas was also full with a Jelly Belly performance and 3 senior home visits which included small gifts, Christmas stockings and personalized Christmas cards. Over 100 seniors were touched by the presence of puppet Christmas cheer.

2018 will start strong with a new production scheduled for early May. Alice in Wonderland will be replaced by Little Red Riding Hood and her experience with Oz. Music will be from 2 existing musicals Doo-Wop Wed Widing Hood (which means it will be mostly 50's style music) and Oz (which has its own style of music). The musical mix will certainly bring a fairytale story where anything can and does happen. The storyline however is freshly written with new twists and turns as Little Red not only has to worry about the Big Bad wolf, but also her 2 sisters, 3 of the kings sons, 3 characters from Oz, and the Evil Queen, just to find true friendship and a happy ever after ending for everyone.

We will be casting in January are looking for help of all kinds. If you are interested please talk to Mark Pitzlin for more details. We have several adults who have now joined our cast and are open to add more if the part fits.

Thank you to St Mark's for their support in 2017 and we hope we can continue counting on you for 2108.

Happy New Year from the POP Theater Group!!!

Mark A. Pitzlin

ST. MARK'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

A Reconciling in Christ Congregation

051 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

We pray for Don; Tom; Ed; Jan; Sean;
Anna's brother, Joseph; Brian's friend, Sara;
and Geoff's family.

If you would like to be included in the
prayer chain or if you have a prayer re-
quest, you can email the office at:

officeadmin@sm-lc.net

New Adult Bible Study

Every Friday Morning at 10:00 am SMC

Bring your Bible and a Notebook ~ All adults are welcome!

Martha Circle Study – Tuesday,

January 2, 2017 ~ 1:30 p.m.

At such a gathering are multiple opinions.

Share yours with the group.

Please join us in the meeting room.

All are welcome.

