

THE MARKER

St. Mark's Lutheran Church

August 2018

3051 Putnam Blvd. Pleasant Hill, CA 94523

Dear Friends of St. Mark's,

This month, Lyle Beckman of the San Francisco Night Ministry, will be retiring. I know this ministry is dear to many of your hearts. Here is a reflection from Lyle on his final month with the Night Ministry.

Could Jesus be described as the first Night Minister? We imagine him so. The phrase "It was night" appears at the recalling of the last supper where Jesus had just celebrated the Passover with his disciples, instituted the Eucharist as a means of continuing to feed and sustain them,

and shown them how to love each other in the example of washing their feet. All the disciples were washed, fed and blessed – the disciple whom Jesus loved, the one who would deny him, the one who would soon betray him – all were included in that love. As Judas leaves the upper room, the narrator of the story uses these short, powerful words: It was night.

Nicodemus come to Jesus "by night, for fear of the Jews" and the conversation soon turns to the meaning of eternal life and being born again. Night Ministers hear confessions, secrets, and stories of abuse, guilt, shame and loss. We help folks mediate the complicated strands of faith and life; the fears of God's wrath and punishment; and the hopelessness that God doesn't love them anymore. We connect to them to their earliest memories of faith; and pray with them in confidence in Jesus name.

Just as Jesus did, we are there to listen, to forgive, to love, to bless, and to share a word of hope in the middle of the night. We could not continue without your support. Thank you for your social ministry giving offerings. With your help Night Ministers and volunteer Crisis Line Counselors engaged in over 30,000 significant conversations last year, and we will continue serving as the "churches' night shift".

San Francisco Night Ministry, now in its 54th year, is a multi-faith organization providing crisis intervention, counseling, referral services and spiritual care every night of the year between the hours of 10:00 PM and 4:00 AM. We staff a Crisis Telephone Line with trained volunteers, and support Night Ministers who literally walk the streets of San Francisco, offering face-to-face conversations to those who are lonely, anxious, and afraid in the middle of the night, when crises are most acute and social services not readily available.

In addition Night Ministry sponsors three feeding programs, a wellness program, a volunteer street chaplain program, several community-building and educational programs, including Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE), internships, and other programs that extend our outreach to many more people in need.

You are invited to celebrate Lyle's retirement with a farewell evening on August 31. Tickets are available at Eventbrite.com

Blessings to you,

Pastor Bekah



*Lyle's
Retirement*

Council News: Highlights from the July meeting

St. Mark's giving has been way down this year and hoping that trend changes soon. Gearing up for Fall Sunday School. Need more volunteers for the Sunday ministries.



June Financials

	<u>Monthly</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>YTD Actual</u>	<u>YTD Budget</u>
Offering	9352	17,988	91,208	107,928
Monthly Outreach Giving	925		4232	
Total Expenses	15,300	17,988	113,682	107,928

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

Financial Update:

As we pass the midway point in the year, our finances as a church are in a difficult situation. Financial giving is down 25% in the first 6 months of 2018, from \$121,031 in 2017 to \$91,207 this year. We have been able to hold expenses to \$113,682, less than 1% greater than the same time period in 2017. Still, this represents a significant gap between income and expenses. We have a very lean church budget and rely on the talents and contributions of many unpaid volunteers, so there are very few discretionary expenses that can be eliminated to improve our financial situation. Please prayerfully consider increasing your weekly or monthly offering to help reduce this financial gap.

Detailed income and expenditure reports are available in the church narthex or from our treasurer, Ann Palmer.

Chris Farnitano

Council President, St. Mark's Lutheran Church

AUGUST 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

August 6th—10th, 5:30pm, Serving Dinners at Shelter Inc.

August 12th, 12:00pm Council Meeting, SMC

August 26th, 10:00 am Jarod Wilson's Confirmation & Luca Boragno's
Baptism

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

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

Wednesday Crafty Ladies 10:00-2:00 SMC

Thursday Night Choir Practice 7:30 pm in SAN

Friday Morning Adult Bible Study 10:00 am SMC

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

Upcoming Events

Sept. 16th, 7:30 pm, Taize Service in St. Mark's Sanctuary



AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

DATE

- 3 MARY ENGLUND
- 7 STEVE BACHOFER
- 8 MICHAEL DOYLE
- 9 TED BERG
- 11 DAYTON GERANEN
- 16 FELIX MAJEWSKI
- 19 ERIC SNYDER
- 20 KATHERINE COLEMAN
- 22 LAURIE REISS
- 23 RON HEIN
- 24 MATTHEW WAID
- 25 CHRIS FARNITANO
- 26 SHARON BAXTER
- 27 ADELHEID DOYLE
- 28 MICHELLE ALBRIGHT
- 29 STEVE STEVAHN
- 30 DEBBIE WILSON



AUGUST ANNIVERSARIES

- 7 DAVID & DOROTHY ENGLUND
- 10 GUY & MARILYN ERICKSON
- 15 TOM & CONNIE BELL
- 22 RICHARD & DEBRA BROWN
- 29 JOYCE & GLEN PORTER

Sharing Social Ministry for August

Social Ministry Update – August 2018

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

Preventing Homelessness: Keeping a family in their home means that jobs are retained, families are fed and children are safe. Prevention services include rental assistance, a needs assessment and financial goal setting with a case manager.

Ending the Cycle of Homelessness: Homeless families and individuals are provided housing plus services including employment, education, counseling and household budgeting to help regain self-sufficiency and permanent homes.

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 August 6-10, 2018. If you have not already signed up to help, please consider participating.

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 on your offering.



Puppets of Praise Theater Needs Cast Members

The Puppets of Praise are in the planning stages of their next Musical production titled **“Dorothy in Wonderland”**. This production would be scheduled for performance dates late 2018 early 2019 at the Lesher Theater in Walnut Creek and possibly the Campbell Theater in Martinez. This musical will be based on the original Musical Dorothy in Wonderland and requires a larger cast for production.

We are therefore looking for youth 6th grade and older through adult age to help with casting, voices, controls and production. We are trying to expand our involvement for this production and are looking for additional avenues for recruiting and promoting. Please let us know if you are interested in helping, auditioning for a part or providing ideas for recruiting.

Contact Mark Pitzlin via text 925-286-8127 or puppetsofpraisetheater@gmail.com. Thank you! Puppets of Praise



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

Weekly Adult Bible Study

Please join us for a weekly Bible Study at 10 am on Friday mornings, open to all. We have begun studying the Book of Mark, which is also the focus of the current lectionary. Please contact Lisa Farnitano (lisa.farnitano@gmail.com) or Nicole Coggiola for more information.

Martha Circle Study –Tuesday,

August 7, 2018 ~ 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.

For Prayer & Visitation

We pray for Laurie Reiss, Sherry Doyle; Glen; Tom; Jan; Sean; Steve's mom & dad, Ruth & Ernie; Pastor Marv; Ann's niece Sherry; Jonah, grandson of Laurel & Gordon; Gordon's brother Ted; Sharon's sister Barbara; 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