

THE MARKER

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

October 2018

Dear Friends of St. Mark's,

Have you ever had a confounding exchange with Siri? I'm referring to those infuriating moments when Siri absolutely doesn't understand whatever question you are asking. I have gotten some hilarious responses from Siri to questions I never asked in the first place.

It's not just our verbal exchanges with inanimate objects. Perhaps we tend to ask the wrong questions of ourselves. Like anxiously thinking, "Will this endeavor go the way I'm expecting?" Instead of asking, "Why **wouldn't** it go the right way?"

The Church does it, too - asks the wrong questions of itself.

Take "cheap grace." Bonhoeffer introduced the idea, and we've been worrying about it ever since. Cheap grace is supposedly grace without discipleship, or confession, or repentance...or whatever.

The Church has been deeply concerned that people not access grace too easily. As if the problem with the world was that it is too grace-filled. There are just too many people who understand their belovedness without needing to prove it or earn it. Everyone's too secure.

How do we convince people they need to work harder and do more to be worthy? It's exactly the wrong question. How do we get the word out about how cheap this grace is? That's a better one.

Confession. Repentance. Discipleship. Great.

None of that changes the cost of grace. Even getting the wrong question can't do it.

Nothing. We can't cheapen grace. No matter what we do. We're just not that powerful. Thank God.
-

Pastor Bekah



Council News: *Highlights from the September meeting*

St. Mark's giving has been way down this year and hoping that trend changes soon. Gearing up for Fall Sunday School, we need teachers to volunteer. Looking to upgrade the sound system with the memorial fund money.



August Financials

	<u>Monthly</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>YTD Actual</u>	<u>YTD Budget</u>
Offering	9942	17,988	143903	107,928
Monthly Outreach Giving	125		4963	
Total Expenses	20,996	17,988	153,150	107,928

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

Rwanda Book Club
Coming on the third Sunday in
October at coffee hour.



OCTOBER 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 Nursery Care Available

10:30 am Sunday School

11:40 am Confirmation Class

This Month

October 7th, 10:30 service, Blessing of the Animals

October 7th, 12:00 pm, Council Meeting

October 21st, 9:30am, Rwanda Book Club

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

November 9-11, Sierra Pacific Synod Middle School Retreat at Mt. Cross

November 17th, 9-2:00 pm, Holiday Crafts Faire, SMC

December 5th, 7:00 pm, Advent Services begin

February 22-24, Sierra Pacific High School Retreat at Mt. Cross

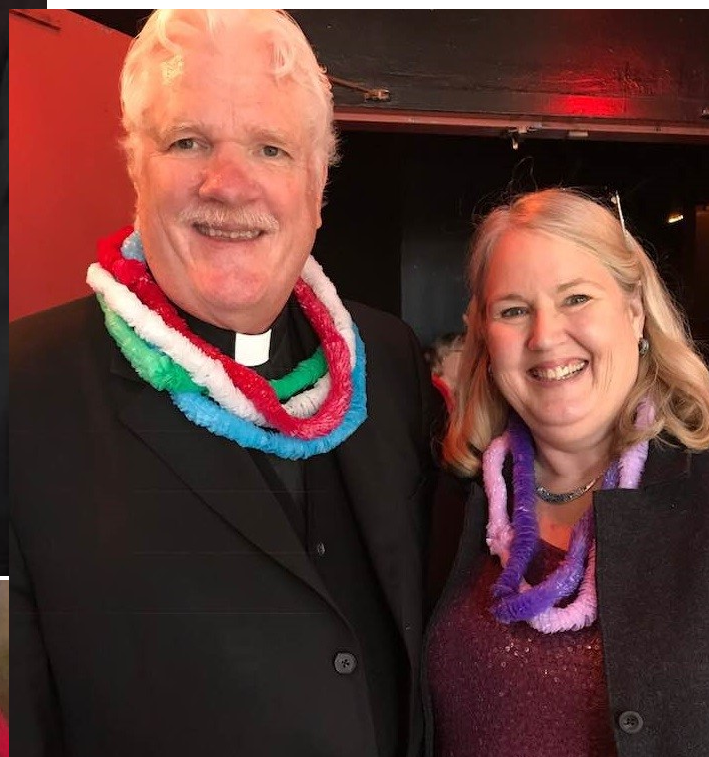
June 26-29, 2020 Western States Youth Gathering, Thousand Oaks, CA



Pastor Lyle's Retirement



Pastor Lyle's Retirement Party



OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

DATE

1 GARRETT HEIN

1 OLIVIA MENDEZ-ALM

4 TOM BELL

5 ANDREW FARNITANO

8 SYDNEY JONES

8 MAGGIE WAID

13 JOANNE BOYLE

14 DAVID PETERSON

15 ANNA DOYLE

15 ADAM GRAGE

17 REAGEN FOLLMER

21 RICHARD BROWN

25 INGRID ZULGIS

30 EVELYN RODRIGUEZ

31 JUDY BROWN



OCTOBER ANNIVERSARIES

7 RICHARD & PAT ALBRIGHT

13 BRIAN MARRS & SHARON BAXTRER

27 DON & ELISABETH STAPLETON

Sharing Social Ministry for October

Outreach for October : HELP FIGHT WORLD HUNGER with Heifer International & Rise Against Hunger

This month we have TWO exciting ways that we can help fight world hunger!

First, back by popular demand, we will support Heifer International. Heifer International has been around since 1944, and its mission is to work with communities to end hunger and poverty and care for the earth, and their strategy is “to pass on the gift” by giving families the means for self reliance by providing more than 25 kinds of livestock as well as trees, seedlings and training in agriculture. You can get more information from their website at www.heifer.org.

Our younger kids (elementary age and down) will again focus on Heifer, and they will be collecting money in their Heifer piggy banks (which will be passed out September 30th during worship), so please help our kids fill those banks! Any checks should be made out to St. Mark's, designated “Heifer”.

New this year is that we will also be supporting Rise Against Hunger. Rise Against Hunger was started in 1998 by a Methodist minister. Its mission is to end hunger in our lifetime by providing food and life-changing aid to the world's most vulnerable and creating a global commitment to mobilize the necessary resources. They do this by packaging millions of nutritious meals annually that are then distributed to partners in countries around the world. These partners then use these meals as a tool to change lives by promoting education, improving students' health and nutrition, addressing gender inequalities, stimulating economic growth and fighting child labor. You can get more information from their website at www.riseagainsthunger.org.

Our older kids (junior high and up) will be asking for you to pledge your support while they do a 24-hour fast at the end of October. They will start the morning of October 27th about 9am (they won't eat after 7:30am that morning) in the St. Mark's Center. They will spend the day doing service projects, learning about world hunger, praying and playing games together all while fasting just to give them a very small sense of what it feels like to go without food (they can drink all the juice or water they want, so no sneaking them food...). On Sunday morning the 28th, they will break their fast with breakfast at 7:30am. Please consider supporting them in this fast monetarily. If possible, fill out their pledge sheet (they're a team, so it doesn't matter whose sheet you fill out). Checks should be made out to St. Mark's, designated “Rise Against Hunger”, and given to one of the youth or put in the offering plate with the designation.

Need more information, please feel free to contact Debbie Wilson at (925)944-1314 or email at Mom-mymook1@comcast.net



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.

For Prayer & Visitation

We pray for Glen; Jan; Sean; Jonah, grandson of Laurel & Gordon; Sharon's sister Barbara; and Brian's sister. Debbie; Angela's mother Sheri; and Ken's uncle Ken.

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