

Saint Mark

“Connecting people with the vibrant love of Jesus.”

Volume 61 Issue 3

March 2011

Message from Pastor

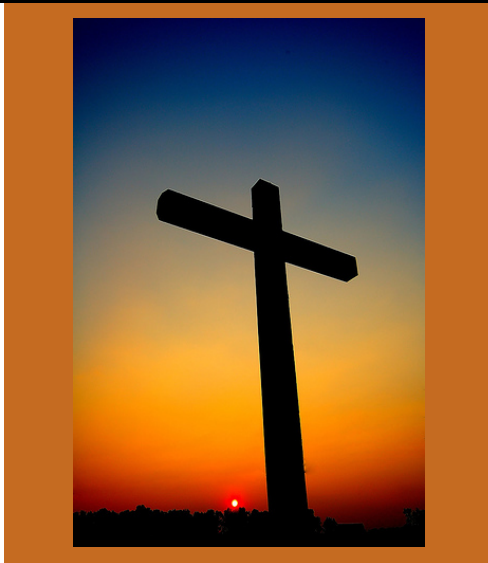
Matthew 26:17-27:26

“Close to the Cross...Close to Jesus”

As we enter this Lenten season, we turn our attention to following our Savior Jesus as he gets close to the cross. His focus and passion now clearly before him as he prepares himself, his followers and us for the greatest redemption story in the history of the world.

Jesus' eyes are on the cross--as they have been all along, but now even more intensely as the "hour" nears that the son of man would offer his life for the sins of the world. His undying love for all mankind ultimately calls him to give his life for many. Jesus love for his Heavenly Father and for the created human race, beckons him to defeat the evil one.

In Jesus we have the One, the only One, who can defeat the evil one, sin, and death--and give instead life, Eternal Life. Jesus Christ becomes that great sacrifice in our stead, in our place, because of his love for you and me. For all who embrace his sacrifice for sin and turn to him, he gives the power to become the children of God. His forgiveness is total and complete and everlasting. It truly is the GREATEST gift of all time.



Would you please join me as we walk through Lent 2011 together? Let us deepen our faith found in his great work of the cross. Then join us on Easter Sunday morning to celebrate the greatest VICTORY of all time.

Please see our Lenten Schedule and Holy week Schedule. Join us for the weekly Wednesday dinners and fellowship at 6PM and for Worship service at 7PM.

Lenten Schedule & Scripture Topics:

- Ash Wednesday 3/9 - "The Covenant"
- Lent II 3/16 - "Gethsemane"
- Lent III 3/23 - "Jesus Arrested"
- Lent IV 3/30 - "Before the Sanhedrin"
- Lent V 4/6 - "Peter Disowns Jesus"
- Lent VI 4/13 - Jesus Before Pilate"

Holy Week Schedule:

- Palm Sunday, April 17th
- Maundy Thursday, April 21st Seder
- Good Friday, April 22nd Tenebrae
- Easter Sunday, April 24th

Also as a special evening speaker, we will have opportunity to hear first hand of one of the missionaries from Viet Nam--The Rev. Ted Englebrecht will be coming to the San Francisco area to join us at St. Mark on the evening of **Thursday, March 31st**. Members of Holy Cross, Los Gatos will join us that evening as we hear from Ted. The missionaries of LCMS (the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod) must do fundraising for their missionary work. The Rev. Ted Englebrecht will be speaking to us about his experiences of ministry in Viet Nam. He is also one of five members that formed the management team for the Asian missionaries that I was able to be part of last month in China.

Please join us for an enriching and inspiring evening of getting in touch with our missionaries.

-Pastor Rod Hall

“Close to the Cross..... Close to Jesus”

Lenten Schedule

Wednesday, March 9 - Ash Wednesday Lent I - The Lord's Supper (Holy Communion)
“The Covenant” - Matthew 26:17-30

Wednesday, March 16 - Lent II – Gethsemane (Holy Communion)
“yet not as I will...but as you will” - Matthew 26:36-46

Wednesday, March 23 - Lent III – Jesus Arrested (Holy Communion)
“it must happen this way” - Matthew 26:47-56

Wednesday, March 30 - Lent IV – Before the Sanhedrin (Holy Communion)
“in the future you will see...the Son of Man” - Matthew 26:57-68

Wednesday, April 6 – Lent V - Peter Disowns Jesus (Holy Communion)
“Sorrow that pierces the soul” - Matthew 26:31-35 and 69-75

Wednesday, April 13 - Lent VI – Jesus before Pilate (Holy Communion)
“have EVERYTHING to do...with that man” - Matthew 27:11-26

Holy Week Schedule

Sunday, April 17- Palm Sunday with Holy Communion 10AM

Thursday, April 21 - Maundy Thursday Seder Dinner 6:30PM Parish Hall (Holy Communion)

Friday, April 22 - Good Friday Tenebrae Worship 7PM

Sunday, April 24 - Easter Morning Brunch in Parish Hall 8:30AM, Easter Egg Hunt 9:15AM, Easter
Worship with Holy Communion 10AM



Bible Study Groups...



*Find a special group to join. Don't see one that fits your schedule?
Consider starting one of your own! Contact the church office to share your ideas.*

Adult Bible Study



Sundays 8:45AM

Study #1

Please join this class in Room 5 for a new seven week DVD study on Christ by Paul Maier. See Jim Hillmann for more information.

Study #2

Please join Pastor Rod as he leads a study on the Lutheran faith--Basic Beliefs. This class meets in the church office.

For more information, contact Pastor Rod Hall.



Sunday School



Sundays 8:45AM

Youth Class 7th to 12th grades meet in Room next to Kitchen. All other classes meet in Parish Hall for opening and then break for individual class time. Please arrive early at 8:30AM to have a morning snack before opening that starts at 8:45AM. Classes let out at 9:45AM in time to get settled for the 10AM worship service.

Second Sunday offering collections are donated to the Lutheran Malaria Initiative. See bulletin for more details.

Women's Bible Study



Mondays 6:30PM

Join new study on Book of Matthew, Monday February 28th, 6:30PM at Doris' Amick's home.

For more information, please contact Victoria Hall or Doris Amick.

Confirmation Class

Select Mondays 6PM

Confirmation class meets Mondays. **HOWEVER, next class is scheduled for TUESDAY, March 1st.** Dinner provided starting at 6PM. Study begins at 6:30PM.

This two year curriculum leads to first communion. Please contact church office for more information or see Pastor Rod.

Men's Bible Study



Tuesdays 6:30AM

Group is beginning a new study in the Old Testament, **1st Samuel**. Group meets at church in Room 5 at 6:30AM for 1 hour, coffee provided.

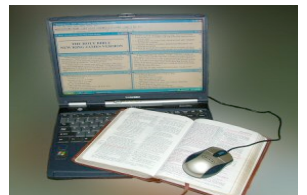
For more information, please see Glenn Amick.

Grief/Loss Bible Study

TBD

Dawn Haskin will be leading this healing study, "On the Road to Emmaus: A Travel Guide Through Grief" by Myrlene Hamilton Hess. Space is limited, so to register, please contact church office or Dawn Haskin at 408-386-5546. Watch bulletin for more details on start dates & times.

E-DiBS: Email Bible Study



E-DiBS is an innovative Bible study emailed to you on a (Monday-Friday) daily basis. Included with the email is a link to a >10 minute Bible study video, along with the text of the Bible study in a PDF format. E-DiBS' primary purpose is to provide a short, easy to use study for those that struggle to allocate time for studying God's Word.

Study on book of Hebrews began 11/29/10. You don't need a member of St. Mark to participate. Feel free to pass along to friends!

To participate, simply send an email to: Email_Bible_Study@stmarksunnyvale.org.

Fellowship Opportunities

For where two or three come together in my name, there am I with them.

— Matthew 18:20 NIV



Healthy Choices

Select Sundays

This group meets once a month for 30 minutes following church services in Room 5. The goal is to help one another by discussing, learning, and praying together about care and respect for our body.

Watch weekly bulletins for next meeting.

Please contact Paula Krumm for more details.

Singles & Doubles

See Bulletins

We meet at least once a month for fellowship and fun with friends. Everyone is invited! We love to get together and enjoy great conversation around food and beverage. We bring our own to make hosting these events very easy!

If you would like to host a gathering, please contact Kathy Cannon at 408-431-7277 or lazydaisysummer@yahoo.com

PAPPYP

Thursdays 7PM

Group will meet in Room 5 on March 24th & 31st. We are helping SCS's goal of making 500 knit or crochet scarves for community seniors.

Beginners welcome with teaching & yarn provided! Please help!

For more information, please contact Dawn Haskin or Kellee Noonan.

Worship Assistants

Sunday Teams

Each week we have many volunteers assist in worship service in areas such as: **Usher, Greeter, Acolyte, Scripture Reader, Message to the Children, Nursery Worker, Hospitality Cart (coffee cart), Altar Guild.**

Would you like to join our worship assistant team?

If your answer is: "Yes!", please contact the church office to get on the work chart. Instructions provided and questions answered!

Adult Voice Choir & Bells

Wednesdays

Practice alters for Lent Season with Bell Choir at 5:30PM and Adult Voice Choir at 8PM.

Please contact Connie Osborne for more information on joining.

Dinner for "The Refuge"
Volunteered Saturdays

St. Mark is reaching out to our community by preparing and serving dinner at a local ministry for the homeless and/or needy. The Refuge Ministry is located here in Sunnyvale at the Washington Park Recreation Building. Approximately 50-70 people are served and after dinner they hear His Word from Pastor Ron Paulson, New Beginnings Church. "Bringing Jesus' Love and Restoration to the Lost and Hurting".

Next date to serve with St. Mark Team is **Saturday, April 9th.**

For more information, see Victoria Hall or Paula Krumm.

Encouragement

Every Sunday

See bulletin for more details.

There is a box in back of church marked Hope, Love, and Faith with a stack of blank paper notes next to it. Please write some **words of encouragement** to someone or comment on some appreciation you have for them. Place it in a sealed envelope with their name and put it in the box for delivery.

Women's Conference

Saturday, March 5th

See pages 8-9 for more details.

All women are invited to a women's conference, "Be Joyful in Hope", featuring noted inspirational speakers, Ruth Koch. Ruth is a mental health director and National Certified Counselor, trained in both social work and counseling.

Contact Helen Bartz or Marilyn Howard for more details.

Movie & Munchies

Friday, April 1st 6PM

All family & friends welcome to join a double feature on Friday, April 1st starting at 6PM. Families Branching Out Group is hosting Family Movie Night--admission 1 can food item per person. Concession fodder & beverages provided. Bring your pillows, sleeping or bean bags--you can even come in your pj's! See back cover for more details.

Lent Fellowship Dinners

March-April

Ash Wednesday is March 9th.

There are 6 Lenten Dinners starting in March. These dinners are an important part of St. Mark's ministry of feeding those who come for worship services during Lent. Please consider putting a team together to provide one of these special meals. Sign up sheets are in back of church.



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Help your kids manage money better—Set a stewardship guideline

Today's kids are bombarded with mixed messages about finances. Help them be responsible stewards of the resources they've been given. Creating a stewardship guideline can show them how to share, save and spend their money wisely.

Here are some sample guidelines:

- Share 10%, save 20%, spend 70%
- Share 15%, save 15%, spend 70%
- Share 20%, save 20%, spend 60%

Discuss the merits of sharing, saving and spending with your children, and then create an age-appropriate guideline. The percentages you choose aren't as important as setting a guideline—and having your children stick to it every time they receive money.

To see if your own stewardship guideline is in line with your financial goals, contact your Thrivent Financial for Lutherans representative today.

My child's guideline is:

Share ___%

Save ___%

Spend ___%

100 %

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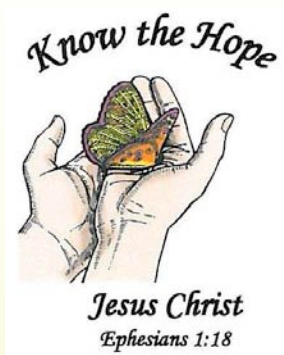
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“But as for me, I will always have hope”

CNH LWML WOMEN’S CONFERENCE



“Be Joyful in Hope”

Featuring Ruth Koch
Inspirational Speaker

Saturday, March 5, 2011

10:00am-3:00pm

(Registration opens at 9:00am)

Grace Lutheran Church

Modesto, CA

Cost \$30.00

includes lunch

Hosted by

**CNH
LWML**

Region IV:

Zones 3, 5
9, 15, & 16

For registration forms go to <http://cnhlwml.org>

Ruth N Koch, M.A., NCC

Ruth Koch is a mental health educator and National Certified Counselor. Trained in both social work and counseling, she teaches about everyday mental health issues that impact personal and family relations.

For over 40 years, Ruth has conducted workshops and classes for church professionals and others who are looking for practical and effective coping strategies for ordinary and complex problems of the Christian life.

An author, speaker and consultant, Ruth is the author of ***Prepare to Serve!***, the LWML's video study series on various mental health issues and leadership. She designed the family conflict and healthy boundaries materials for Lutheran Hour Ministries and co-authored Stephen Ministries' ***Speaking the Truth in Love: How to Be An Assertive Christian***. Ruth is a frequent contributor to the LWML ***Quarterly*** and a weekly guest on the KFYO, St. Louis, "Morning Show."

Ruth is a contributing author to woman's bible study devotional, ***A New Song: Planted by Streams of Water***, and ***Grace Notes: Devotions for Women in the Church***, both published by Concordia Publishing House.

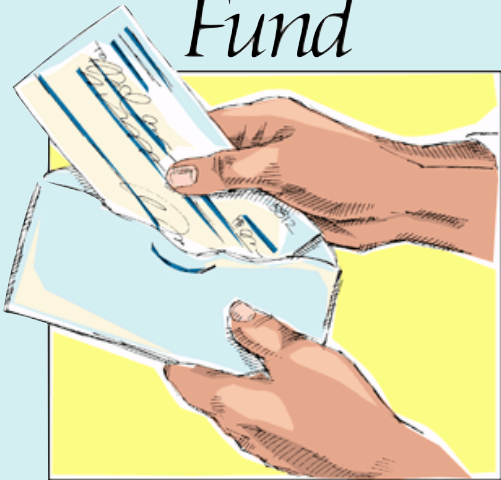
Ruth is a widow, a mother to two grown daughters, and the grandmother of three lovely, lively and completely adorable granddaughters.

Ruth will be the Inspirational Speaker at the CNH LWML Women's Conference on Saturday, March 5, 2011 in Modesto. If you are interested in attending please contact Helen Bartz at helenbgood@sbcglobal.net. Registration forms are available online at www.cnhlwml.org



Endowment Committee Report

Endowment Fund



The Endowment Committee met in February to discuss the first distribution of funds to one of God's ministries at St. Mark. As previously noted, the Endowment Committee will distribute 5% of the fund's total when the funds exceed \$50,000 on December 31st. For 2010, this would amount to \$2,900. At this time, the Committee is asking for the congregation's ideas for a ministry they would like the money go to. All ideas should be received no later than Sunday, March 13th, at which time the Committee will review the ideas and make a decision on which should receive the funding. The Committee will then bring their recommendation to the congregation for their approval or disapproval. Ideas to consider are outreach ministries, including sending a group to Mexico for volunteer mission work or overseas for the same. Perhaps there is a local outreach ministry that you believe St. Mark should be supporting that the funds could provide seed money for. The idea is to support ministries not normally covered by St. Mark's budget. By policy, the money cannot be used for St. Mark's operating expenses.

The Endowment Committee looks forward to receiving your ideas on where the money can be used. If you have any questions, please contact either Mark Devenport, David Bartz, Steve Gregerson, Marthe Theodore or Jim Hillmann.

Lutheran Women in Mission - CNH Grants

Grant #5: Light of Life Radio Program—\$10,000 (Grant #5, Light of Life Radio Program, is now funded.)

Light of Life, under the direction of Reverend Kou Seying, is a Hmong language radio program. It has been a weekly 30-minute program since 1980.

This CNH LWML Mission Grant of \$10,000 provided for Evangelistic CD production, distribution and broadcasting fees. It is an important first step in reaching out to the Hmong and Southeast Asian communities of northern California. Most of the listeners are not Christian, and live below the poverty line.

By the grace of God, through the message that is heard over the radio program the Holy Spirit has called many people to faith in Jesus.






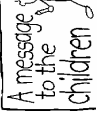

Grant #6: Food Pantry at St. Mark Lutheran Church in Kaneohe, Hawaii—\$15,000

Our next project is the renovation of the Food Pantry at St. Mark Lutheran Church in Kaneohe. Kaneohe is on the island of Oahu over the Pali (mountain) from Honolulu. Fifteen Thousand dollars will be awarded to them when enough Mite Box donations are received.

St. Mark has provided food for the homeless for the past 12 years. Its current facilities are inadequate for storage and efficient workspace. St. Mark is re-structuring these facilities to better serve an average of 50 families every Saturday, many of whom are homeless.

As tourists we don't often recognize the fact that homeless families do live in Hawaii, but there are many and the need exists to not only provide for physical needs but also to feed their souls.

March 2011

W O R S H I P S E R V I C E							NURSERY	SOUND BOARD	COFFEE CART 
March 6 <i>Traditional Service</i> w/Holy Communion	Bart Bacolini	Mark Devenport & Kevin Meagher	Skip & Doris Amick	Taylor Bacolini & Valerie Ord	Steve Gregerson	Lynette Thomas	Myriam Bartz	Jason Collier	The Steve Sill Family
March 9 Ash Wednesday w/Holy Communion	Bart Bacolini	Dave Chapman	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	Jason Collier	NA
March 13 <i>Contemporary Service</i>	Bryan Amick	Scott & Christina Cooley	Dennis & Persis McGinn	Julia Rowlee	Pastor Rod	Paula Krumm	Candace Elings	John Westerberg	The Tom Angerman Family
March 16 Lent II w/Holy Communion	Bryan Amick	Jim Hillmann	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	John Westerberg	NA
March 20 <i>Traditional Service</i> w/Holy Communion	Craig Newton	George & Dawn Haskin	Rick & Florence Anderson	James Angerman & Christopher Ord	Florence Anderson	Dawn Haskin	Shauna McGuiness	Jeff Walden	The Riley Howard Family
March 23 Lent VII w/Holy Communion	Craig Newton	John Amick	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	Jeff Walden	NA
March 27 <i>Contemporary Service</i>	Sandy Howard	Dennis & Persis McGinn	Maxine Nelson & Marion Swanson	Jordan Amick	Pastor Rod	Myriam Bartz	Laura Leonard	Frank Thomas	The Rick Anderson Family
March 30 Lent IV w/Holy Communion	Sandy Howard	Kevin Meagher	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	Frank Thomas	NA
ALTAR GUILD Lynette Thomas									

Jim Hillmann's 900 Miles Closer To A Cure Challenge

As many of you know Jim Hillmann is attempting to walk in all 2011 "Susan G. Komen 3-Day for the Cure" events across the United States. To date Jim Hillmann has raised over \$10,000 (covering costs of four walks), roughly a third of what is required for all 14 events. Jim has the following fundraisers that he would like you to consider:



- Has it been awhile since your family had their portraits taken? How about the kids? Jim will have studio photo shoots at St. Mark on March 12th and April 9th, so consider scheduling a 30 minute session. www.walkingforacure.info/14.html
- Mollie (Jim's daughter) has designed a beautiful Breast Cancer Awareness coin and matching pin that make super gifts (see images below).
- Based on the success of others, do you have a favorite hair salon that would be interested in donating their time on their normal closed day to provide their normal services to your friends and family, with the proceeds going to Jim's fund. This provides the salon with many first time clients for future business and is great local publicity as they reach out to support a great cause. Consider talking to your salon about this idea.
- \$10 Fridays is another way to donate. Watch for announcements for these "Fridays" through online Social Networking medias. See Jim for details.

Jim is very grateful for the many who have already contributed to his efforts to walk in all 14 events, either through direct contributions or through continued encouragement and prayerful support. Jim is confident that through the efforts of many, the cure will be found in our lifetime and a final walk will be taken, a victory walk, where we will all celebrate the cure.

Jim will start his 2011 Challenge in July with the 3-Day walk in Boston, MA and end his challenge, 14 cities later, in San Diego, CA with the last 3-Day walk held in November. When he completes all 14 walk events, he will be a part of a small group of individuals who have also been motivated by and dedicated to this cause. With your help, he can achieve just that--raising funds and awareness for the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation bringing loved ones close to a cure for cancer. For more information on the foundation, the 3-Day Walk events, and Jim's personal story, please go to www.900MilesCloserToACure.org.

Gold Coin



Silver Coin



*Fundraiser Coin Designed by: Mollie Hillmann
To purchase this commemorative coin, please contact Jim or Mollie Hillmann.*

Family Movie Night

Parish Hall, St. Mark ~ April 1st 6PM

Need a fun evening out with the family that won't cost you a fortune? Join us for a family double feature at St. Mark's "Movie and Munchies" on Friday night, April 1st in the Parish Hall sponsored by our "Families Branching Out" group. We will be collecting canned goods to donate to the 2nd Harvest Food Bank, so bring your family, friends and neighbors to this fun movie experience and help us help others by donating a can of food per person as your ticket admission.

Our first film, **Walt Disney's "Tangled"**, is one of the most hilarious, hair-raising tales ever told! When the kingdom's most wanted—and most charming—bandit Flynn Rider (voice of Zachary Levi) hides out in a mysterious tower, he's taken hostage by Rapunzel (voice of Mandy Moore), a beautiful and feisty tower-bound teen with 70 feet of magical, golden hair. Flynn's curious captor, who's looking for her ticket out of the tower where she's been locked away for years, strikes a deal with the handsome thief and the unlikely duo sets off on an action-packed escapade, complete with a super-cop horse, an over-protective chameleon and a gruff gang of pub thugs. **We will begin "Tangled" at 6:00pm sharp, so don't be late!!** Bring your sleeping bag, a comfy pillow, favorite bean bag chair, dress in your favorite PJ's, whatever you need to get cozy on the rug to watch the movie. Movie theater style popcorn, candy, and drinks will be provided for your movie watching enjoyment.

Our second film, **"Megamind"**, is the most brilliant super-villain the world has ever known... and the least successful. Over the years, he has tried to conquer Metro City in every imaginable way – Each attempt, a colossal failure thanks to the caped superhero known as "Metro Man," until the day Megamind actually defeats him in the throes of one of his botched evil plans. Suddenly, the fate of Metro City is threatened when a new villain arrives and chaos runs rampant, leaving everyone to wonder: Can the world's biggest "mind" actually be the one to save the day? **This film will begin at 7:45pm sharp, for all of you who are up for taking on the double feature challenge!**

Please note: If you plan to arrive for only the second film, please be on time so you won't miss the beginning of the film and you won't disrupt those around you when you arrive.

Remember: Admission is one can of food per person to enjoy both films, so be sure to bring your family, friends and neighbors to this fun-filled family movie event! Food donations go directly to 2nd Harvest Food Bank.

RSVP & Questions, contact: **Laura Leonard**, lauramleonard@yahoo.com or **Freda Collier**, freda@7elements.com

Do You Have News?



Do you have information, a story, or event happenings you would like to let other St. Mark Connection readers know about?

Submit your articles, pictures, or detailed announcements in email to newsletter@stmarksunnyvale.org or deliver in hard copy to the church office "Newsletter" mail box.

If you have any questions, please contact, Freda Collier, Editor.



St. Mark Lutheran Church

Lutheran Church Missouri Synod

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www.stmarksunnyvale.org

Pastor Rod Hall, serving at St. Mark since 1998.

Ministry Director: Glenn Amick

Office Administrator: Doris Amick

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Vice President (Head Elder) — Bryan Amick

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Treasurer — Doris Amick

Financial Secretary — Becky Hillmann

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