



Pastor's Column

Holy. Holy, Holy: Celebrating with the Dead

I am looking at a painting which features skeletons among a variety of colorful objects. The skeletons are neither of the ghoulish Halloween variety, nor of the detached clinical variety. They are not as menacing as the "Grim Reaper", nor are they as alien as zombies. Instead, these skeletons exude a stark beauty. Their black and white outlines are in balanced contrast with the bright colors of the rest of the artwork: what I am looking at is a Mexican depiction of "El Día de Muertos" – the Day of the Dead. And what I see in this artwork is a sacred holding together of life and death, joy and sorrow, love and loss, creation and destruction, light and dark, day and night. Everything belongs and everything is honored and celebrated. Death is accepted as part of life. There is celebration, strength of spirit, and sacred remembering.

Celebrating with the dead – what a refreshing contrast to the dominant culture where death is so frequently either feared or denied. This sacred remembering is also found in the Lutheran tradition. There are many ways in which the Lutheran tradition can help us celebrate the presence of the dead among the living.

One of them is through singing a special song, the Holy, Holy. The Dead are imagined as continually praising God with this song, and the living are encouraged to sing this same song whenever they

gather around the altar for the Eucharist (the Holy Meal). The idea is that both the living and the dead join together and sing together the unending song of Holy, Holy, Holy.

Equally beautiful is a tradition here at St. Francis where on All Saints Day we gather on the Memorial Terrace to remember beloved family members, friends, and fellow church members. From the moment I first arrived at St. Francis in March of 2014, I have felt drawn to the Memorial Terrace. In this beautiful place, the ashes of the beloved dead rest securely, and the names of departed friends are lovingly carved in stone. Whenever I enter this space, I feel as though the wall between this world and the next is a little bit thinner. Sometimes I just sit under the tree and absorb the spirit of the space, which for me is never diminished by the ever present sounds of city life. To the contrary. The clanging of the street cars, the traffic noises, the shouts and laughter of people passing by are a forceful reminder that life goes on and that the dead are right in the midst of it all.

How about you? Do you have a way to celebrate the dead among us? To remember loved ones, and to honor your ancestors? If not, you might want to look for ways to do so this season.



Recognition of Ministries in the Congregation

This Month: The Memorial Terrace Committee

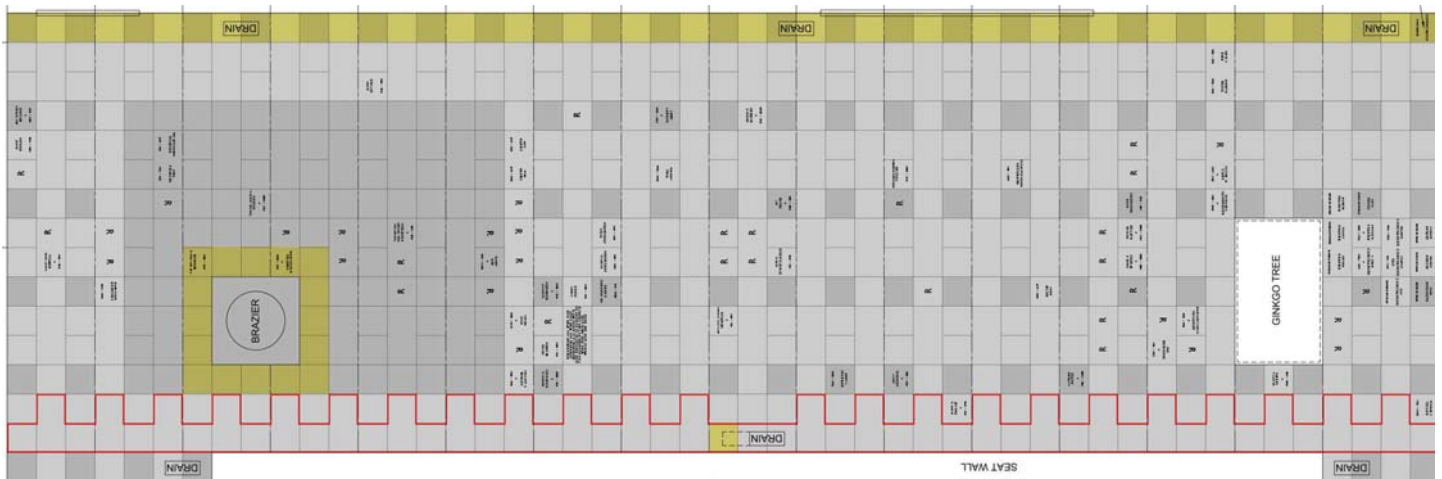
St. Francis is blessed with gifted and visionary leaders who give generously of their time and talents as they carry out various ministries in our congregation. Each month we recognize one of these ministries in worship. In November we are recognizing the members of the Memorial Terrace Committee.

The Memorial Terrace Committee consists of five members. They administer all aspects of the placement of cremains, stone engraving and installation. The Committee is also responsible for maintaining the records of placements and financial records of transactions.

The work of the Committee includes meeting with interested persons pre-need or with family members and appointed representatives at time of need to complete contracts for placement. Persons that would like to reserve a place on the Memorial Terrace are encouraged to talk with a member of the Committee.

The Committee members are Randy Thueme (ex officio) Chair, Lawrence Mortensen, Greg Gomez, Glenda Lisk, Janet Thuesen and Pastor Bea. With the help of Leona Lee (emerita) and Timur Muhrlin (emeritus).

Thanks be to God for these faithful servants!



Pastor's Column

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The next time you sing the Holy, Holy, you could whisper in your heart the names of those who sing with you. You can light a candle and place a flower near the photograph of a loved one. You can even throw a party and dress up in your finest cloths or wear some colorful costumes. After all, these remembrances do not have to be overly solemn; as we can see from the Mexican tradition and from many other customs around the world these remembrances can contain fun, color, and festive elements. After all, they are a celebration of life – life which begins in this world and continues in the next.

Blessings to you in this season of remembering.

Pastor Bea Chun

Please join us for our Holiday Fundraising Events!

St. Francis Lutheran Church will host a fun-filled fundraising weekend of December 5 & 6, 2015. These events support the Mission & Ministry of St. Francis. The proceeds benefit our Community Outreach Programs, our Senior Center, and our Music Ministry.



Saturday, December 5 5:30 - 8:30 PM
The "Hats, Scarves and Sweaters!"

Christmas Party & Gala A festive evening with hors d'oeuvres, sweets, cash bar, a Holiday Wardrobe Accessory contest, silent auction, holiday gift sale and more. Tickets are \$50, seniors & students \$40. If you did not receive an Invitation and wish to attend, please email Dave Walda at dave.walda@sflcsf.org



Sunday, December 6 12:30 PM
The Christmas Bazaar

includes a big variety sale including Christmas-themed items, bake sale, lots of other Holiday gift goodies and photo opportunity with Santa Claus. Both events will feature traditional homemade Glogg & Lefse! The Bazaar is open to the public and admission is free.



Sunday, December 6 5:00 PM
Carol Concert

The St. Francis Choir performs familiar and lesser known carols, including a sing-a-long of favorite carols. This event is open to the public, admission is free. A free-will donation will benefit the St. Francis Music Program.



FEAST 'O'F ST FRAN'CES





PET ADOPTION





We request donations from you to ensure the success of our fundraising events!

Please donate goods and/or services for our silent auction and sale.

All contributions are fully tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law. We are a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. Thank you for your support of St. Francis Lutheran Church!

Please complete the form below and return it with your donation. Include any additional helpful information such as description, menu, brochure or photo. If you are donating gift certificates or tickets, please include them with the form. **The deadline to submit auction items is Sunday, November 29.**

Donor Name(s): _____

Street Address: _____ City _____ State/Zip _____

Phone including area code _____ Email _____

Description of Donated Item(s) / Helpful Information:

Estimated Value \$ _____

Please return this form with your item(s) to:

Gala 2015 Committee, St. Francis Lutheran Church, 152 Church Street, San Francisco, CA 94114-1111.

You may respond by mail, or call *Dave Walda, Senior Parish Administrator*, at 415-621-2635 to schedule a drop-off time during office hours. **The deadline to submit auction items is Sunday, November 29.**

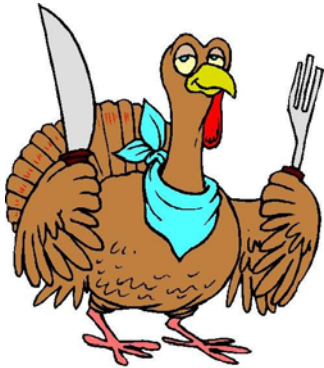
For more information or questions:

Please contact *Sarah Wells, Gala 2015 Committee Co-Chair*, sarjane62@comcast.net or 415-871-9841.

Thanksgiving Community Dinner Nears

St. Francis will be hosting the **Thanksgiving Day Dinner** on November 27 at noon- 2PM. Volunteers will prepare and serve the traditional Thanksgiving dinner on **November 27 from 12:00 noon to 2:00 p.m.**

Volunteer opportunities to help with the meal include:



- Prep work on Wednesday afternoon
- Kitchen help Thanksgiving morning
- Servers: 11:00am-2pm
- Clean-up: 1-3pm
- Roasting a turkey at home
- Bake a pie or provide a pie

Sign up on-line at www.volunteersignup.org/BWWHM. Or call the church office at 415-621-2635.

CONTACT US

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Dave Walda

Senior Parish Administrator

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Dr. David Schofield

Music Director

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Beverly Hines

Senior Program Director

beverly.hines@sflcsf.org

Stephen Camarota

Community Food

Programs Administrator

Stephen.camarota@sflcsf.org

A Thanksgiving Day Worship Service will be held at St. Francis at 11:15 AM. Worshipers will then be allowed downstairs at 12 PM to enjoy the dinner



A Reconciling In Christ
Congregation, where all
are welcome

152 Church Street (at Market)
San Francisco, CA 94114-1111

Phone: 415.621.2635

E-mail: stfrancis@sflcsf.org Website: www.sflcsf.org



**ST. FRANCIS
CHRISTMAS GALA**

December 5 - 5:30 PM

CHRISTMAS BAZAAR

December 6 - 12:30 PM

CAROL CONCERT

December 6 - 5:00 PM



ST. FRANCIS LUTHERAN CHURCH

152 Church Street
San Francisco, CA 94114-1111



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America