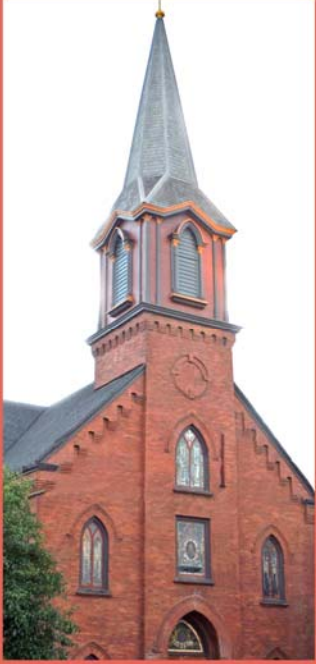


Pastor's Message



ST FRANCIS LUTHERAN CHURCH AUGUST 2016

St. Francis Times

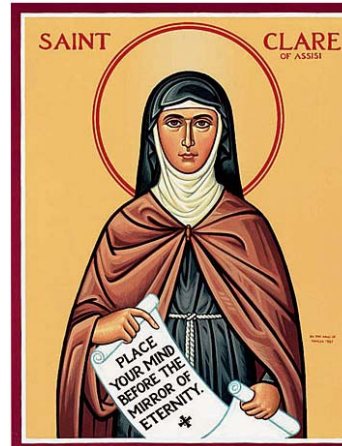
Clare of Assisi – A Woman For Our Times

The church remembers St. Clare of Assisi each year on August 11th, on the day of her death. At St. Francis Lutheran Church, we will remember her in worship on Sunday, August 7th, the Sunday before her feast day.

Why should we remember St. Clare of Assisi (Santa Clara) and what can her story bring to our lives and circumstances? We remember St. Clare, first of all, because her life was closely linked with the life of St. Francis from whom our congregation has taken not only its name but also the inspiration of living the gospel courageously and sincerely. Beyond her connection with St. Francis, the story of St. Clare is well worth remembering for its own sake.

St. Clare (1194 – 1253) was a remarkable woman, who combined deep humility with surprising defiance as she sought to live out the gospel as she understood it. Like Francis, she came from a very wealthy

family. At the age of 15, arrangements had been made for Clare to marry, but she refused. At age 18 she ran away from home to embark on a life of poverty and simplicity inspired by the sermons of Francis. From there on she



would not allow anything but the Gospels determine her actions, and for that she was willing to defy family, convention, and even cardinals and popes. This was more than 300 years before Martin Luther famously said: "Here I stand, I can do no other."

Her escape from her family was the beginning of a life-long spiritual partnership between Francis and Clare. Clare eventually established a women's community at San

Damiano, a distance of about a mile and a half from Assisi where Francis had founded a community of men. Under the leadership of Clare, the women at San Damiano embraced a life of radical poverty, simplicity, and seclusion from the world. They went barefoot, slept on the ground, ate no meat and observed almost complete silence. This strict lifestyle met with much opposition, but Clare never stopped defending the right of the "Poor Clares" (as her order came to be known) to live according to their rule. In fact, it was she who wrote the rule for her community, a bold and unusual move at the time.

Francis and Clare often turned to each other for advice and inspiration. They were each other's life-long defenders and protectors. When Francis was torn between a life of prayer and one of preaching, it was Clare who advised him to preach. The Canticle of

(Continued on page 7)

Elaine Whitney – Candidate for Vice President of the ELCA

The Churchwide Assembly, the primary decision-making body of the church, of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America (ELCA) will meet in New Orleans, Louisiana, from August 8-13, 2016. Among their many agenda and business items will also be an election for vice president. Several people have made themselves available to stand for election, including Elaine Whitney, long time member of St. Francis Lutheran Church.

What does the vice president do? Under the governing documents of the ELCA church, the vice president serves as chair of the Church Council, and, in the event the presiding bishop is unable to do so, as chair of the Churchwide Assembly. The vice president serves under the presiding bishop, providing leadership as specified in provision 11.33. of the constitution of the ELCA.

The vice president is elected to a six-year term by the Churchwide Assembly. It is important to emphasize that this is not just an election; it also is a call process. As such, we pray that the

Holy Spirit will be with the assembly as they engage in discernment regarding this election.

The following is an excerpt from the application Elaine submitted for this nomination.

What gifts do you believe you would bring to the office of vice president?

I am an eloquent public speaker and I deeply enjoy my life of service in the church. I am an experienced and competent facilitator of meetings using Roberts Rules of Order. My work life in education has prepared me to read and analyze many different types of documents and reports. I have had the privilege to work in a variety of educational settings and am comfortable with people from many different avenues of life. I am a confident leader and excited about the future of the ELCA. I am an African-American and worship in a RIC congregation. I bring a mission to make our church welcoming for all people.

What is your concept of the primary role of the vice president of the ELCA?

The vice president of the

ELCA is a lay leader of the church. The vice president brings a unique perspective to the team of officers who serve under the Presiding Bishop. The vice president chairs the Church Council and represents the ELCA at events throughout the year. The vice president must be confident in leading large meetings, in speaking at different church events, and in giving voice to the vision and mission of our church. The vice president also needs a comprehensive understanding of the different expressions of the church (congregation, synod, church) and how they work together to make the whole ELCA.

What is the key skill required of a leader in the church?

A leader in the church needs to live fully into the good news that is the Gospel of Jesus Christ. A leader must be able to envision the church as evolving and meeting the needs of all the people of God. A leader must be able to listen and respond to the needs of others. A leader must be able to share joy, goodwill, and opportunities to serve. A leader understands the

responsibilities of the office, to which she or he is called, and brings a willingness to lead by example. A leader of the church trusts in God and steps forward into God's work with reverence and faith.

How do you practice care for others and for yourself?

I serve as a deacon for my congregation. I visit people in their homes, in hospitals, and in care facilities and bring communion and prayers from the congregation. I pray with people during worship service. I work in a juvenile detention facility and I pray with students, staff, and colleagues at their request. For myself, I meditate and pray daily as well as engage in daily exercise. I sing with my church choir when my schedule allows and I provide service in my community. Service activities connect me with the Body of Christ and that connection revives my mind, body, and spirit.

May God bless Elaine and the whole assembly as they enter this process.

2016 AIDS Walk Results

Once again, under the inspiring leadership of star-walker Max Kirkeberg, a combined team of Lutherans and Geographers (plus one Lugrapher) participated in the San Francisco AIDS walk. During the walk they carried placards with the faces of some of those from St. Francis and the Geography Department at SFSU who have died of AIDS.

The team had 30 walkers. Pre-walk goodies and post-walk lunch were provided. The team raised close to \$40,000, and perhaps more than that once the books close on August 12th.

This is their 21st year of walking. When adding all the years together, they have now cumulatively raised \$842,898!

Congratulations on a job well done!



Grace Gathering

August 10–13
New Orleans

ELCA members gather in New Orleans

Members of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) have gathered in assembly at the Ernest N. Morial Convention Center in New Orleans. The assembly goes through August 13. Meeting under the theme "Freed and Renewed in Christ: 500 Years of God's Grace in Action," the assembly's business will include preparations for observing the 500th anniversary of the Reformation in 2017.

The assembly – the highest legislative body of the ELCA – is comprised of 980 voting members serving on behalf of the 3.7 million members of the ELCA. The ELCA's 65 synods elect voting members to serve at churchwide assemblies.

"Churchwide assemblies are a combination of legislative sessions,

worship, Bible study, theological reflection and fellowship," said the Rev. Elizabeth A. Eaton, ELCA presiding bishop. "We deliberate and discuss and vote. Some would say that it is a messy way to do the work of the church, but [it] is a wonderfully open process."

As part of planning for the Reformation observance, non-voting members are invited to attend the Grace Gathering, Aug. 10-13. Participants will experience the assembly proceedings and also prepare for the 500th anniversary observances within their congregations and synods. "God's Grace in Action Afternoon" will offer experiential learning on several topics to inspire participants to take action back home, including: Music, Justice and Peace; From the Doctrine of Discovery to #BlackLivesMatter; Human Trafficking; Care of Creation; and Food

Security.

"Often members of congregations are not aware of the scope of the wider church," said Eaton. The Grace Gathering will give even more of our people the opportunity to see the whole church at work. We can do a lot more together than we can do separately. And, close to 2,000 Lutherans singing is a heavenly sound."

Key action items at the assembly include:

- Electing an ELCA vice president. Carlos Peña, the current vice president, has decided not to seek a third term. Peña has served for 13 years.
- Considering the Word and Service task force recommendations that the three rosters of church lay leadership be unified into a single body known as deacons.

- Voting on the recommendations for the ELCA Strategy to Accompany Migrant Minors with Protection, Advocacy, Representation and Opportunities (AMMPARO).
- Considering the "Declaration on the Way," a document that draws on 50 years of Lutheran-Catholic dialogue in preparation for the Reformation anniversary.

Voting members will also receive:

- An update on the ELCA's first major fundraising campaign, Always Being Made New: The Campaign for the ELCA. Approved by the 2013 ELCA Churchwide Assembly, the campaign seeks to raise \$198 million to help extend the ministries of this

(Continued on page 5)

CONGREGATIONAL BARBECUE & VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION SATURDAY AUGUST 27, 2016 4 PM

*Main dish will be provided.
Bring salads, drinks or a dessert to share.*

There will be a deviled egg contest!



(Continued from page 4)

church.

- A report from the presiding bishop and officers of the ELCA.
- Reports on ELCA churchwide ministries, including ELCA World Hunger and Lutheran Disaster Response.
- Proposals (known as memorials) from the ELCA's 65 synods,

which include: repudiation of the Doctrine of Discovery; deepening of relationships with historic black churches; a responsible energy future; supporting military personnel, veterans and their families; and peace with justice in the Holy Land.

- Budget proposals for 2017 to 2019.
- Greetings from ecumenical guests, global partners and
- Along with voting members, hundreds more will participate in the assembly as ELCA congregational observers, special ecumenical guests and global leaders, presidents of the eight

ELCA seminaries and 26 college and universities, advisory and resource members, staff and others.



**JOIN US FOR A
GOING-AWAY PARTY
SUNDAY AUGUST 21
Following the service**

**We are saying good bye to Glenda Lisk
who is relocating to Oregon.
There will be a lunch and farewell festivities.**

Black Lives Matter – A Conversation

Facilitated by Pastor Bea Chun

Sunday Mornings 9:30 -10:30 a.m • Church Parish Hall

We read historical and contemporary documents, statements and pastoral letters, then take time for conversation and prayer.

Clare of Assisi continued

(Continued from page 1)

Brother Sun, Francis's masterpiece of poetry, was composed while he camped outside of San Damiano. When Francis was afflicted with the stigmata, Clare made him slippers to protect his bleeding feet.

Despite the self-chosen harshness of her life, Clare is described in many accounts as a happy, cheerful, charming and optimistic woman. She would get up late at night to tuck in her sisters who had kicked off their covers. Like Francis, she saw God in all things – the natural world, the sick and the beggars who came to her. She felt the power of God, the ecstasy of love, and the beauty of silence.

What inspiration can we take from her story? Whenever we experience pressure to conform to the expectations of others, Clare's single-minded insistence on the Gospel alone can remind us where true fulfillment is found. Whenever we get overwhelmed by the complexities of life, Clare's embrace of simplicity can inspire us to seek new ways to uncomplicate our life. And whenever we think that we have to do everything by ourselves, Clare and Francis's spiritual partnership can remind us of the benefits of friendship and community. Thanks be to God for this remarkable woman and the inspiration of her life.

Pastor Bea

*Love God,
Serve God;
Everything is in that.*

Clare of Assisi

Welcome to Jonathan K

On Sunday, July 31, 2016, Jonathan K. received the Sacrament of Holy Baptism and became a member of St. Francis Lutheran Church. In preparation for his baptism, Jonathan devoted himself to careful study of Christianity and the Lutheran faith. Throughout his preparation I have been impressed by the depths of his questions and the quality of his learning. His fiancée Ana proved to be a steadfast and cheerful supporter. In describing himself to the congregation, Jonathan offers the following words:

I have lived and worked in San Francisco since 1996. I originally worked as an architect, but have switched to doing mostly IT work. Prior to moving to San Francisco I lived and worked in Paris, France. Before Paris, I lived and worked in Chicago.

Although I come from a non-religious background, my evolving spiritual path eventually led me to Christianity. In my understanding, spirituality is rooted in an openhearted way of relating to experience. That is why I wanted to find a Christian church that preaches and practices the tolerance

and love that I see in Jesus Christ. I am extremely grateful to have found such a church in St. Francis.



CONTACT US

Pastor Bea Chun

Pastorchun@sflcsf.org

Dave Walda

Senior Parish Administrator

dave.walda@sflcsf.org

Dr. David Schofield

Music Director

david.schofield@sflcsf.org

Beverly Hines

Senior Program Director

beverly.hines@sflcsf.org

Stephen Camarota

Community Food

Programs Administrator

Stephen.camarota@sflcsf.org

152 Church Street
(at Market)

San Francisco, CA
94114-1111

Phone:

415.621.2635

E-mail

stfrancis@sflcsf.org

Website

www.sflcsf.org



Hot Fugue Sunday
Music of J.S. Bach
Followed by an ice cream social



Sunday, September 18 @ 3 PM
at St. Francis Lutheran Church

Dave Schofield plays **hot Fugues** on the organ

Dan Cromeenes signs **Cantata No. 169** with organ and strings

Free Admission
Donations accepted

ST. FRANCIS LUTHERAN CHURCH
152 Church Street
San Francisco, CA 94114-1111



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.