

ANNUAL MEETING AND SPECIAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

St. Mark's held its annual congregational meeting on Sunday, January 29 following the 11 AM service. Among the highlights of the meeting were:

- A report from Treasurer Steve Ernst about our 2016 income and expenses, and a presentation of the 2017 budget as recommended by the Church Council. The 2017 budget has increased salary and benefits expenses because we plan to be fully staffed. Projected income from pledged and general envelope giving and building use will not balance expenses, so we plan to partially use contingency reserve funds and funding from Martin Luther Tower, Inc.
- The approval of an amended budget that included a 3% COLA increase for staff and compensation for clergy per synod guidelines.
- An update from the FEW Committee regarding elevator construction in 2017. We hope to have final approvals and a building permit in hand from the City by the end of February, with construction to occur between mid-March and September. The sanctuary will be open as usual for worship, concerts, and events during construction.
- A presentation from the Social Ministry Committee about the AMMPARO (Accompany Migrant Minors with Protection, Advocacy, Representation, and Opportunities) initiative, which was adopted by the ELCA last summer. We voted to become an AMMPARO welcoming congregation. A leadership group will launch this ministry at St. Mark's.
- Reports from the Endowment Committee, the Redevelopment Committee, the MLT Board, Pastors Elizabeth Ekdale and Tita Valeriano, and President Matt Helland
- Election of four Council members: incumbent Jane Borg (3 year term), and new members Aaron Greig, Kyle Schiefelbein-Guerrero (3 year terms), and Steve Ernst (2 year term).

During a special congregational meeting held in tandem with the regular annual meeting, we also voted to extend a call to the Rev. Ron Moe-Lobeda as our Associate Pastor at 75% time. We voted to approve his compensation package, which is in accordance with synod compensation guidelines. The Rev. Kathryn Gulbranson, Assistant to Sierra Pacific Synod Bishop Mark Holmerud, brought her greetings from the bishop and the synod office during this special meeting.