

About Faith Dialogues at Saint Mark

"Faith seeks understanding" — so said Anselm, Saint, Archbishop, and Theologian. Faith Dialogues at Saint Mark (formerly the Visiting Theologian program) seeks to promote understanding among the faithful, not only within the parish of Saint Mark, but also within the wider church as a gift to the entire Salem community.



Since the early 1970's, Saint Mark has welcomed more than thirty distinguished theologians and scholars into the Congregation's life of worship, learning and service. Teachers of church history, ethics, Bible, culture, art, theology, liturgy and sacramental life have enriched our community's deliberation on what it means to believe in the God of Israel and live accordingly. The ecumenical community, including students at Willamette University, Western Oregon University and Mount Angel Seminary, have participated.

By means of visiting teachers, Saint Mark hopes to encourage lively reflection and faithful action within the Congregation and all faith communities, inviting broad participation in the program for the sake of mutual appreciation, growth in common understanding and service.

Recent Visiting Speakers

2014 David & Susan
Palo Cherwien

2013 Barbara Rossing

2012 Mark Allan Powell

2011 Lisa Dahill

2010 Stephen Bouman

2009 Martin Marty

2009 Bruce Bengtson

2009 Phyllis Anderson

2008 Bishop Gomez

2007 Bishop David
Brauer-Rieke

2006 Paul Wadell

2005 Kelly A. Fryer

*"For with you is the well of life,
and in your light we see light."*

—PSALM 36

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT:

Pastor Charles Mantey
pastorcharles@stmarksalem.org
503.588.0141

stmarksalem.org/about/faith-dialogues



SAINT MARK LUTHERAN CHURCH
790 Marion Street NE • Salem, Oregon 97301
503.588.0141 • info@stmarksalem.org

stmarksalem.org

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

09.2015

FAITH DIALOGUES AT SAINT MARK

FORMERLY VISITING THEOLOGIAN



Dr. Susan Pitchford
A Spirituality of Joy: Saint Francis for Today

October 16th–18th, 2015

SAINT MARK
LUTHERAN CHURCH

All, Each, Together in Christ

Schedule of Events

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 16

7:00–8:30PM **Francis and Clare of Assisi:
A Spirituality of Joy**
Saint Mark Sanctuary ~ Doors open at 6:30PM

8:30PM Fellowship & Reception
Fireside Lounge

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 17

9:00–10:15AM **Faith Beyond Sunday:
Having a Rule of Life**
Saint Mark Sanctuary

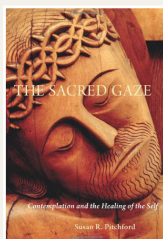
10:30–11:45AM **Faith Beyond Sunday:
Creating Your Rule of Life**
Saint Mark Sanctuary

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 18

9:45–10:45AM **Sunday Forum**
Fireside Lounge

HOW TO PREPARE FOR THIS YEAR'S FAITH DIALOGUE AT SAINT MARK

In preparation for the arrival of Dr. Susan Pitchford, her book, *The Sacred Gaze: Contemplation and the Healing of the Self* will be the study. Books and more information will be available free (courtesy of the Faith Dialogues at Saint Mark Fund) beginning Sunday, September 13th. Stop by the office at Saint Mark for a copy of the book. We hope you will have opportunity to participate.



Session Descriptions

FRIDAY OPENING KEYNOTE

Francis and Clare of Assisi: A Spirituality of Joy

Eight hundred years ago, two young people in Assisi, Italy created a radical new way of discipleship that had a lasting impact on the church and is still drawing people to this day. Both saw poverty—of body and spirit—as the path to joy, and both embraced the poor Christ with a passion that remains infectious. Francis and Clare lived in an urbanizing society with a growing gap between rich and poor, one that prized upward mobility, tightly controlled women, and often erupted in violence. In short, it was a world much like our own, so they still have a lot to say to us today. There are a wide variety of ways to tap into this tradition that is old yet surprisingly fresh. Perhaps one of them is right for you.

SATURDAY MORNING FIRST SESSION

Faith Beyond Sunday: Having a Rule of Life

Why have a rule of life? Who needs more rules in their life? While there are times when following Jesus closely comes naturally, much of the time it's a challenge. It requires being active and intentional about our spiritual life, rather than drifting passively through our days and hoping we'll hit the target now and then. A rule provides a structure that continually brings us back to the practices that draw us closer to God. It helps us spend less time spinning our spiritual wheels, and more time in a place where the Spirit can transform us. It is that transformation that enables us to enter into the joy that God has prepared for each of us.

SATURDAY MORNING SECOND SESSION

Faith Beyond Sunday: Creating Your Rule of Life

Most Christians have an implicit rule of life, which consists of spiritual practices they're committed to following regularly: attending church, praying, donating money, and so on. In crafting our own rule, it's helpful to start where we are, and then consider what practices we're drawn to trying out. In this session we'll look at the rules we're already following and then consider how we might be called to experiment with some new things and perhaps let go of others.

All events are **free** and
open to the public.

This Year's Speaker:

Dr. Susan Pitchford

SUSAN PITCHFORD

is a sociologist at the University of Washington in Seattle, and a professed member of the Third Order, Society of Saint Francis. Her course topics



mostly focus on the consequences of various forms of inequality and conflict, and she has led study abroad programs in Zimbabwe, South Africa, and Belfast.

Dr. Pitchford has also led programs in Rome, focusing on the tension throughout the church's history between the original vision and call of Christ, and the seduction of worldly wealth, status and power. She is the author of *Following Francis: The Franciscan Way for Everyone*; *God in the Dark: Suffering and Desire in the Spiritual Life*; *The Sacred Gaze: Contemplation and the Healing of the Self*; and *Identity Tourism: Imaging and Imagining the Nation*.

She is a frequent conference and retreat speaker, and loves nothing more than exploring with others how to go deeper in the life of faith.



SAINT MARK
LUTHERAN CHURCH

All, Each, Together in Christ