



A Great Cloud of Witnesses - Portraits of the Community of St. Paulus Lutheran

Photographs by Vince Donovan

June 21 – July 20 2014

Opening: Saturday, June 21 6-8pm

St. Paulus Lutheran Church
1541 Polk Street, San Francisco

Photo Exhibit Celebrates a Unique Community of Faith

The congregation of San Francisco's St. Paulus Lutheran has seen challenges. Their historic church at 999 Eddy Street sheltered victims of the 1906 earthquake and later hosted one of the first women's shelters in San Francisco, as well as centers for homelessness and HIV/AIDS support. The church was destroyed by fire in 1995 but the community and traditions of St. Paulus Lutheran survived, relocating to a store-front church on Polk Street. Today the small community of St. Paulus continues the tradition of caring and support, sponsoring programs for a variety of people in need.

San Francisco portrait photographer Vince Donovan has created portrait projects for a variety of non-profits and communities of faith, including Old First Presbyterian and Creativity Explored. When Pastor Dan Solberg of St. Paulus and Pastor Megan Rohrer of Grace Evangelical approached Vince about St. Paulus Lutheran, he recognized a unique opportunity to work with a community with roots and traditions extending back to the gold rush era.

Donovan's projects usually involve communities of dozens or even hundreds of people. He photographs each portrait using traditional film cameras. The resulting portraits are carefully printed in a darkroom, using the highest quality materials. The resulting prints

are displayed either as a continuous mural or a grid of individual photographs. “Something special happens when we put all the portraits together on a wall,” Donovan says. “We see the character of the individuals, but some of the original energy and spirit of the community comes alive as well.” The current exhibit includes over 100 individual portraits of the unique community of St. Paulus.

Contact:

Vince Donovan, Photographer – Vincent.donovan@gmail.com 415-994-6732

Jordan Ward, St. Paulus Council President, 415-673-8088