



The Easter season is a week of weeks, seven Sundays when we play in the mystery of Christ's presence, mostly through the glorious Gospel of John. On April 7 (Second Sunday of Easter), we gather with the disciples on the first Easter, and Jesus breathes the Spirit on us. With Thomas we ask for a sign, and Jesus offers us his wounded self in the broken bread. From frightened individuals we are transformed into a community of open doors, peace, forgiveness, and material sharing such that no one among us is in need.

The gospel for the third Sunday of Easter is always one in which the risen Christ shares food with the disciples, meals that are the Easter template for the meal we share each Sunday. In that day's gospel, Jesus both shares the disciples' food and shows them the meaning of his suffering, death, and resurrection through the scriptures, the two main elements of our Sunday worship.

The image of the good shepherd shows us how the risen Christ brings us to life. It is the relationship between the shepherd and the sheep, one of mutual knowledge and love, that gives the shepherd authority. The shepherd's willingness to lay down his life for the sheep shows his love. First John illustrates what it means to lay down our lives for one another by the example of sharing our wealth with any sibling in need.

The fifth Sunday of Easter's image of how the risen Christ shares his life with us is the image of the vine. Christ the vine and we the branches are alive in each other, in the mystery of mutual abiding described in the gospel and the first letter of John. Baptism makes us a part of Christ's living and life-giving self and makes us alive with Christ's life. As the vine brings food to the branches, Christ feeds us at his table. We are sent out to bear fruit for the life of the world.

This Sunday's image of the life the risen Christ shares with us is the image of friendship. We are called to serve others as Jesus came to serve; but for John's gospel, the image of servanthood is too hierarchical, too distant, to capture the essence of life with Christ. Friendship captures the love, the joy, the deep mutuality of the relationship into which Christ invites us. The Greeks believed that true friends are willing to die for each other. This is the mutual love of Christian community commanded by Christ and enabled by the Spirit.

The gospel for Easter's seventh Sunday is always taken from the long prayer Jesus prays for his followers in John's gospel on the night before his death, and always includes Jesus' desire that his followers will be one as he and the Father are one. This oneness is not mere doctrinal agreement or institutional unity, but mutual

abiding,  
interpenetrating  
life, mutual love,  
and joy. This

*Pastor Karen*

oneness is the work of the Spirit whom we have received but also await. Come, Holy Spirit! May the peace of Christ dwell within you this Easter season

### GROWING GROUP UPDATE...

- A small group will work with Secretary, Ann Hefner-Gravink to review the constitution for possible updates.
- At least 30 "We miss you" cards were created and sent out with notes to former members.
- The first bring your grandkids to church day was scheduled for June 23.
- Worship Committee is considering some experimental changes for this summer's worship services.



**PLEASE PRAY FOR...**

**Our members**

Helen Bergoust, Ivonne Bradford, Lew Broschard, V-Anne Chernock, Kathy Doty, Richard Ehman, Gabby Hansen, Jim Hanser and family, Pamela Lyons, Robert McGee, Karen Mullin, Bette Noll, Gerda Reid, and Josephine Traughber.

**Our homebound**

Judith Eckhart and Shirley Quinn

**Those who are mourning**

Mary Edna Pheasant – Shirley Quinn’s sister died on March 14, 2024.

The family of Sheri Kay (Ruth Sweatt’s cousin) who died on March 23, 2024.

**Our friends and loved ones**

Victoria Armenta, Kim Arnold, Bruce Atkinson, Makita Bond, Josh Costan, Roxanne Costan, Jan Dushane, Dave Eubanks, Rob Hakenen, Jody Holmes, John Huston, Eric and Victoria Johnson, Rene Maddox, Mike Michaelsen, Sarah True Mulligan, Pr. Tim Philips, Helen Powell, Cheryl Rassmussen, Sharon Sanderson, Jeanice Sobetzki, Joan Stevenson, Robert Stevenson, Rhonda Stokes, Tammy Stone, Weldon Tunnell, Lorna Walter and Laurie Ziegler.

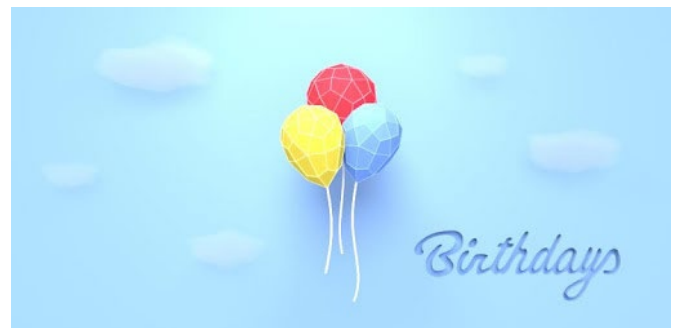


**CURRENT ADDRESSES FOR OUR HOMEBOUND MEMBERS**

Bonnie DeMuth  
201 Watermere Dr., #323  
Southlake TX 76092

Judith Eckhart  
2113 Alturas Court  
Fairfield CA 94534

Shirley Quinn  
11 Lemon Tree Circle  
Vacaville CA 95687



**We celebrate you!!!**

Rose Hanser	04/05
Michael Chernock	04/06
Jennifer Counihan	04/10
Tammy Bojorquez	04/14
Nelson Scarrott	04/15
Stu Reid	04/21
Aharon Sweatt	04/22
Kyle Johnsen	04/24
Lincoln Stetins	04/25
Arrienne Maneja	04/28
Ruth Sweatt	04/29



**We wish you a Happy Anniversary!!!**

Colleen and Napoleon Rivers 04/03

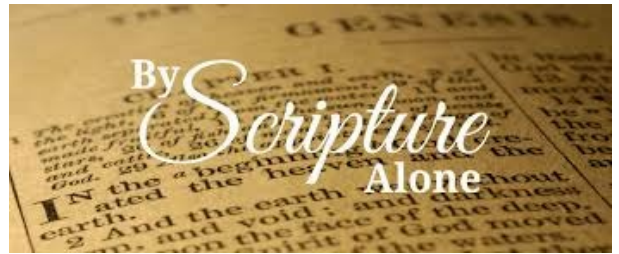


## THURSDAY, MARCH 14, 2024

- Approved the minutes of the February 2024.
- Approved the report of the Finance Chair
- Details of the upcoming Volunteer Appreciation Sunday on April 14<sup>th</sup> are being discussed.
- Vacation Bible School is set for June 25<sup>th</sup>-27<sup>th</sup>.
- The date to invite Bishop Jeff Johnson to come to St. Mark's is on August 4<sup>th</sup>.
- "Welcome to our Church" folders were discussed. We will try to have them available for Easter Sunday visitors.
- Council will explore the possibility of using the Sierra Pacific Synod's Vitality Survey to provide additional information about our ministries.
- A request to put a Community Garden on the campus was discussed. Council is open to have someone discuss community gardens at a Sunday Connection.
- The Worship & Music Committee is considering possible changes to worship this summer.
- The tree on the northwest corner of the Worship Center will need to be removed. Area kids are using it to access the roof of the building.

The approved minutes can be found on the link sent out with the weekly announcement email. Paper copies can be requested from the office.

Next meeting: Thursday, April 11, 2024  
5:30 p.m.



## BIBLE READINGS - APRIL 2024

### April 7 – Easter 2

Acts 4:32-35

Psalm 133

1 John 1:1—2:2

John 20:19-31

### April 14 – Easter 3

Acts 3:12-19

Psalm 4

1 John 3:1-7

Luke 24:36b-48

### April 21 – Easter 4

Acts 4:5-12

Psalm 23

1 John 3:16-24

John 10:11-18

### April 28 – Easter 5

Acts 8:26-40

Psalm 22:25-31

1 John 4:7-21

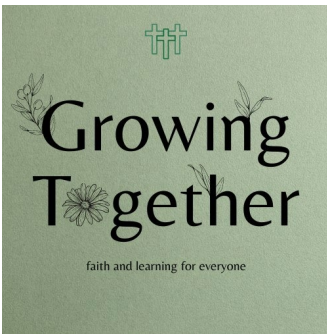
John 15:1-8



Altar  
Flowers  
Ministry Opportunity

**FLOWERS – POTTED OR FRESH –  
YOUR CHOICE**

There are still dates available to sponsor fresh flowers or a plant to decorate the chancel on Sunday mornings. The cost is \$40 per Sunday. Please indicate if you would like fresh flowers or a plant.



**SMALL GROUPS ARE FOR LIFE-LONG LEARNING, SUPPORT OF ONE ANOTHER AND CONNECTING MORE DEEPLY WITH GOD.**

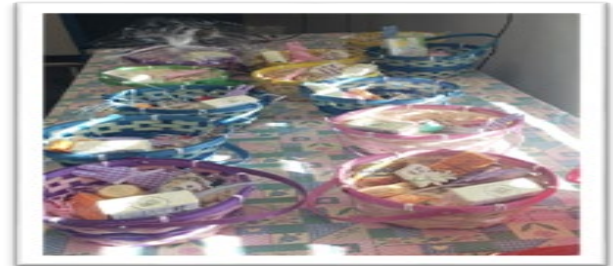
**WE HAVE IN-PERSON AND ONLINE OPPORTUNITIES.**



**SEEKER'S CIRCLE  
THURSDAY, APRIL 11, 2024  
9:30 A.M.  
DIGERUD ROOM & ZOOM**

Carole Greeley will be the lesson leader at the April Seekers' Circle meeting. All are invited to join in the community of biblical learning and service. The Circle meets each month on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday at 9:30 a.m. beginning with fellowship in the Digerud Room at the St. Mark's Lutheran Church campus. Join the group at 9:30 a.m. for fellowship/snack and at 10:00 a.m. for the bible study lesson from the Gather magazine. The group dismisses by 11:30 a.m. Join via ZOOM if you prefer. If you would like the ZOOM link, please contact Diane Metz at [DLMetz6@gmail.com](mailto:DLMetz6@gmail.com).

Here's the link to the lesson if you don't have a subscription to the Gather Magazine here is the video supplement to the lesson: [Winter/Spring 2024 "Scripture and nature: Teachers of faith" Bible study video supplement Session 4 - Gather Magazine](#)

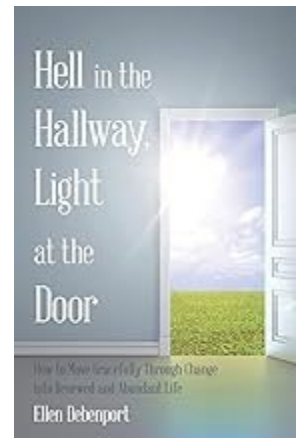


March's service project was to collect and assemble Easter Cheer packs for members of the congregation. Pastor Karen and members of the Care and Kindness Ministry Team (plus Preschool Director, Lucille Bowers) delivered the gifts.

**TUESDAY BOOK STUDY**

On Tuesdays at 10:30 a.m. we began the book "Hell in the Hallway, Light at the Door" by Ellen Debenport. This book helps us explore how to move gracefully through change into renewed and abundant life. We will meet by Zoom or in person in Pastor's office. New members are always welcome.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88381121677>



**ADDITIONAL SMALL GROUPS?**

Do you have interest in a small group? Would you like to join us to talk, read, create and/or eat together? Small groups help us connect with others in a different way than the Sunday gathering.

Please contact Ann Hefner-Gravink or Diane Metz if you would like to begin a small group that interests you.



## DO WE HAVE YOUR CURRENT EMAIL?

If you are not receiving emails from the church, please email Pastor Karen so we can update our records.



## HERE'S WHAT'S HAPPENING IN APRIL

April 7 – Meals on Wheels

April 14 – Thrivent Update

April 21 – Estate Lawyer - Frank Acuna

April 28 – Tech Tips – Sharon & Ann

### Next meeting of the Growing Together Team:

Thursday, April 18, 2024

3:00 p.m.

Digerud Room and via Zoom

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85311503903>

Email Ann at [drannhg@sbglobal.net](mailto:drannhg@sbglobal.net) for more information.

Everyone is invited to join us and offer their ideas for events, classes, etc.



## WEDNESDAY BIBLE STUDY

6:30 P.M.

Bible Study is on break until April 17. This is a great way to learn more about the scripture readings for the coming week. You'll talk about what they might have in common (or not!) and get a more in-depth understanding of the readings. Contact Jim Hanser

([hanserjames@comcast.net](mailto:hanserjames@comcast.net)) for more information.

See page 3 for a list of readings for April.



## MEN'S MINISTRY SURVEY

Lutheran Men in Mission (LMM) is exploring the status of men's ministry within/among individual churches. Your congregation's response would be very helpful to them and possibly to the men in your church! Hopefully, this survey will produce ideas we all can use and share in our Vision "for every man to be a bold, daring follower of Jesus Christ." Thank You in advance for your moments spent with this brief survey.

[TAKE THE SURVEY HERE!](#)



## GREEN LIVING AT ST. MARK'S

## Compost Bins Now Available

Republic Services now requires all compostable be put into a separate bin in our back parking lot. We have green bins around the campus to collect food waste. Please use them whenever possible.

### Recycle Now

Don't forget to recycle your used batteries and ink jet cartridges! There are bins on the table in the narthex as well as in the church office.

### Organics Cart (Green Can):

**Yard debris** (flowers, grass, leaves, weeds, etc.)

**Food scraps:** Fruit, veggies, bones, egg shells, coffee grounds, baked goods.

**Food-soiled paper:** Pizza boxes, paper plates, paper towels, paper napkins, paper cups.

### Recycle Cart (Blue Can):

Plastics #1-#7, metal cans, paper, cardboard, glass. Rinse cans and glass. Flatten cardboard and boxes.



**THROUGH OUR HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH GROUP, OUR PRE-SCHOOL PROGRAMS, WEEKLY CHILDREN'S CHAPEL AND MORE WE CELEBRATE THE GIFT OF CHILDREN AND YOUTH.**

### **VACATION BIBLE CAMP**



Vacation Bible Camp is on the calendar! We are hosting VBC on the St. Mark's campus from June 25 through June 27, Tuesday through Thursday. However, we need your help! Send the following link to other families with young children you may know. We want to hear directly from families, so completing the survey would be greatly appreciated! Link to VBC Interest Survey: <https://forms.gle/5wD58UqgckTToboP6>

### **YOUTH GROUP**

The youth group will have a Spring Barbeque on Sunday, April 21<sup>st</sup> at 3:00pm. We look forward to celebrating the weather and enjoying fellowship over homemade food and carne asada. Please come by and meet some of the youth! Address: 5220 48<sup>th</sup> Street, Sacramento, CA 95820, hosted by Sharon and Abraham Hermosillo Magana. Youth Group is held on Mondays at 6:30 PM.

### **SHARON'S SEMINARY UPDATE**

Sharon will be returning to Fuller Theological Seminary for the Spring Quarter term! She continues to participate in the online Spanish cohort and is enrolled in the following class, which begins March 26: Organizando Comunidades Urbanas "Organizing Urban Communities"



### **CHAPEL AT PRESCHOOL**

For the month of April, Pastor Karen and Ms. Sharon will continue to share the parables of Jesus. The children will learn all the valuable lessons found in Jesus' parables. Such as how Jesus is a shepherd, and we are his sheep. And the importance of loving others in the same way that Jesus loves us. Link to the Genesis channel:

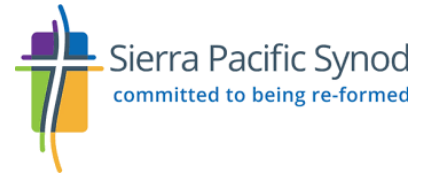
<https://www.youtube.com/@smlcgenesis>



### **WARNER GRANT FUND**

*Deadline to apply is May 15th!*

The Warner Grant Fund is designed to help in the areas of youth or family ministries. A grant may be requested for youth projects, schools and pre-schools, and education ministries, including curriculum and technology needs. Requests will be accepted March 1st. **The deadline is May 15th.** Grantees will be announced at Synod Assembly, June 5-7. **The application can be found here.**



St. Mark's Lutheran Church is connected to the larger church and the world through our Sierra Pacific Synod (a geographic area of churches working together) and as a part of the denomination known as the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA). Together we can do what no one group can do alone.

## OPPORTUNITIES TO REACH OUT TO OTHERS

**God's work. Our hands.**

September 8, 2024

Mark your calendar for **Sunday, Sept. 8**, when congregations of the ELCA will join together for our annual day of service, "God's work. Our hands." Participating in service projects is one way to celebrate who we are as the ELCA — one church, freed in Christ to serve and love our neighbor.

This year we also celebrate 50 years of ELCA World Hunger. In commemoration of this milestone, consider including ministries focused on alleviating hunger and poverty in your plans for **"God's work. Our hands."** Or make it a season of service! Expand your volunteer opportunities advocacy efforts or food drives until World Food Day on Oct. 16. If your congregation cannot participate on Sept. 8, you are encouraged to pick another date that fits your schedule. **ELCA congregations participate in acts of service every day.** This day of service is an extension of the work you already do to make your community a better place. Be sure to save the date and check [ELCA.org/DayOfService](http://ELCA.org/DayOfService) for updated resources soon. **Join us on Sept. 8!**

**Letters Save Lives!**

**BREAD**  
FOR THE WORLD  
Letter Writing Campaign

End Hunger Through Advocacy: An Offering of Letters

Thanks to all for taking action by sending letters to your legislators regarding the Farm bill ( and lots of food and nutrition Programs)! Over 50 letters were mailed or emailed from our congregation!

It's not too late to write, go to: [www.bread.org/ol](http://www.bread.org/ol) for information

Here's a link on how to send an email to your representatives. [A Farm Bill That Builds Healthy, Equitable, and Sustainable Food Systems \(bread.org\)](#)

**SAVE THE DATE**

"LOVE ONE ANOTHER..."

SPS WELCA 2024 RETREAT  
SEPTEMBER 6-8, 2024  
OLD OAK RANCH  
SONORA, CA

**Relax and rejuvenate in nature.**

Join us for a weekend of spiritual activities and workshops.

Retreat ahead! Mark your calendars!  
Details and registration info to come





## MEMORIAL DAY WORK WEEKEND AT MT. CROSS MINISTRIES

Save the date for Mt. Cross Ministries Memorial Day Work Weekend, May 24-26! Spend the day volunteering at camp and the evenings around a campfire with new and old friends. In thanksgiving for your hard work, registration is free. Register here: <https://forms.gle/Nb8sr5jAQZ5QMqLj9> or call the front office (831) 336-5179.



## MT. CROSS' SUMMER CAMP REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN!

"I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Wonderful are your works; that I know very well." - Psalm 139:14 (NRSV)

The Summer 2024 theme is Created to Be! Each day at camp gives us an opportunity to explore more deeply the authentic selves God has created us to be. Students will learn what it means to be siblings in Christ—humans who are brave enough to encourage and stand up for each other, sharing burdens as well as joys. We grow and learn more about ourselves while listening to and sharing with each other. Daily themes include: Created to be Free, Created to

be Authentic, Created to be Brave, Created to be Disciples, Created to be Disrupted.

Please visit their [website](#) to learn more about their programs and pricing or to begin your camper's registration today! We are so excited for this summer!

"I PRAISE YOU, FOR I AM FEARFULLY AND WONDERFULLY MADE. WONDERFUL ARE YOUR WORKS; THAT I KNOW VERY WELL." - PSALM 139:14	
JUNE 9-14	EXPLORERS (K-2ND) PATHFINDERS (3RD-5TH) TRAILBLAZERS (6TH-8TH)
JUNE 16-21	EXPLORERS (K-2ND) PATHFINDERS (3RD-5TH) TRAILBLAZERS (6TH-8TH)
JUNE 23-28	TRAILBLAZERS (6TH-8TH) CONFIRMATION (9TH-12TH) VOYAGERS (9TH-12TH) SURF CAMP (9TH-12TH)
JULY 3-5	FAMILY CAMP (ALL AGES)
JULY 7-AUGUST 2	TRAVELING DAY CAMPS (GRADES K-5TH)

SUMMER CAMP 2024  
CONTACT: SAM@MTCROSS.ORG FOR MORE INFORMATION

## Justice Conference

May 6-8th, Zephyr Point Lake Tahoe

At the Zephyr Point Justice Conference, church leaders are invited to come together along the shores of Lake Tahoe as we work together to actively seek justice in our communities, in our church, and in our world. Indigenous cultures tell us that we must consider the impacts of our decisions on the next seven generations. We confess that because of our lack of forethought our world carries great scars: colonialism, racism, Covid-19, wealth inequality, systemic poverty and hunger, floods and droughts, fires and mudslides. During this time together as people of faith, we will come together to learn about the injustices that face our world, as well as discover spiritually grounded and tangible tools to equip us for engagement in our own local communities. It is our hope for churches to send their pastor and key leaders to begin these important conversations of faith and action. Individuals who serve on church committees dedicated to the work of justice, compassion, mission, and outreach are perfect candidates to join us for the Justice Conference. [Learn More and Register Here!](#)



## “COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT”

We are an integral part of the wider community around where the church is located as well as beyond. We are always looking for ways to share the love of God locally.



### LOCAL FAITH LEADERS WORKING TOGETHER FOR THE COMMON GOOD

We will meet again on Tuesday, April 23 at 3:00 p.m. in the Fairfield City Council Chambers.



**MONDAYS AND WEDNESDAYS AT NOON (DIGERUD ROOM) 1:00 P.M.**



**NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS**  
Meeting  
Saturdays at 7:00 p.m.  
St. Mark's Community Center

### City of Fairfield Upcoming Events:



Location: St. Mark's Food Pantry  
Dates: First and Third Wednesdays  
Time: 9:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.



### FEEDING MORE AND MORE PEOPLE EACH WEEK!

With the help of generous donations from several regular donors, and our partners we are able to provide food for so many people in Fairfield.

We give thanks for the new St. Mark's Food Pantry Director, Tom Lingel who working hard with all the volunteers (over 30 of them!) to continue the great service that we are known for.

# What's Happening at St. Mark's

## April 2024 – Calendar of Events

### Recurring Weekly Events

#### Sunday

- 8:30 a.m. Choir Rehearsal
- 9:30 a.m. SMLC Worship (Worship Center/Live Streaming)
- 10:30 a.m. Fellowship (Worship Center)
- 10:45 a.m. Sunday Connections (Digerud/Zoom)
- 11:00 a.m. Pentecost Temple (Comm. Cen.)
- 2:30 p.m. Ministerios Ebenezer (Community Center)

#### Monday

- 12:00 p.m. Al-Anon Meeting (Digerud Room)
- 6:30 p.m. Youth Group

#### Tuesday

- 9:30 a.m. Preschool Chapel
- 10:30 a.m. Book Study (Zoom)
- 11:30 a.m. Choir Rehearsal (Worship Center)
- 2:00 p.m. St. Mark's Food Pantry Distr.

#### Wednesday

- 9:30 a.m. Preschool Chapel
- 9:30 a.m. Solano Food Bank Senior Program (Food Pantry 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday)
- 1:00 p.m. Al-Anon (Digerud Room)
- 1:30 p.m. Staff Meetings (2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Wed.)
- 5:30 p.m. Contemporary Music Team Rehearsal (Worship Center)
- 6:30 p.m. Bible Study (On break until 4/17)

#### Friday

- 7:00 p.m. Ebenezer Mission (Community Center)

#### Saturday

- 8:30 a.m. Vita Free Tax Service (Bethel) (ends 4/13)
- 7:00 p.m. Narcotics Anonymous Meeting (Community Center)

### Additional Events

Friday, March 29 through Friday, April 5  
No preschool – Spring Break

Tuesday, April 2

5:30 p.m. Worship & Music Committee (Zoom)

Wednesday, April 3

8:30 a.m. Free Tax Service

11:30 a.m. Widow's Lunch at Mimi's Café

Friday, April 5

8:30 a.m. Free Tax Service

Thursday, April 11

9:30 a.m. Seeker's Circle (Digerud)

5:30 p.m. Council Meeting

Thursday, April 18

3:00 p.m. Grow Together Team

Friday, April 19- Saturday, April 20

SPS Candidacy Committee (Worship Center)

Monday, April 22

7:00 p.m. Solano Symphony (Choir Room)

Tuesday, April 23

3:00 p.m. Fairfield CAN

Thursday, April 25

7:00 p.m. Solano Symphony (Choir Room)

# Join us for worship every Sunday

9:30 a.m. for in person & live streaming service

on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/SMLCFairfield](https://www.facebook.com/SMLCFairfield) (or click [HERE](#)) and on YouTube at <https://www.youtube.com/@SMLCFairfield> (or click [HERE](#))

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St. Mark's Mission: To Nurture Discipleship, Communicate the Gospel and Serve the Community.

St. Mark's Vision: To transform each church member into Christ-led disciples, nurtured and equipped by God's Word, whose purpose is to build up the Body of Christ in Solano County and the world.

St. Mark's Welcoming Statement: Adopted January 19, 2020

"We are St. Mark's Lutheran Church where everyone is welcomed and everyone is loved. We invite all into the grace, love and acceptance we have from God. We welcome YOU: who you are, as you are.



- All who are single, married, partnered, divorced, with or without children
- All sexual orientations, gender identities and gender expressions
- All racial, ethnic, and social backgrounds
- All who are homed or homeless
- All who are struggling with addictions or other personal hardships
- All ages and levels of physical and mental health and abilities
- All faith backgrounds, those questioning their faith and those new to faith

We invite you to fully participate in the life and ministry of St. Mark's Lutheran Church where we seek to share God's love and grace through word and action."

## St. Mark's Lutheran Church



### Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

1600 Union Avenue, Fairfield, CA 94533

707-422-4741

[office@stmarksfairfield.org](mailto:office@stmarksfairfield.org); [www.stmarksfairfield.org](http://www.stmarksfairfield.org)

Rev. Karen Stetins, Senior Pastor

Sharon Hermosillo Magaña, Director of Youth and Children's Ministries & Media Coordinator

Kim Worthen, Office Administrator

Semyon Lohss, Accompanist, Choral Director

Lucille Bowers, Preschool Director

Michelle Aas, SMLC's bookkeeper

#### Council Members

June Johnsen (President), Tom Lingel (Vice President), Ann Hefner Gravink (Secretary),  
Stew Irwin (Finance Chair), Toni McCallum and Josephine Traughber (Members at Large).

#### Elected Leaders

Pam Lyons (Financial Secretary), Les Johnsen (Treasurer)

Dave McCallum, Personnel Committee Chairperson, Janelle Jolley, Property Committee Chairperson