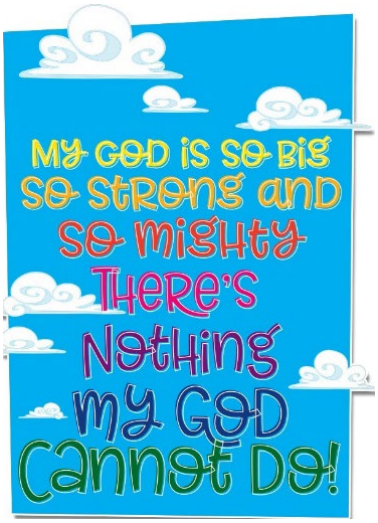
St. Mark's Lutheran Church
1600 Union Avenue
Fairfield, California

May 2022 Newsletter

The Song Became My Prayer

Earworms – they are the worst…or maybe not! We have been teaching our Preschoolers the song "My God is so Big" to sing at their graduation from preschool to kindergarten. As they prepare for new schools, new classmates, etc. we want them to know that our God is so big! Bigger than any fears or concerns they might have about the new school year.



This earworm has been playing over and over in my head for days. Yet, it wasn't until I sat quietly after a very long, busy day that I actually *heard* the words. It strikes me as a little funny that I can share this good news about God with the kids and not hear my own words!

When I stop to take time to listen, pray and be open the words of this song, a hymn from Sunday's worship, a line of scripture or the words of a prayer suddenly and surprisingly hit me in the head. In the quiet of the evening the song became my prayer.

God is so much bigger than all my worries, all my frustrations, all my everything. If God make the trees, and God made the seas and the elephants, too, we can trust that there is nothing our God, who created us in God's very own image, cannot do!

We cannot see the future for ourselves or for our ministry at St. Mark's. What will the future hold? Will attendance increase? Will our outreach into the community increase? So many questions…so few answers. Yet, God who is bigger than all the things going on in our lives will hear us – each of us! As if we are the only. God is more than enough – so strong and so mighty – that we can trust God to show us the way into the future

> [11]For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the LORD, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope." Jeremiah 29:11

Karen Stelling, Pastor

In Our Thoughts and Prayers…

Our members
Lew Broschard, Richard Ehman, Lynn Hallahan, Jim Hanser and family, Eva Lipke, Karen Mullin, Gerda Reid, Josephine Lord-Traughber and Jerry Zaier.

Our homebound members
Sylvia Buringrud, Judith Eckhart, Bob Evans, Alice Freeman, Larry Nelson, Barbara Patterson, Shirley Quinn, Barbara Tenorio.

Our friends and loved ones
Alex, Bree Assaker, Bruce Atkinson, Alec Barrett, Makita Bond, Michael Boyle, Alyssa Buch, Deanna Cantrell, Bernadette Carter, Jackie Carter, Carmen Chow, David Corr, Karen Digman, Tom Eckhart, Pastor Lynne Morrow, Annette Murphy, Martha Peña, Kim Poulsen, Wayne Poulsen, Helen Powell, Wendy Ramirez, Arlette Sciortino, Dennis Sweeney, Martin Theiss, Weldon Tunnel, Ann Turek, Mary Vigliezone, Aidan Volk, Ida Volk, Mickey Volk, Lorna Walter, and Laurie Ziegler.

Those who are mourning
The family of Kayden Ross (Youth Group member) who died on April 22.

Celebration of Life – Fred MacMillan
Karin MacMillan invites members and friend to celebrate Fred's life with her and her family. The celebration will take place on Sunday, May 22 at the Rancho Solano Club House from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
Thank you
Karin MacMillan

Please help us keep our prayer list up to date. Especially the friends list. If a someone is doing well, please let us know. If you would like to add someone, please call the office (707) 422-4741 or email office@stmarksfairfield.org.

We celebrate with the Lipke/McCallum family as they rejoice in the birth of Porter Tanner Moses on Saturday, April 16 to proud parents Ryan and Harben and big sister, Esme.

We celebrate with Madison (Bowers) and Tyler Lewis as they celebrate the arrival of Levi Tyler Lewis on Friday, April 22, 2022. Levi is the beloved grandchild of Lucille and Billy Bowers and nephew of Molly Bowers. Congratulations on and all!!!

We wish you a Happy Birthday!!!

Maddie Sciortino 05/02
Sam Mullin 05/06
Audrey Johnston 05/10
Bonnie Demuth 05/13
Jaquez Gilliam 05/13
Rene Bojorquez 05/18
Shirley Quinn 05/20
Larry Traughber 05/31

Remember our Homebound Members

Sylvia Buringrud
631 Whitehall Circle
Fairfield, CA 94533

Bonnie DeMuth
Legacy of Bear Creek
200 Keller-Smithfield Rd. South Unit 210
Keller, Texas 76248
(Note: this is a corrected address)

Judith Eckhart
2113 Alturas Court
Fairfield CA 94534

Bob Evans
1113 Quail Drive
Fairfield, CA 94533

Alice Freeman
1073 Flicker Lane
Fairfield, CA 94533

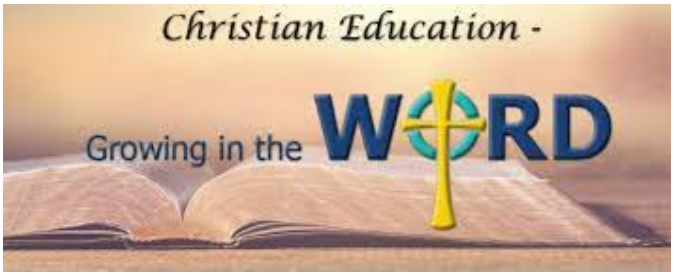
Larry Nelson
770 Pinehurst Drive
Rio Vista, CA 94571

Barbara Patterson
1078 Meadowlark Drive
Fairfield, CA 94533

Barbara Tenorio
266 DeSoto Drive
Fairfield, 94533
(Note: this is a corrected address)

Shirley Quinn
11 Lemon Tree Circle
Vacaville CA 95687

Christian Ed Opportunities

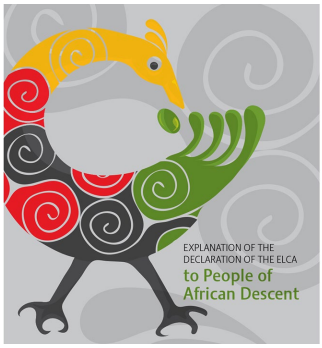


Seeker's Circle

The following link is for this group through June. Reminders will be sent (God willing) each month. Dates are listed below if you want to add to your calendars.

If you have questions about 'how' to get on, call Diane Metz at (707) 208-7228. If you want to invite someone, please let her know. Here's the link: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88688857937

Upcoming dates: Thursday, May 12
Thursday, June 9
Thursday, July 14

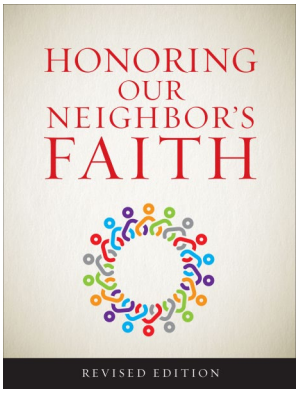


Adult Education Hour Sundays 11:00 a.m.

In May we will continue our discussion of the ELCA's Declaration to People of African Descent. We will meet in the Digerud Room and on Zoom (https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81948315531). We will start the Zoom a few minutes earlier so we can chat and say "hello" to one another. The study will begin at 11:00 a.m.

- May 1 - Now is the Time, Part 4
- May 8 - (Mother's Day) – no class
- May 15 – Now is the Time, Part 5
- May 22 – Reception for Sharon & Abraham – no class
- May 29 - (Memorial Day weekend) – no class
- June 5 – Making Sense of the Bible

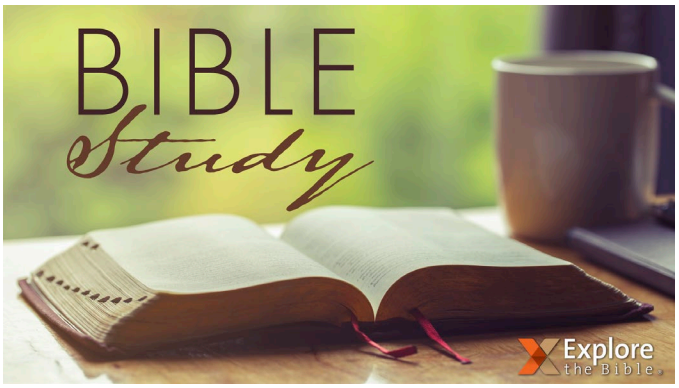
- June 12 – Making Sense of the Bible
- June 19 – (Father's Day) – no class
- June 26 – Making Sense of the Bible



Tuesday Book Study

11:00 a.m.

You are invited to join Pastor Karen on Zoom or in person in her office.



Wednesday Bible Study

6:30 – 8:00 p.m.

Zoom

Join Jim Hanser and explore the scripture readings for the upcoming Sunday. Please email Jim Hanser at hanserjames@comcast.net if you would like the Zoom link

Congratulations Sharon and Abraham

God's blessings and our congratulations to Sharon Swanson-Muñoz, our Director of Youth and Children's Ministries and her fiancé Abraham Hermosillo Magaña! After 2 years of an unbreakable friendship, they will be married in a private ceremony among family on April 30!

We at St. Mark's will have the opportunity to celebrate with them at a reception planned in their honor on **Sunday, May 22, 2022** immediately following worship in the Fireside Room. They are registered at www.myregistry.com/giftlist/aands

Congratulations Ben and Judi Reid

Ben Reid and Judi Reichman will be married on May 5. We wish them God's blessings on their journey as husband and wife.

amazon smile

Remember to support St. Mark's Lutheran Church every time you order from Amazon! Sign up for Amazon Smile at: smile.amazon.com/ch/94-2635284. Let them know that you want .5% of qualifying purchases to be given to St. Mark's. This is a great way to support our ministry and doesn't cost you a cent! From October 1 through December 31, 2021 St. Mark's received $45.60! Let's keep up the good work!

Your Hands and Heart Are Needed for

We all know that many hands make light work. We need people to help keep the important ministries on the move.

- **Ushers –** arrive by 9:10 on Sunday morning and greet folks. Count the number of people in the worship center (including A/V tech, pastor, organist, children – everyone) and write that number of the attendance sheet in the hallway with a circle around it. At the end of the service take the offering into the sacristy, put it in an envelope with the date on it and put it into the safe. (Envelopes and pens are the drawer under the safe; to the left of the refrigerator). Contact Stu Reid (stuktu@yahoo.com)
- **Reader –** Read the first and second readings for the day and lead the Psalm (responsively with congregation). Readings are sent out early in the week before your Sunday and a large print copy will be on the reading stand. We are working on including our online community as readers. If you are interested in recording the readings for Sunday morning, please let us know. Contact Stu Reid (stuktu@yahoo.com)
- **A/V Techs –** We need three A/V techs each week – sound board, slides, and cameras. We are working on a training manual and training is available. Contact Stu Reid (stuktu@yahoo.com)
- **Altar Care –** Set up and clean up communion for Sunday worship (a binder and training are available). Check water in font and other tidying up duties for the month. Contact Toni McCallum (vacamccallums@gmail.com).
- **Memorial Gift Acknowledgements –** Do you like to send notes and cards to others? This ministry involves writing thank you notes to those who contribute to St. Mark's through our memorial fund along with an acknowledgment note to the family. Contact Linda Lindauer for details.

The SMLC Council met on April 26. Here are some highlights:

- We discussed details of the **July 10, 2022 Suds and Songs** event with Bishop Megan Rohrer.
- We completed the preliminary leadership survey to consider participation in the Synod's ACTS for Vitality program.
- We discussed physical changes proposed for the food pantry (no decision made).
- We discussed the possibility of using potted plants on the altar, at a member's request, then planting them in the courtyard after worship.
- Pastor Karen shared that she and Sharon would be taking CPR certification classes in May with the Preschool staff.
- We briefly discussed St. Mark's participation in the Fairfield CAN Juneteenth celebration on June 18. More details to come.
- We table discussion of proposed changes to the constitution and bylaws regarding a Food Pantry committee until a later date.
- Pastor Karen noted that she will be on vacation from June 15 – 21. Pastor Paul Theiss will serve as supply pastor.

Next meeting – Thursday, May 12 – 6:15 p.m.

Hunger Advocacy Sunday
May 15

The war in Ukraine is making a bad world hunger problem worse. We pray about it on Sundays, and on May 15 we'll have a chance to do something about it: after worship, write a letter to our legislators on world hunger. Ukraine and Russia are major producers of food grains and oils, and the supply is already disrupted. Bread for the World, a Christian voice for the hungry in Washington, is coordinating an Offering of Letters this spring on global and domestic hunger issues. On May 15th sample letters will be provided and space to jot down a note in the narthex. See you then!

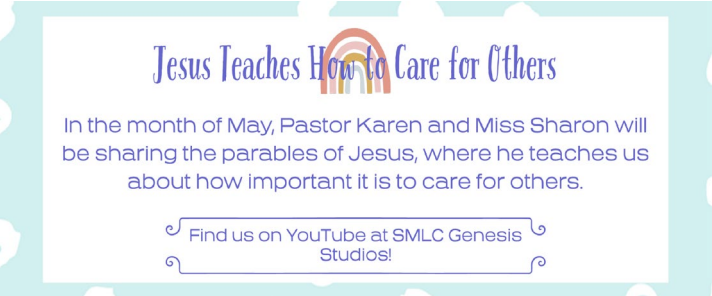
Update April 2022

- The group continued discussing a goal or project. It was decided that we need to centralize resource information so that all church leaders, members and the community would have access to these resources. We will be working City staff members to create and update the information.
- We scheduled a Juneteenth Celebration for Saturday, June 18, 2022. All congregations will be invited to participate. A subcommittee was appointed to plan the event.
- We discussed the possibility of establishing a 501(c)(3) organizatino for the group.
- The breakfast at Travis Air Force Base has been cancelled due to the logistics of the air show that weekend. Another date will be set and we will invite Air Force members to our meeting to share their needs with the members.
- Our next meeting is Tuesday, May 24 at 3:00 p.m. in City Council Chambers

Remember to support St. Mark's Lutheran Church every time you order from Amazon! Sign up for Amazon Smile at: smile.amazon.com/ch/94-2635284. Let them know that you want .5% of qualifying purchases to be given to St. Mark's. This is a great way to support our ministry and doesn't cost you a cent! From October 1 through December 31, 2021 St. Mark's received $45.60! Let's keep up the good work!

Children & Youth Ministries

Sharon, a great artist and teachers "paints the stories" form the Spark Children's Bible each week for our preschoolers. She shares her creations for all parents and grandparents to explore on our Genesis Link: https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCTTNSNDqbBYHKwNZuqDm1HQ



God takes care of God's people, even in the wilderness!

At St. Mark's Vacation Bible Camp for 2022, students will join the Israelites as they escape Egypt and follow God into the wilderness. To get through, they'll learn trust, faith, strength, salvation and guidance from the one true God!

Dates: Monday through Friday, June 27- July 1
Time: 9 AM - 12 PM, drop-off is 8:30
Registration Opens in May
Registration Fee: $60
Sharon Munoz, Youth Director
St. Mark's Lutheran Church and Preschool

Wednesdays
6:30 p.m.

Join Miss Sharon for fun, fellowship, bible lessons and more.

St Mark's PRESCHOOL

Get to know our preschoolers!

- Summer camp registration has begun! Registration packets are available on the table in the narthex, but calling the church office (707-422-4741) or the Preschool office (707-422-4742). We will be offering two 3-week sessions (one in June and one in July). The sessions will run Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday each week. There will be 24 spaces available for each camp.
    - June 7 – 23: "Science/Cooking"
    - July 12 – 28: "Adventure/Beach"

- Teacher appreciation week is May 1 through May 7 and national childcare appreciation day is Friday May 6. If you happen to see a teacher on campus, make sure to give them a smile of

appreciation for all of their hard work with our preschool youth!

A big thank you from the St. Mark's family as a whole, we love our teachers, Thank you!
The first week of May, the preschool will host a Mother's Day Tea event. Parents will gather in the morning to share bottled tea as they enjoy their children's songs and dedications to their mothers.

P.S. Don't forget we take all empty ink cartridges to recycle so don't throw them in the trash.

The Manna Food Pantry

The Manna Food Pantry is a ministry of St. Mark's Lutheran Church and Preschool. Food pantry hours are every Tuesday from 3:30 to 5:30 p.m. There are no requirements for receiving food. All are welcome!

In April we served over 2,100 people and were blessed with over 250 hours of volunteer commitment.

We were delighted to receive a grant of $6,000 to be used from April 1, 2022 – February 28, 2023 for the food we purchase from the Contra Costa Solano Food Bank!

Thanks to your generosity, the Food Pantry has enough bags and egg cartons to last for a while. Your donations of non-perishable food items are always welcome.

FOOD BANK
of Contra Costa & Solano

Solano Food Bank Programs Schedule for 2022 at St. Mark's, Fairfield

Seniors Program
1st & 3rd Wednesday
9:30 a.m. -10:30 a.m.

Sierra Pacific Synod
committed to being re-formed

Sierra Pacific Synod Mission Partners

Every month, our Synod partners with a different nonprofit organization that embodies the spirit of Christ and cares for community members in diverse ways. Below you'll find a list of our current mission partners and when we encourage you to support them.

Stanford University
University of California, Berkeley
California State University, Monterey
California State University, Fresno
University of California, Davis
University of California, Santa Cruz
Donate here:
https://www.paypal.com/donate/?hosted_button_id=CFFP9AN3VBM9S&source=url

What's Happening at St. Mark's
May 2022 – Calendar of Events

Weekly Events

Sunday
- 9:30 a.m. SMLC Worship (Worship Center/Live Streaming)
- 10:30 a.m. SMLC Fellowship (Worship Center/Zoom)
- 11:00 a.m. SMLC Education (See page 4)
- 11:00 a.m. Pentecost Temple (Community Center)
- 2:30 p.m. Ministerios Ebenezer (Community Center)

Monday
- 12:00 p.m. Al-Anon Meeting (Digerud Room)

Tuesday
- 9:15 a.m. Preschool Chapel (Preschool Bldg)
- 11:00 a.m. Book Study (Pastor's Office & Zoom)
- 3:30 p.m. Manna Food Pantry Distribution

Wednesday
- 9:15 a.m. Preschool Chapel (Preschool Bldg)
- 9:30 a.m. Solano Food Bank Program (Food Pantry 1st & 3rd Wednesday)
- 1:00 p.m. Al-Anon (Digerud Room)
- 5:30 p.m. Contemporary Music Team Rehearsal (Worship Center)
- 6:30 p.m. Bible Study (Zoom)
- 6:30 p.m. Youth Group (Youth Room)

Thursday
- 10:30 a.m. Staff Meetings (1st & 3rd) (Pastor's Office)

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

Saturday
- 5:00 p.m. Holy Family (Community Center)

Additional Events

Tuesday, May 3
- 5:30 p.m. Worship and Music

Thursday, May 5
- 10:30 a.m. Staff Meeting

Saturday, May 7
- 8:00 a.m. Golf Outing (Paradise Valley Golf Course)

Monday, May 9
- 11:00 a.m. Solano Symphony Audition
- 7:00 p.m. Solano Symphony Board (Digerud Room)

Thursday, May 12
- 10:00 a.m. Seeker's Circle (Digerud Room)
- 6:15 p.m. Council Meeting (Digerud Room)

Saturday, May 14
- Tbd Memorial Service for Kayden Ross

Sunday, May 22
- 10:30 – 1:00 p.m. Reception for Sharon and Abraham's Wedding (Fireside Room)

Tuesday, May 24
- 3:00 – 4:30 p.m. Fairfield CAN

Wednesday, May 25
Preschool Graduation Preparations Worship Center
- 5:30 – 7:30 p.m. Contemporary Team Rehearsal (Worship Center)

Thursday, May 26
- 4:00 p.m. Preschool Graduation (Worship Center)

Tuesday, May 31
- 11:30 – 12:30 p.m. Choir Practice

Preschool will be closed on May 30 and May 3

Join us for worship every Sunday

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

on Facebook at *www.facebook.com/SMLCFairfield* (or click HERE)and on YouTube at *https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-E3cZfy_c-Y* (or click HERE)

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; www.stmarksfairfield.org

Rev. Karen Stetins, Senior Pastor
Sharon Munoz, Director of Youth and Children's Ministries
Gregori (GiGi) Merriweather, Office Administrator
Semyon Lohss, Accompanist, Choral Director
Lucille Bowers, Preschool Director

Michelle Aas, SMLC's bookkeeper

Council Members
June Johnsen (President), Jim Hanser (Vice President), Ann Hefner Gravink (Secretary),
Nancy Huston (Finance Chair), Marilyn Kilian & Tom Lingel (Members at Large).

Elected Leaders
Pam Lyons (Financial Secretary), Dan DiSano (Treasurer)
V-Anne Chernock, Personnel Committee Chairperson, Les Johnsen, Property Committee Chairperson