St. Mark's Lutheran Church
August 2026

Who is my neighbor?

On July 19, Stew Irwin and Colleen Rivers, two of our Stewardship Team members, blessed us with the following dialogue. It not only fits the theme of their emphasis this quarter (*Getting to Know Your Neighbors*) but spoke perfectly to the gospel message for the day. Please enjoy this excerpt and click here for entire dialogue.

Stew: Hey Colleen
Colleen: Hi Stew, what's up?

Stew: So… I was reading Luke 10:25–37 again — you know, the passage about the Good Samaritan.
Colleen: Oh man… you are reading scripture again. Is this like the time you tried to "fast" from complaining and lasted only seven minutes?

Stew: No, no… Well, that WAS my new personal record. No — this time the word neighbors caught my attention. In the passage, the lawyer asks Jesus, "Who is my neighbor?"
Colleen: A perfectly reasonable question. I, too, enjoy knowing the minimum requirements for holiness.

Stew: (sarcastic) HAHA, But Jesus doesn't give him a list. He tells the story of the guy who gets robbed on the road to Jericho.
Colleen: Oh...that road again. It's basically the biblical version of "You should've taken the other route."

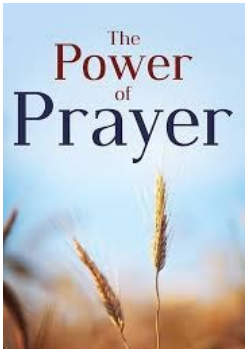
Stew: A man was attacked, robbed and left for dead by the side of the road. First, a priest walks by and avoids him.
Colleen: Maybe he was practicing social distancing… 2,000 years early.

Stew: Then a Levite walks by and avoids him too.
Colleen: Well, he probably thought, "If the priest didn't help, I'm not getting involved. I'm not out-holying the priest."

Stew: But then — the Samaritan shows up.
Colleen: Ahh… the outsider. The one nobody expected to help. The one people crossed the street to avoid.

Stew: Exactly. And he's the one who stops, bandages the man, puts him on his donkey, takes him to an inn, pays for his care…
Colleen: Yeah, he basically becomes the man's ambulance, Uber, and health insurance all in one.

Serving through Caring & Celebrating



We are praying for...

Our members
Ivonne Bradford, Sarajane Hakenen, Gabby Hansen, Jim Hanser& family, Tom Lingel, Pamela Lyons, Karen Mullin, Gerda Reid, Stu Reid, and Josie Traughber.

Those Who Can't Get Out Often:
Janet Benson, V-Anne Chernock, Kathy Doty, Elsie Edgeman, Flordeliza Maneja and Shirley Quinn.

Those Who are Mourning:
The family of Judith (Jude) Eckhart has planned a memorial service on August 2 from 12:30-3:00 p.m. at the Cante Ao Vinho Winery, 5250 Front St, Rocklin, CA 95677.

The family of Richard Ehman may be reached with cards and well wishes at
Patricia Moore
2144 NE Warner St.
Bremerton, WA. 98310

Our friends and loved ones:
Kim Arnold, Bruce Atkinson, Makita Bond, Adrian Butler, Tracy Camara, Roxanne Costan, Dave Eubanks, Kyle Forristall, Dave Frogget, Ed Goldberg, Naomi Goulart, Rob Hakenen, Daryl Halls, Nicholas Hanson, Shaman Houpt, Phil Ladiero, Sandy Larson, Rene Maddox, Mike Michaelsen, Rev. Kirsten Moore, Delilah Nyquist, Helen Powell, Cheryl Rassmussen, John Scarrott, Toni Scarrott Collins, Bob Stevenson, Rhonda Stokes, John Sylhman, Nardos Tesfaye, Dan and Sarita Turner, Lorna Walter, and Laurie Ziegler.

Rene and Dale Puskas 8/5
Mike & V-Anne Chernock 8/24
Sam and Karen Mullin 8/28

Our homebound Members

Janet Benson
3305 Hartford Ave
Fairfield, CA 94534

V-Anne Chernock
10030 Newton Ave
Apt 248, Bloomington MN 55421

Kathy Doty, Magnolia Court Senior Assisted Living, 1111 Ulatis Dr, Room 204, Vacaville, CA 95687

Elsie Edgeman, Vacaville Village Senior Living, 2061 Peabody Rd., Room 206, Vacaville, CA 95687

Shirley Quinn, 11 Lemon Tree Cir., Vacaville CA 95687

Please remember them with your cards, visits and calls.

Bob Jolley	8/5
Gabby Hansen	8/8
Karen Spengler	8/10
Barbara Nelson	8/11
Jim Hanser	8/16
Ann Hefner Gravink	8/16
Flordeliza Maneja	8/22

Welcome Reese Juliet Kimball!

Reese, the granddaughter of Karen and Sam Mullin (child of Rachael and Ethan) will be baptized at St. Mark's on Thursday, August 13, 2026, at 10:30 a.m. All members of the faith community are welcome to join us as we welcome Reese into the community of faith.

Our thanks...

To our small but beautiful Chancel Choir and our dedicated director, Semyon Lohss. The choir has provided beautiful music to enhance our worship throughout the program year. They will take a break this summer. When they resume in September everyone with a voice is welcome to join the fun.

Our Contemporary Music Team

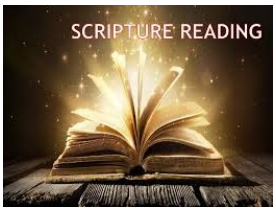
Will continue to rehearse and sing periodically this summer. They rehearse on Thursdays at 5:30 p.m. in the Worship Center and perform on the first and third Sundays. (Check with Dennis Digman for Summer schedule)

All voices are welcome and we encourage you to share your gifts!

Sunday, August 30, 2026

Immediately following our worship service. Join us to see what's been happening and what we are doing for the next several months.

Serving at St. Mark's



August 2026 (Year A)

Sunday, August 2, 2026
Tenth Sunday after Pentecost

- Isaiah 55:1-5
- Psalm 145:8-9, 14-21
- Romans 9:1-5
- Matthew 14:13-21

Sunday, August 9, 2026
Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost

- 1 Kings 19:9-18
- Psalm 85:8-13
- Romans 10:5-15
- Matthew 14:22-33

Sunday, August 16, 2026
Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost

- Isaiah 56:1, 6-8
- Psalm 67
- Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32
- Matthew 15:21-28

Sunday, August 23, 2026
Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost

- Isaiah 51:1-6
- Psalm 138
- Romans 12:1-8
- Matthew 16:13-20

Sunday, August 30, 2026
Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost

- Jeremiah 15:15-21
- Psalm 26:1-8
- Romans 12:9-21
- Matthew 16:21-28

Worship Assistants

August 2

Assisting Minister	Ann Hefner-Gravink
Reader	Marilyn Nelson
Communion Asst.	Josie Traughber
Greeter	Bev Lipke
Slides	Eva Lipke
Sound	Tom Lingel
Livestream	Mike Gravink

August 9

Assisting Minister	Jackie Marrolli
Reader	Cindy DeRosier
Communion Asst.	Fay DiSano
Greeter	Pat McKillips
Slides	Eva Lipke
Sound	Jim/Rose Hanser
Livestream	Mike Gravink

August 16

Assisting Minister	Diane Metz
Reader	Diane Metz
Communion Asst.	Josie Traughber
Greeter	Sherri Scarrott
Slides	Eva Lipke
Sound	Jackie Marrolli
Livestream	Cindy DeRosier

August 23

Assisting Minister	Jim Hanser
Reader	Ailish Mendoza
Communion Asst.	Sherri Scarrott
Greeter	Cheryl Hurd
Slides	Eva Lipke
Sound	Karin MacMillan
Livestream	Mike Gravink

August 30

Assisting Minister	June Johnsen
Reader	Sharon Yost
Communion Asst.	Les Johnsen
Greeter	Dan/Fay DiSano
Slides	Eva Lipke
Sound	Tom Lingel
Livestream	Mike Gravink

Council Highlights

Council met on July 9 at 11:30 a.m. Highlights include:

- Approved minutes of June meeting
- Approved the Finance Report as submitted and noted that Seeker's and Quilters would like to see separate balances for their funds.
- Discussed HVAC systems for the Bethel Room and Mexico Mission office. Tabled until August and requested additional details from Property Committee.
- Approved HVAC Maintenance Contract for Worship Center with Golden Comfort in the amount of $3,150/year.
- Note that new HVAC systems were added to the Food Pantry area with the refrigerators/freezers and in the Resource Room. The cost was covered by a grant from Fairfield Community Foundation.
- Update on Food Pantry LDSS Grant: Grant has been received; sustainable tote bags purchased; to be given out on July 28.
- Social Media Team will add the list of school supplies for the Resource Fair to our website.
- We are still in search of a campus map.
- Tabled discussion of geofencing until August when speaker, Dave McCallum joins us.
- Agreed to have SMLC listed on the gaychurch.org website (free).
- Noted that Solano Symphony will be picking up items stored in the Nelson Music Room within the next couple of weeks.

The next meeting will be Thursday, August 13, 2026, at 11:30 a.m. in the Pastor's Study.

Council Message to All Leaders

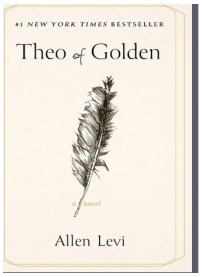
The Council has been in the process of updating our Organizational Chart and creating a ministry description for Council Liaisons. A few weeks ago, Council President, Ann Hefner-Gravink, sent an email to many of our leaders with updated information. Everyone can access that information here: Letter Chapter 3 Organizational Chart. If you have any questions, please contact Ann.

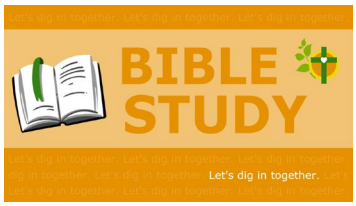
Is God calling you?

Is God nudging you to serve St. Mark's in new ways? Everyone's gifts are important to the life and ministry we care about. Please contact one of our elected leaders or Pastor Karen to share what the Spirit is doing within.

Tuesday Book Group

Book Group meets on Tuesdays at 10:30-11:30 a.m. on Zoom. We are reading *Theo of Golden* by Allen Levi. Tuesday Bible Study





Wednesday Bible Study 6:30 p.m. (Zoom)

An in-depth study of the scripture readings for the coming week. How are the readings related (or not!).

Contact Jim Hanser (hanserjames@comcast.net) for more information.

Seekers Circle

Meets Thursday, August 13 in the Digerud Room 9:30-11:30a.m.

Carole Greeley is the Leader of the session. The group will focus upon 'I am Worthy!". Join us for the study or download it for at home study: I-am-worthy-Bible-study.pdf **ALL are welcome.**

The group also connects with one another for a time of fellowship and plans action projects to out our faith through the **Advocacy Ministry**. In July, the group used their donations to purchase 12 pack backs and the supplies for Elementary aged students to be given out at the Fairfield-Suisun Unified School District's Back to School Resource Fair.

St Mark's Preschool

The Preschool has set up an Amazon Wish List (link and QR code below).

Amazon Wish List

Sunday Connections August Events

August 2: Diamond Art
August 9: Stewardship
August 16: Is it all in your head? Advocating for your health
August 23: Tech Tips: When/how to use AI
August 30: Semi-Annual Meeting

Zoom link: Sunday Connections

Email Ann at drannhg@sbglobal.net for more information. Everyone is invited to offer ideas for events, etc.

Quilting for Lutheran World Relief

The Quilters' Ministry Team has completed over 50 quilts as we begin the month of August and is busily creating more to share with Lutheran World Relief. Every Wednesday is devoted to meeting and working on various stages of quilt making—and sharing in fellowship, getting to know one another and home-grown vegetables—truly a sharing of gifts! New members are ALWAYS welcome!

Join us at 10:00 a.m. in the Quilt Room each Wednesday. Beth Williamson attended the WELCA Triennial Gathering in Des Moines, Iowa in mid-July. Lutheran World Relief had a large booth about the Quilting Ministry.

Beth pictured with Mary Tereszkiewicz, Associate Director, LWR Quilt and Kit Ministry

Contact Diane Metz with questions about donations or how to get involved.

Stewards of God's Love

In July, August & September the Team will focus on the stewardship of ***Getting to Know Our Neighbors***. kicked off their theme with a wonderful Temple Talk, *Who is My Neighbor,* delivered by Stewart Irwin

and Colleen Rivers on July 19th. If you missed hearing it, click on the link to the service. (or look at the transcript on the front page of this newsletter). Pastor Karen complimented their gifts with her sermon message: https://www.youtube.com/live/-yD36UJl2qg?si=8x-5gCiUtwih7ZhE

From October through December, we will consider our life as **Stewards of Local and Global Communities**. With its key message: God has called us to serve our neighbors, both near and far. How is God calling us, as individuals and as a congregation, to use the resources that God has entrusted to our care to love God and our neighbors both locally and globally? And bible verses: Matthew 25:31-46, Proverbs 3:27-28

Back To School Resource Fair

Save the Date: 08/08/2026
(9:30 AM-12:30 PM)

As the new school year preparations begin, the Fairfield Suisun Unified School District will once again host 50+ vendors, free immunizations, free vision screenings, free haircuts and of course, free backpacks filled with supplies for our school children on our campus.
Members and friends are encouraged to donate the following items (and these items only!):

Primary grade level (PreK - 5th Grades) backpacks contain:

- 1 Youth or standard size backpack (no solid red or solid blue backpacks)
- 2 packs wide ruled filler paper
- 2 wide ruled notebooks
- 4 pocket folders
- 1 pack of color markers
- 1 pack of crayons or colored pencils
- 1 pair kids safety scissors
- 1 highlighter
- 1 black dry erase marker
- 4 pencils with erasers
- 1 glue stick
- 1 pair headphones (3.5mm jack, mic)

Secondary grade level (6th- 12th Grades) backpacks contain

- 1 Standard size backpack with laptop sleeve (no solid red or solid blue backpacks)
- 2 packs college ruled filler paper
- 6 (1 subject) college ruled notebooks (or 2, 3-subject notebooks)
- 2 pocket folders
- 1 pack colored pencils
- 2 blue or black pens
- 4 pencils with erasers

-
- 2 highlighters
- 1 pair headphones (3.5mm jack, mic)
- On-the-go hygiene kit
- 1 stick travel-size deodorant
- toothbrush & travel-sized toothpaste
- 1 travel sized hand sanitizer
- elastic hair ties

The deadline for bringing donations is Sunday, August 2.

Join us

...under our new canopy to greet the more than 2,000 guests that will be on our campus that day.

We'll also provide children's games – they were a real "hit" last year! But we need more help!!!
Please **sign up here** to help let the community know all about St. Mark's and our Preschool.

Join us for our annual God's Work, Our Hands service day as we come together to serve our neighbors by assembling Period Packs for Church World Service (CWS). Period poverty is a global community health dilemma described as having insufficient access to menstrual products, education, and sanitation facilities.

These Period Packs provide essential hygiene supplies for women and girls facing emergencies, disasters, or difficult circumstances both here in the United States and around the world.
Why Period Packs?

Reduces Absenteeism: Globally, approximately 1 in 10 (10%) menstruating adolescents miss school during their periods due to a lack of access to adequate menstrual products and resources.

Promotes Health and Well-being: Improvising with improper products or stretching the use of a single pad/tampon can lead to severe

health risks, including infections and toxic shock syndrome.

Alleviates Stress and Stigma: Many students feel profound embarrassment or anxiety if caught unprepared. Providing period packs can help destigmatize menstruation and allow students to focus on their learning.

There are two ways to participate:
• Donate the supplies needed to assemble a Period Pack.
• Donate $20, the cost of the supplies needed for one complete Period Pack and the shipping.

Supplies Needed for Each Period Pack
• Resealable plastic bags (2)
• Hand sanitizer
• Bathroom trash bags
• Travel pack of hand wipes
• Tampons
• Sanitary napkins
• Bath-size bar of soap
• Flushable wipes
• Laundry sheets

We will have a donation box in the Narthex the month of August for monetary donations to purchase period packs. If you prefer to write a check, please be sure to mark it "Period Packs".

Together, we can share God's love in a practical way with people experiencing hardship.

Thank you for sharing God's love and helping make a difference—one Period Pack at a time.

June 2026 Statistics

The Bette Noll St. Mark's Food Pantry served **4,835** people from our neighborhood. That's an average of **972** people (**210** families) a week!
YTD: **25,284** people served. **5,643** families served.
Total Volunteer Hours **814**

Bette Noll St. Mark's Food Pantry Gives Thanks

Our volunteers and guests are celebrating the generosity of our partners in ministry! Huge thanks to the Lutheran Development Society of Sacramento who provided a $2,700 grant, Thrivent Action Team that provided $250 and the Rotary Club of Cordelia for providing their

time and energy to make a free sustainable tote bag give away possible. On Tuesday, July 28 every guest of the Pantry will receive a reusable tote made of 100% recycled cotton and encouraged to use them every week here and wherever they go.

Rotary Club of Cordelia

Happening in the Sierra Pacific Synod & the ELCA

Click the link for August events and sign up for the ELCA newsletter.
Congregational Happenings — Sierra Pacific Synod

ELCA

For more info: ELCA News

ELCA ADVOCACY ACTION ALERT

Justice for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women

For More Information
To Take Action: Justice for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women - Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

In case you'd like the alerts sent directly to you, follow link. —Diane
Subscribe to ELCA Advocacy - Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Serving With Our Partners in Ministry

FOOD BANK of Contra Costa & Solano

Senior Food Program

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

For additional food distribution sites click here.

Al-Anon

Monday and Wednesdays

12:00 noon
Digerud Room

Al-Anon (meaning Alcoholics Anonymous) is a mutual support group for people who have been affected by a loved one's drinking. Alateen is a similar family group that supports young people who live with or who have been affected by alcohol.

Fairfield News

Join neighbors and friends supporting our community.
For ongoing news and events
subscribe here

Welcome Sweet Anointing Ministry

(Church of God in Christ)

On July 1, this community of faith joined our campus ministries.

They will worship in the Community Center from 8:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.

Please take time to stop by and say hello.

Find out more at:
https://www.sweetanointing.org/

WHEN WE FORGIVE OUR FELLOW HUMANS, WE GIVE A GREAT GIFT TO THEM AND OURSELVES. WE HELP BRING PEACE AND JOY BACK INTO THE WORLD. AND WE MODEL GOD'S OPEN-HEARTED FORGIVENESS AT THE SAME TIME.

Elise Seyfried

gather

What's happening at St. Mark's August 2026

Recurring Calendar of Events

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

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

Tuesday
- 10:30 a.m. Book Group (July 7)
- 2:00 p.m. St. Mark's Food Pantry

Wednesday
- 9:30 a.m. Solano Food Bank Senior Program (Fd Ptry 1st/3rd)
- 10:00 a.m. Quilt-fest (Quilt Rm)
- 12:00 p.m. Al-Anon (Digerud Room)
- 6:00 p.m. Bible Study (Zoom)

Thursday
- 5:30 p.m. Contemporary Music Team Rehearsal (Worship Center)

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

Additional Events

Backpack Preparation Aug. 3-8

Tuesday, August 4
- 5:30 p.m. Worship and Music (Zoom)

Wednesday, August 5
- 10:00 a.m. Bible Study @Magnolia Ct

Saturday, August 8
- 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Backpack Event

Monday, August 10
- 11:30 a.m. Widow's Lunch at Mimi's

Tuesday, August 11
- 1:00 p.m. Grow Together Team (Zoom)

Thursday, August 13
- 9:30 a.m. Seeker's Circle (Digerud Room)
- 11:30 a.m. Council Meeting (Pastor's Study)

Tuesday, August 18
- 12:15 p.m. Preschool Board (Zoom)

Tuesday, August 25
- 12:15 p.m. Preschool Board (Zoom)
- 3:00 p.m. Fairfield CAN
- 3:00 p.m. Stewardship Mtg.

Sunday, August 30
- 10:45 a.m. Semi-Annual Meeting

Join us for worship every Sunday

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

on YouTube at https://www.youtube.com/@SMLCFairfield (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."

ELCA

St. Mark's Lutheran Church
1600 Union Avenue, Fairfield, CA 94533
707-422-4741
office@stmarksfairfield.org;
www.stmarksfairfield.org

Sierra Pacific Synod
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Rev. Karen Stetins, Senior Pastor
Kim Worthen, Office Administrator
Semyon Lohss, Accompanist, Choral Director
Lucille Bowers, Preschool Director
Michelle Aas, SMLC's bookkeeper

Council Members: Ann Hefner-Gravink (President) June Johnsen (Vice President), Jacqueline Marrolli (Secretary), Stew Irwin (Finance Chair), Toni McCallum and Karin MacMillan (Members at Large).
Elected Leaders: Linda Froggett (Financial Secretary), Les Johnsen (Treasurer)
Fay DiSano, Personnel Committee Chairperson