St. Mark's Lutheran Church 1600 Union Avenue Fairfield, California 94533



In between the images...

Half of the seven weeks of Easter are behind us as I write this article. The lilies are gone but the butterflies on the walls and paraments remain. The "Alleluia" noisemakers are all put away for another year. Yet, we are still singing a lot of "Alleluia" songs. The in-between time – Easter parties and celebrations are behind us but it is not yet the Pentecost celebration.

Most churches have stopped special celebrations for Ascension Day (May 18 this year) because it falls on a Thursday and it is hard to get people out for worship on a Thursday. Yet the festival day in the church year still comes. This is the day we celebrate Jesus' ascension into heaven to sit at the right hand of the Father. This is the day we would hear the story from Luke 24:44-53 and Acts 1:1-11 when Jesus tells the disciples that he would no longer be with them but would send the Holy Spirit (Pentecost) to empower them to be the apostles (sent ones) and to go out to Judea, Samaria and to the ends of the earth to be witnesses to all that they have seen, heard, and learned while spending time with Jesus (before his crucifixion and after his resurrection). They have seen it all. Now they are to wait for the Holy Spirit to come upon them so that they might have the power to do as Jesus instructs.

They waited...as we wait...for the next *big* experience – the next celebration. We will celebrate Pentecost on Sunday, May 28 (you are invited to wear red \bigcirc). That day we will hear that the Holy Spirit has come to all of us and given us the power to be the people of God we were born to be. In the midst of the in-between time we hold on to Jesus' promise when reminds the disciples that he is with them (and us) always "to the end of the age." We are called to celebrate that good news every Sunday, every day. It seems harder to maintain that excitement through the in-between times. Yet, every day we are given the power of the Holy Spirit to go out and be excited that we know the Good News! We know Jesus and we can tell other people just what we know. We, too, have seen, heard and witnessed the awesome power of God in Christ with us, in us and spurring us on.

"⁸But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." Acts 1:8 May 2023

Karen Statino, Pastor





Our thoughts and prayers are with you.

We are praying for...

Our members

Ivonne Bradford, Lew Broschard, V-Anne Chernock, Kathy Doty, Richard Ehman, Jim Hanser and family, Karen Mullin, Gerda Reid, Stu Reid, and Josephine Traughber.

Our homebound

Judith Eckhart, Shirley Quinn, and Barbara Tenorio.

Those who are mourning

The family of Larry Nelson who died on April 9, 2023.

The family of Gweneth Macroy (Josephine Traughber's sister) who died on April 9, 2023.

Our friends and loved ones

Debbie, Bruce Atkinson, Makita Bond, Josh Costan, Roxanne Costan, Tom Eckhart, Dave Eubanks, Rob Hakenen, Chuck Hawkins, Jody Holmes, Jimmy Howell, John Huston, James Leetch, Craig Lingel, Earleen Oglesby, Helen Powell, Joan Stevenson, Rhonda Stokes, Tammy Stone, Weldon Tunnell, Ann Turek, Lorna Walter and Laurie Ziegler.



We care for our homebound members with calls, cards and prayers.

Bonnie DeMuth Legacy of Bear Creek 200 Keller-Smithfield Rd. South Unit 210 Keller, Texas 76248

> Judith Eckhart 2113 Alturas Court Fairfield CA 94534

Shirley Quinn 11 Lemon Tree Circle Vacaville CA 95687

Barbara Tenorio 266 DeSoto Drive Fairfield, CA 94533





We celebrate you!!!

Maddie Sciortino	5/2
Michael Gravink	5/5
Sam Mullin	5/6
Bonnie Demuth	5/23
Rene Bojorquez	5/18
Shirley Quinn	5/20
Larry Traughber	5/31



We are eagerly waiting for the arrival of our first child, who is due on October 7. Abraham and I will not find out the gender until the baby arrives, so yellows, greens, and neutral are the chosen colors for our baby! If you would like to help support us on this new journey, we welcome preloved baby clothes and other used items. However, here is the link to our registry of newer items that will be helpful for when Baby Hermosillo makes their grand entrance into the world

- <u>https://www.babylist.com/list/babyhermosillo</u> <u>magana</u> or it can be found by searching "Sharon and Abraham Hermosillo" on babylist.com

We can't wait! Sharon & Abraham



Our thanks to all who serve as part of the finance committee at St. Mark's. This committee oversees income and expenses, the budgeting process, counting and recording each week and paying bills. Our ministry couldn't exist without them. Be sure to thank: Stew Irwin, Finance Chair Les Johnsen, Treasurer Pam Lyons, Financial Secretary Michelle Aas, Bookkeeper Dave McCallum, Counter Linda Frogget, Counter Janelle Jolley, Counter

We are looking for counters to add to our list. If you would like to be trained and serve in the rotation, please give Stew Irwin or Pam Lyons a call or email.



Lifelong learning is a goal for our Education Committee. Whether it is a bible study, book study, crafting or small group connections, we keep learning and growing throughout our lives.

This Committee brings ideas and to the table and schedules and implements multiple opportunities trying to meet the desires of everyone.

Do you have ideas? What would you like to be added to our schedule. Please contact Ann Hefner-Gravink (dr_annhg@sbcglobal.net) or Diane Metz (<u>dlmetz6@gmail.com</u>) with your ideas.

Council Highlights

What happened at the last meeting?

Council members met at 4:30 on Thursday, April 13 in the Digerud Room. Here are some highlights of the meeting:

- The minutes of the March meeting were approved.
- Finance Report was approved.
 - Discussed which reports were most helpful to council members each month.
 - Stew notified council that the new bank account has been opened and contains all the reserved funds.
 - Stew noted that giving is behind for the month; cautious spending was recommended.
 - Unbudgeted gate repair and Wi-Fi upgrades increased spending in the general building fund and PG&E bills continue to increase.
- Pastor report was reviewed. It was noted that a FEMA Grant Application would be submitted on April 14 for security improvements.
- Council 's Retreat planned for Friday, March 31 and Saturday, April 1 was cancelled due to scheduling conflicts. We will revisit a time and date.
- Summer community events were discussed. It was decided that we would participate in the Religious Extravaganza at TAFB on August 11 and plan a fall festival (date tbd).
- Discussed Diane Metz' recommendation that we provided temporary housing in Turkey. Information will be published in the May newsletter to determine interest (see pg. 10).
- Christian Education Team scheduled an Adult Forum (April 23) for folks to connect with council members on current events.

- Approved the purchase of 2 changing tables (one for each bathroom in the Worship Center) with memorial funds. Estimated to be about \$600 total.
- Stew Irwin is working to modify the Sanctuary Lamp (eternal candle) to electric power. This will prevent folks from getting up on a ladder each week to change the wax candles.

The approved minutes of the March Council meeting can be found on the link sent out with the weekly announcement email. A paper copy is on the bulletin board in the narthex. Paper copies can be requested from the office.

Next meeting: Thursday, May 11, 2023 – 4:30 p.m.



The Worship Center looks so beautiful, especially when we have flowers on the altar. To sponsor flowers on the altar, you: **#1** Write your name and the occasion on the flower chart. **#2** Fill out a green form with to request flowers and place it in the offering basket or drop it off at the church office. When you write your name and the occasion add a "P" near your name. Fresh flowers should be taken home immediately after worship. Potted flowers will be planted on our campus by our flower team. The cost is - \$40 per week. If you have any questions, please contact Pastor Karen.



Small Groups are for life-long learning, support of one another and connecting more deeply with God.

We have in-person and online opportunities.



Sundays at 10:45 a.m. Coming in May to our Adult Forum

- May 7 Spring Crafts (Fireside Room)
- May 14 Mother's Day (No forum)
- May 21 To be determined
- May 28 Memorial Day (No forum)



Wednesday Bible Study 6:30 p.m.

Participants look at the readings for the upcoming Sunday and go a little deeper into the Word. Contact Jim Hanser (<u>hanserjames@comcast.net</u>) for more information.

See page 6 for a list of the readings for May.

Seeker's Círcle 2nd Thursday

10:00 a.m.

Thursday, May 11





Location: Digerud Room and ZOOM LINK: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88133433906

Time:Set-up and fellowship 9:30 a.m.Class time: 10:00 to 11:30 a.m.

Follow the Link to the first lesson, *Promised Salvation Now: Jesus Brings Wellness* in the Summer Series by the Reverend Dr. Anna Madsen <u>sessionOne.May .pdf</u> (gathermagazine.org). Or read in your Gather Magazine—May-June Issue. The Seeker's Circle group will meet in the Digerud Room and on ZOOM. Sometimes the group shares lunch together. For more information, contact Diane Metz, <u>DLMetz6@gmail.com</u>. The ZOOM Link for the session https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88133433906

Blessings, Diane Metz



Choir

Rehearsals are on Tuesdays at 11:30 a.m.

and Sundays at 8:30 a.m. You don't have to know how to read music – just bring your passion and sing a joyful song.

The choir will continue to sing through May and then take a break for the summer.



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.

Spring Crafts - May 7

Join us in the Fireside Room for cardmaking fun. Cards for all occasions – no experience required.







Sunday Bible Readings

May 2023

May 7 – Fifth Sunday of Easter Acts 7:55-60 The martyrdom of Stephen Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16 1 Peter 2:2-10 God's people chosen to proclaim God's mighty acts John 14:1-14 Christ the way, truth, and life

> May 14 – Sixth Sunday of Easter Acts 17:22-31 Paul's message to the Athenians Psalm 66:8-20 1 Peter 3:13-22 The days of Noah, a sign of baptism John 14:15-21 Christ our advocate

May 21 – Seventh Sunday of Easter Acts 1:6-14 Jesus' companions at prayer after his departure Psalm 68:1-10, 32-35 1 Peter 4:12-14; 5:6-11 God will sustain and restore those who suffer John 17:1-11 Christ's prayer for his disciples

May 28 – Pentecost Sunday Acts 2:1-21 Filled with the Spirit to tell God's deeds Psalm 104:24-34, 35b 1 Corinthians 12:3b-13 Varieties of gifts from the same Spirit John 20:19-23 The Spirit poured out Through our high school youth group, our Pre-school programs, weekly Children's Chapel and more we celebrate the gift of children and youth.



Sharon Hermosillo Magaña is our Director of Youth and Children's Ministries.

Seminary update For those of who may

not know, I am in my second year at Fuller Theological Seminary where I am pursuing a master's in divinity. I am also a part of the Latino Cohort at Fuller, which means that I interact and learn alongside Latino/a students from all over Central, South and North America. As of right now, all my classes are in Spanish. They are largely focused on the Latino/a perspective and experience of ministry, as well as understanding the implications of a westernized religion, how westernized religion has impacted the Latino communities throughout the world and where we serve. We also are working to understand what it is that we are called to do when God calls us into these spaces where we are faced with poverty, racial and systemic issues and how we as the Church can respond. This Spring term, I am taking two classes: HT501 - El Entendimiento De Dios y Cristo En La Reflexion De La Iglesia (The Understanding of God and Christ in the Reflection of the Church) and PM514 - Iglesias Misionales/Liderazgo (Missional Churches/Leadership).

Youth Group for Hígh School Students - Mondays 6:30 p.m. SMLC Campus



This year, young adults will travel to Tijuana Mexico to build homes for families in need!!



St. Mark's Youth Annual Golf Tournament Sponsored by Telstar Instruments May 6, 2023 Rancho Solano Golf Course

If you would like to support our youth, consider donating the following: your time during prep and especially, the day of the event, items of value for raffle baskets and snacks for our volunteers the day of! All proceeds will go towards supporting their summer service project. Please look on the website under 'Youth Ministries' to find the list of desired raffle items.





Jerusalem Marketplace Vacation Bible Camp June 26 - June 29 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. Registration opened in May

Kids entering preschool through 6th grade are welcome to register.

Students (ages 13 and up) are encouraged to participate as Tribe Leaders. Adults can serve as Station Leaders. WE NEED YOU!

A list of items to donate will be available soon. Please give generously to this annual opportunity for our kids to experience God's love through play, song, dance, lessons and much more.

Preschool Chapel with Pastor Karen and Miss Sharon

Every Tuesday and Wednesday at 9:30 a.m.





Our Preschool is on the move!

Teacher Appreciation Day is Tuesday, May 2nd

Mother's Day Teas are Thursday, May 11th and Friday, May 12th.

Paper-Pie/USBorne book fair -- Thursday May 11th and Friday May 12th in the cubby room. The preschool will earn 50% back in free books.

Thursday, May 25th will be the last day of school this year and Graduation

Registration for Fall 2023 has begun

Registration forms are available on the St. Mark's website as well as in the Preschool office. Classes are filling up fast – tell your friends and neighbors!

Summer Camp Registration

Sign up your kids and grandkids for Summer Camp. Session 1 will be May 30 – June 9; Session 2 – June 12 – June 23.







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 for Social Justice Activities

Join us at the Table Offering of Letters, Time

Since *Bread for the World* launched their Farm Bill Campaign last December, there have been 500 commitments to hold an Offering of Letters by congregations across the nation. Follow the link to view the <u>2023 OL PowerPoint</u> that helps explain this year's Offering of Letters and a <u>video</u> presenting the PowerPoint.

Pam Lyons and I, along with members of Grace United, Vallejo and other Bay Area congregation members in his district, met in March with Congressman John Garamendi to discuss the upcoming Farm Bill's renewal. Bread for the World envisions a Farm Bill that would build healthy, equitable and sustainable food systems for all in the United States. Now it is time for St. Mark's to add letters of support from its members and friends.

The impact of the farm bill is significant. It not only affects the agriculture and food sectors; it also plays a huge role in ending food insecurity and hunger in the U.S. and saves the lives of millions abroad.

This year, Congress is working to renew farm bill programs such as the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and international food aid programs. Among the measures that should be included are strengthening nutrition security in domestic and international programs; creating a more equitable SNAP program; and increasing food systems sustainability. In other words, it affects the St. Mark Food Pantry Ministry and the many clients this ministry serves.

We'd like you to tell your U.S. Senators and Representatives to support the reauthorization of the farm bill in order to build healthy, equitable, and sustainable food systems. The farm bill is our nation's most important national food system legislation. It is critical to the work of ending hunger at home and abroad. The farm bill impacts each one of us. As Congress works to renew our food and farm programs through the farm bill, I urge you to support legislation that builds healthy, equitable, and sustainable food systems.

Pam and I will provide a sample letter, but it best to rewrite/retype and add your personalized touch. Specifically, I ask you to include some of the following requests:

 Increase access to fresh fruits and vegetables by increasing support for produce-specific Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits in the Gus Schumacher Nutrition Incentive Program (GusNIP). This provides resources on top of monthly SNAP benefits for the purchase of fresh fruits and vegetables, primarily at farmers' markets, for a limited number of households.

- Eliminate barriers to SNAP for marginalized populations, including ending the ban on former drug offenders, eliminating work requirements for college students, and permitting indigenous communities to administer SNAP and other federal nutrition programs on reservations.
- Keep food out of landfills by increasing support for post-harvest food recovery efforts and addressing the threat to food security posed by extreme weather.
- Support funding for international food aid programs such as Food for Peace.

Conclude with something such as "As a person of faith, I am moved to help and advocate for people experiencing hunger and poverty - no matter where they live. This is why I urge you to support a farm bill that builds healthy, equitable, and sustainable food systems." Join us after the May 21st Worship Service to write a letter OR you may also write to our representatives on your own. Pam and I would appreciate knowing if you write for our report to Bread for the World on what St. Mark Lutheran Church has contributed to the Offering of Letters.

If you need more information about your representative's address or have questions, please contact me at <u>DLMetz6@gmail.com</u> ---Diane Metz

Lutheran Disaster Response

Lutheran Disaster Response shares God's hope, healing and renewal with people whose lives have been disrupted by disasters in the United States and around the world. When the dust settles and the headlines change, we stay to provide ongoing assistance to those in need.

- Middle East Crisis
- Hurricane Response
- U.S. Flooding
- U.S. TornadoesU.S. Wildfires
- Horn of Africa DroughtU.S. Severe Storms
 - South Sudan Relief

- Eastern Europe Crisis Response
- Middle East and Europe Refugee Crisis
- AMMPARO: Protecting Migrant Minors

Learn more: Like Lutheran Disaster Response on Facebook, follow @ELCALDR on Twitter and follow @ELCA_LDR on Instagram. Sign up to receive Lutheran Disaster Response alerts.



Our Congregation Cn [rovide Housing for a family in Turkiye

Is our congregation looking for a tangible way to make a difference for a family in Türkiye? The LWR team is working with local partners to build a prefabricated container housing community in Kirikhan, a district in Türkiye extremely hard hit by the quakes. The community will consist of containers that will be able to house up to six people and include two rooms, a bathroom with a shower and toilet, a cooking area with a small sink, and a small garden plot.

Each container costs \$5,300 and will provide safety and shelter for a family for up to three years. All gifts will directly support earthquake survivors. Visit our <u>suite of</u> <u>resources</u> for photos.

Hear from families in Türkiye and reports from our staff on the ground about how your love is reaching earthquake survivors. Watch <u>this</u> <u>video</u> (and more) can be downloaded from our <u>suite of resources</u>.

Talk to a Council Member is you'd like to donate: June, Jim, Stew, Ann, Tom & Charlie



"Community Engagement" at St. Mark's, can be defined by our active participation in God's mission to feed the hungry, lift up the oppressed, give comfort to the grieving – in a sense be Jesus in a world that is struggling to see God's love and light. Below you will find just some of the ways we reach out to others in our neighborhood, city, state and world.



Have you seen it lately?

Have you seen the new market place setting for our Food Pantry? If not, you are missing out on some great work being done by St. Mark's. Stop by sometime to see what's happening in our Food Pantry. Grants and gifts have covered all the work done along with buying meat for our guests.

Just last week (April 25) we served *981* hungry folks in over 200 families.

In April we served an average of 859 people from an average of 188 households!

Our thanks go out to the Church of Jesus Christ of Later Day Saints in Vacaville who will be donating over 200 cases of food to our pantry in early May! We value this partnership more than words can say.

Also, thanks to our regular donors and partners. Please be sure to let our partners know you care by visiting their stores: Costco (Vacaville), Target (Vacaville), Raley's (North Texas), and Sprouts (Vacaville).





Seníor Program

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



Upcoming Events

National Day of Prayer

- Thursday, May 4
- Noon
- City Council Chambers

Join neighbors and friends for a time of prayer. There will be music and a time to remember our country, city, leaders, and people of our community.



Annual Juneteenth Festíval Saturday, June 17, 2023 Solano Annex (601 Texas Street)

Join members of the Clergy Action Network and neighbors from all over for this amazing event. There will be vendors, food trucks, music, children's activities and more.

This is an all-day event with activities for everyone in the family. Grab a blanket or a lawn chair and connect with friends old and new.



The City of Fairfield will celebrate the second anniversary of CAN by hosting a lunch for all clergy members of CAN.



Religious Extravaganza August 11, 2023

Churches from all over Fairfield will be invited to set up tables with activities and information about our churches to share the Good News with our Air Force members on base. Please mark your calendars and let Pastor Karen know how you would like to participate.



COMMUNITY RESOURCE FAIR

Saturday, August 12, 2023

Mark your calendars now for the Fairfield/Suisun Unified School District Back-to-School Resource Fair held on our campus.

We will be collecting school supplies and getting volunteers together to host the St. Mark's table and games for kids.

Our thanks to Tom Lingel who will be our representative this year.

Watch for details and list of items needed.

What's Happening at St. Mark's May 2023 - 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.	Adult Forum (Digerud/Zoom)	
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)	
6:30 p.m.	Youth Group (Youth Room)	
Tuesday		
9:30 a.m.	Preschool Chapel (Preschool)	
11:00 a.m.	Book Study (Pastor's Office & Zoom)	
11:30 a.m.	Choir Rehearsal (Worship Center)	
2:00 p.m.	Manna Food Pantry Distribution	
Wednesday		
9:30 a.m.	Preschool Chapel (Preschool)	
9:30 a.m.	Solano Food Bank Senior Program (Food Pantry 1 st & 3 rd Wednesday)	
1:00 p.m.	Al-Anon (Digerud Room)	
5:30 p.m.	Contemporary Music Team	
•	Rehearsal (Worship Center)	
7:00 p.m.	Bible Study (Zoom)	
Friday		
7:00 p.m.	Ebenezer Mission (Community Center)	
Saturday	, ,	

Additional Events

Monday, May 1 6:45 p.m. Solano Symphony Rehearsal (Worship Center)

Tuesday, May 2 12:00 p.m. National Day of Prayer (City Council Chambers)

Thursday, May 4 6:45 p.m. Solano Symphony Rehearsal (Worship Center)

- Saturday, May 6
 - 8:30 a.m. Golf Outing (Rancho Solano Golf Course)
 - 1:00 p.m. Sierra Pacific Synod Meeting of Voting Members

Tuesday, May 9 5:30 p.m. Solano Symphony Board (Digerud Room)

Thursday, May 11 9:30 a.m. Seeker's Circle (Digerud Room/Zoom)

4:30 p.m. Council Mtg (Digerud Room)

Thursday, May 18 10:00 a.m. Capitol Valley Conference Meeting

Saturday, May 20 4:00 p.m. Cordelia Rotary Club Bingo (Community Center)

Tuesday, May 23 3:00 p.m. Fairfield CAN (City Hall)

Thursday, May 25 4:00 p.m. Preschool Graduation (Worship Center)

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 Hermosillo Magaña, Director of Youth and Children's Ministries Semyon Lohss, Accompanist, Choral Director Lucille Bowers, Preschool Director Taoriq Adeleke, Office Administrator

Michelle Aas, SMLC's bookkeeper

Council Members June Johnsen (President), Jim Hanser (Vice President), Ann Hefner Gravink (Secretary), Stew Irwin (Finance Chair), Charlie Thoma & Tom Lingel (Members at Large).

Elected Leaders

Pam Lyons (Financial Secretary), Les Johnsen (Treasurer) Dave McCallum, Personnel Committee Chairperson, Janelle Jolley, Property Committee Chairperson