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





We are Resurrection People!

As April springs upon us, we look forward to the celebration of Easter. I know I love the songs, the music and even the lilies (although they give me an allergy headache ③).

Karen Stating, Pastor

The trumpets sounding, the church resounding "Jesus Christ is Risen Today!" Oh, what a morning! I even enjoy the secular parts of Easter – my grandson chasing after the Easter bunny at the family party, coloring eggs and eating them, too.

There is also a sense that when Easter morning dawns, whether in March or April, spring has arrived. Officially spring started over a week ago, yet it doesn't feel like spring until we celebrate Easter.

While I enjoy all that Easter brings to mind, I'm always curious about Luther's saying that we celebrate Easter (the resurrection) every Sunday. Every Sunday is a festival day to celebrate. So why do all the Sundays between one Easter and the next seem like just another ordinary day? We come to worship, we sing God's praises, we share in the holy meal, yet it doesn't feel the same as Easter morning.

Complacency? Too many "resurrection" mornings? Oh, how I wish we could hold on to the mountain top experience of Easter morning. Would robes and processions every week help us hold onto the experience? Probably not. Even that would become "normal."

The truth is, Jesus tells us to come down from our mountain top experiences and live in the "normal" days between the big celebrations. That is where most of life happens – most of our ministry – most of our opportunities to share God's amazing grace and love. More "life" happens between mountain top experiences. The ups and downs of family, jobs, illness, tragedy, AND joy, new birth, recovery, birthdays, weddings, retirements, and so much more.

The celebration of Easter is, yes, about all the festivities and joyous music and worship. It is also about lifting us up once again to the mountain top so we can hold onto that energy, love and remembrance of all that God has done in and through Jesus for us. We take that energy out into the everyday world to speak the truth with more freedom, more commitment and more of a sense of who we are because of Easter—because we have gone to the mountain top and brought down with us love beyond our wildest dreams.

Celebrate this Easter season with all that you have and all that you are – and then bring that momentum to the plains of our everyday life and ministry.





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, Bob McGee, Larry Nelson, Shirley Quinn, and Barbara Tenorio.

Those who are mourning

The family of Mollie Bass Abraham (friend of Stu & Gerda Reid) who died on March 25.

Our friends and loved ones

Debbie, Bruce Atkinson, Makita Bond, Josh Costan, Roxanne Costan, Tom Eckhart, Dave Eubanks, Rob Hakenen, Chuck Hawkins, Jody Holmes, John Huston, James Leetch, Craig Lingel, Gweneth Macroy, Gary Nishimine, Earleen Oglesby, Helen Powell, Wendy Ramirez, 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

Larry Nelson Rockville Terrace Senior Living 4625 Mangels Blvd, Room C211 Fairfield, CA 94534

> Shirley Quinn 11 Lemon Tree Circle Vacaville CA 95687

Barbara Tenorio 266 DeSoto Drive Fairfield, CA 94533



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
Arrianne Maneja	04/28
Ruth Sweatt	04/29



We wish you a Happy Anniversary!!!

Colleen and Napoleon Rivers 04/03



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 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 added to our schedule. Please contact Ann Hefner-Gravink (dr_annhg@sbcglobal.net) or Diane Metz (dlmetz6@gmail.com) with your ideas.

Council Highlights

What happened at the last meeting?

Council members met at 4:30 on Thursday, March 9 in the Digerud Room. Here are some highlights of the meeting:

- The minutes of the February meeting were approved.
- Finance Report was approved by motion from Stew Irwin; second Charlie Thoma
 - Discussed use of undesignated memorial funds (approximately \$7,000).
 - Approved Pastor Karen's designation of \$1,000 to be given to Sharon Hermosillo Magaña to help offset seminary expenses.
 - Voted to open a second bank account to avoid funds being locked up if we are hacked again and to earn interest on long term deposit (designated funds)
 - Approved moving the final \$5,600 of Staff Reserve fund to the Operating Contingency Fund.
 - Review and recommended change to Memorial Fund Policy and Procedures to allow Council to use the undesignated funds after 2 months.
- Council planned a retreat for Friday, March 31 and Saturday, April 1.
- Discussed possible updates to Operations Manual teams and committees to be consistent with current circumstances.

The approved minutes of the February 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.

NOTE: Retreat was postponed after minutes the meeting. A new date will be set at the April meeting.

Next meeting: Thursday, April 13, 2023 – 4:30 p.m.



Flowers - Potted or Fresh -Your Choice

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.



church office.

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



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

We have in-person and online opportunities.

FDrum

Sundays at 10:45 a.m.

Coming in April to our Adult Forum (Sundays at 10:45 a.m.)

4/2 Palm Sunday – No Forum 4/9 Easter Sunday – No Forum 4/16 Spring Crafts 4/23 Connect with Council

4/30 Living Lutheran Discussion



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 (hanserjames@comcast.net) for more information.

See page 7 for a list of the readings for April.

Seeker's Círcle 2nd Thursday 10:00 a.m.





Thursday, April 9

Location:_Digerud Room and ZOOM LINK:

https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88133433906

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

Dear Seekers Sisters

On Thursday, April 13, 2023, we'll gather for fellowship at 9:30 a.m. in the Digerud Room and via ZOOM. The 4th session about the 10 Commandments will commence at 10:00 a.m. I will play this video as some do not have access to the internet to view it.

But others of you, study the lesson outside of the group and may wish to watch it at home or ahead of time.

Any way we study God's word is GOOD!

The Ten Commandments: Reviving the Soul, Session 4 | The Rev. Christa von Zychlin https://youtu.be/L5iS7I7KDeo

Also attached here is the PDF version of the April Bible Study. Additionally, the Digital Copy of the March-April issue is available to read for all subscribers. The publishers of the magazine have extended your subscriptions for two months due to the trouble with the last two issues of the print copies of the magazine.

If you need a copy of the Bible Study printed, please let me know so that can be arranged.

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.



Christ in Our Home Devotion Books April, May, June – 2023

The newest devotional books are now available in the narthex or outside the church office.



Sunday Bible Readings

April 2023

April 2 - Palm Sunday

Zechariah 9:9-12 2 Corinthians 5:17-21 Matthew 21:1-11

April 9 - Easter Sunday

Acts 10:34-43 Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24 Colossians 3:1-4 Matthew 28:1-10

April 16 – Second Sunday of Easter

Acts 2:14a, 22-32 Psalm 16 1 Peter 1:3-9 John 20:19-21

April 23 - Third Sunday of Easter

Acts 2:14a, 36-41 Psalm 116:1-4, 12-19 1 Peter 1:17-23 Luke 24:13-35

April 30 – Fourth Sunday of Easter

Acts 2:42-47 Psalm 23 1 Peter 2:19-25 John 10:1-10



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.

Sharon is in her second year of seminary education

deepening her understanding of God and ministry. She leads our high school youth each Monday evening in prayer, study, and fun activities.

On Tuesdays and Wednesdays she engages our younger children in the Preschool with her watercolor paintings set to music and accompanied by a bible story. The we sing together and pray together. You can find her painted stories on the Genesis YouTube link: https://www.youtube.com/@smlcgenesis



First, I'd like to thank the admin of the Extravaganza for granting me a scholarship. And second, the St. Mark's congregation for supporting me as I continue learning and growing as a ministry leader.

The Extravaganza was an opportunity to remind ourselves that we are enough. Amid crisis, pandemics, or any other obstacle in youth ministry (and in any ministry or place of serving), we often question God and ask, "why me?" Little do we realize that questions like these have enough power to delay and often

stop us from doing the work that we are called to do. Not only that, but it also delays the help that people desperately need. Whether it be a Bible study, youth group, or a food pantry, this mindset can stop all of that. The focus of the Extravaganza was to undo that mindset through a series of courses that focused on navigating and supporting youth after a pandemic and how to avoid burnout. Additional courses focused on much deeper issues: breaking down racial barriers that continue to exist in the ELCA, reclaiming and redefining evangelism, and what it means to navigate through a predominantly white and cisgender denomination as a person of color and/or as someone who identifies as LGBTQ+.

In conclusion, we are all called to serve in some capacity in our churches and communities. We are called because there is a need for someone like you or me. A need for your ideas, your faithfulness, and your capacity to love others well. For myself, youth ministry is difficult and there are times where I have questioned if I'm the person that the youth need. I have asked God, "why me?" And the answer lies in knowing and believing that I am enough. And not only that, but that there will be enough support, community, resources, and enough love for every single youth who walks through the doors at St. Mark's. And with that, I'd like to thank you all for your continued support of the youth ministries as well. I wouldn't be able to do what I do without the leaders and community who have helped form me.

Thank you, Sharon Hermosillo Magaña



St. Mark's Youth Annual Golf
Tournament
Sponsored by Telstar Instruments
May 6th, 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.



During the month of April, Pastor Karen and Miss Sharon will be sharing the parables of Jesus. As we go through his stories, where he teaches us about patience.

PRESENTED BY GENESIS

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





Jerusalem Marketplace Vacation Bible Camp June 26 – June 29 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM Registration opens in April

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.



Youth Summer Service Project July 8th- July 15th

Stay tuned to see where the youth are called to serve this summer!!



Our Preschool is doing great things!

Chipotle Fundraiser

Visit Chipotle at 1586 Gateway Blvd on **Tuesday, April 4 from 4:00 – 8:00 p.m.** The Preschool will receive 33% of sales! You can also order online using the code W9Q8VZ6.

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!

Thank you!

Thank you to everyone who supported the Preschool through its Sees Candy fundraiser. They raised almost \$2,000!

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.

Recycle Ink Cartridges

Don't forget! We take all empty ink cartridges to recycle, so please don't throw them in the trash.

Thank you to all the people of St. Mark's for your continued support.

Preschool Spring Break – April 10 – 14

Graduation - May 25 - 4:00 p.m.



Easter Lilies 2023

Plants given to the glory of God this Easter Sunday are given by:

Kathy Doty

In loving memory of Chuck Doty

Don and Lulu Eager In memory of our parents

Mike and Ann Hefner Gravink
In memory of Ad and Grace Hefner

Carl & Sarajane Hakenen
In memory of Edgar & Sylvia Samuels
and Arthur & Ruth Hakenen

Les and June Johnsen

In honor of our granddaughter, Kylie Johnsen, born on January 24 In honor of our granddaughter, Willa's 6th birthday on April 3.

The Lipke/McCallum Family
In celebration of Christ in our lives

Robert McGee

In memory of Hester McGee, Bert & Belva McGee, William & Michael Walsh, Robert Para, Bev Duncan & Alice Freeman

Patricia McKillips

In memory of Barry McKillips (husband), Joyce Copp (sister) and Paul Precour (brother)

Larry & Barbara Nelson
In memory of Woodrow & Lucille
Nelson and Ivan & Sarah Bergman

Pastor Karen Stetins
In celebration of the resurrection









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

Building a Healthy, Equitable and Regenerative Food System via the Farm Bill

I attended the Sierra Pacific Synod's Hunger Network's workshop regarding the 2023 Farm Bill in early March. Bread for the World held 29 regional Farm Bill listening sessions with 730 grassroots advocates and more than 100 additional meetings with stakeholders, including Black, Hispanic, and Indigenous farmers and food system leaders, Historically Black College and Universities, U.S. Department of Agriculture officials, and local food system leaders (including recipients of U.S. Department of Agriculture grants), to learn what they are planning to advocate for in the 2023 farm bill and to build and strengthen relationships. Bread staff also met with Congressional offices in leadership positions on Senate and House Agriculture committees and subcommittees to introduce Bread's farm bill policy team to them and gain insight on what Senate and House members can be expected to prioritize in the farm bill. These meetings and consultations have informed and built ownership for the specific list of farm bill policies below. Pamela Lyons and I represented St. Mark's at a meeting with U.S. Representative John

Garamendi and five of four of his staff members to further our learning regarding the Farm Bill and what it offers to those of us who live in the United States and around the world via food aid. Here's the link to Bread for the World's information on the topic: Bread-forthe-Worlds-Farm-Bill-Policy-Platform-2023.pdf. In next month's newsletter, look for ways to that the congregation will be reaching out to strengthen the local food system (and beyond) through the 2023 Farm Bill. ---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. Learn more.

- Middle East Crisis
- Hurricane Response
- U.S. Flooding
- U.S. Tornadoes
- Horn of Africa Drought U.S. Wildfires
- U.S. Severe Storms
- South Sudan Relief
- Eastern Europe Crisis Response
- Middle East and Europe Refugee Crisis
- AMMPARO: Protecting Migrant Minors

Like Lutheran Disaster Response on Facebook, follow @ELCALDR on Twitter and follow @ELCA LDR on Instagram.

Sign up to receive Lutheran Disaster Response alerts.

April 2023 10



"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.



Renovations continue...

Stop by sometime to see all the great things happening in our Food Pantry. We are feeding the hungry in great numbers each week.

Please thank our dedicated committee and volunteers when you have a chance. They do amazing work! Here are the committee members:

Bette Noll, Director Lew Broschard Linda Frogget Christina Griffin June Johnsen Janelle Jolley



Services ends April 15

St. Mark's has been hosting VITA Tax services.

Their service will be available in the Bethel
Room until Saturday, starting April 15.

Appointments are required by calling 707 6899960.



Mondays at noon Wednesdays at 1:00



Senior Program

at St. Mark's, Fairfield First and Third Wednesday 9:30 a.m. -10:30 a.m.



Please mark these events on your calendars and plan to support our community.

April 22, 2023 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. City Council Listening Tour – District 3

Do you want to share your ideas and concerns with our City Council members? Plan to attend this session at the Mankas Neighborhood Park Center at 2800 Owens Street. For more information visit: www.fairfield.ca.gov/listen

April 27, 2023
Homeless Roundtable Event
Willow Hall – 1000 Kentucky St.

Check-in is at 10:15 and the event will begin at 10:30. Lunch is provided.

Find out more about what Fairfield and its partners are doing to address the homelessness in our community. For more information and to RSVP please email: mdawkins@fairfield.ca.gov



May 4, 2023 12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m. 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 Festival Saturday, June 17, 2023 Solano Annex

(601 Texas Street)

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

St. Mark's is in need of two people to serve on the planning committee for this event. If you are willing, please see Pastor Karen.

> Clergy Appreciation Lunch Tuesday, May 23, 2023 Paradise Valley Clubhouse

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



CAN Members Partner with Travis Air Force Base for a Religious Extravaganza August 11, 2023

Church 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 marek your calendars and let Pastor Karen know how you would like to participate.

What's Happening at St. Mark's April 2023 – Calendar of Events

Recurring Weekly Events

Cundou	
Sunday 8:30 a.m.	Choir Rehearsal
9:30 a.m.	SMLC Worship (Worship Center/Live
9.50 a.III.	Streaming)
10:30 a.m.	Fellowship (Worship Center)
10:30 a.m.	Adult Forum (Digerud/Zoom)
11:00 a.m.	Pentecost Temple (Community
11.00 a.iii.	Center)
2:30 p.m.	Ministerios Ebenezer (Community
2.30 p.m.	Center)
	centery
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
Wodnosday	
Wednesday 9:30 a.m.	Droschool Chanal (Broschool)
9:30 a.m.	Preschool Chapel (Preschool)
9.30 a.III.	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
3.30 p.m.	Rehearsal (Worship Center)
7:00 p.m.	Bible Study (Zoom)
7.00 p.m.	Bible Study (20011)
Friday	
7:00 p.m.	Ebenezer Mission (Community
	Center)
Saturday	
8:30 – 4:30 VITA Tax Service (Bethel Room)	
	(through April 15)

Additional Events

Tuesday, April 4 5:30 p.m. Worship & Music (Zoom)

Thursday, April 6 7:00 p.m. Maundy Thursday Worship

Friday, April 7 8:30 a.m. VITA Tax Service (Bethel Room) 7:00 p.m. Good Friday Worship (Worship

Saturday, April 8

11:00 a.m. Pentecost Temple Funeral (Community Center)

Center)

Tuesday, April 11 5:30 p.m. Symphony Board (Digerud Room)

Wednesday, April 12 8:30 a.m. VITA Tax Service (Bethel Room)

Thursday, April 13

9:30 a.m. Seeker's Circle (Digerud Room/Zoom)
4:30 p.m. Council Mtg (Digerud Room)

Friday, April 14 8:30 a.m. VITA Tax Service (Bethel Room)

Thursday, April 20 10:00 a.m. Capitol Valley Conference Meeting

Friday, April 21 & Saturday, April 22 8:00 – 5:00 p.m. Sierra Pacific Synod Candidacy (Worship Center & Bethel Room)

Tuesday, April 25 3:00 p.m. Fairfield CAN (City Hall)

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