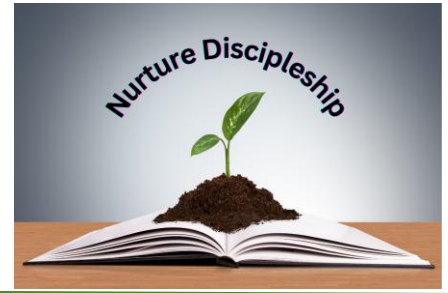




September
2025



We are the Church The Priesthood of All Believers

It's not just a "Lutheran" thing.

Scripture reminds us of this calling in passages like 1 Peter 2:9 (⁹But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people, in order that you may proclaim the excellence of him who called you out of darkness into his

marvelous light.) and Revelation 1:5b-6 (To him who loves us and freed us from our sins by his blood and made us a kingdom, priests serving his God and Father.), and in Revelation 5:10 (you have made them a kingdom and priests serving our God). It is one of the central teachings of Protestantism, and it emphasizes that *all Christians*, not just ordained clergy, have direct access to God. It also means that all believers are called to participate in ministry and share their faith.

All believers are seen as ministers, called to serve God and others through various gifts and talents. This teaching was a key idea of the Protestant Reformation, challenging the hierarchical structure of the medieval church and emphasizing individual responsibility in faith.

Its impact on each of us as believers has not changed:

- Each believer is called to understand and apply Scripture, pray for others, and share their faith.
- God empowers believers with diverse gifts for the building up of the church and the service of others.
- While there are different roles within the church, all believers are considered equal in their access to God and their call to ministry.

In essence, the priesthood of all believers affirms that every Christian is called to a life of worship, service, and witness, empowered by the Holy Spirit and united with Christ in His priestly ministry. That means you!
That means me!

Pastor Karen



We nurture our discipleship when we care for and celebrate one another.



**Please pray for...
Our members:**

Janet Benson, Ivonne Bradford, V-Anne Chernock, Elsie

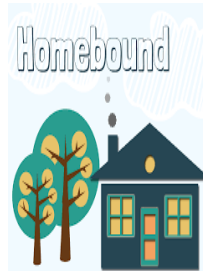
Edgeman, Richard Ehman, Sarajane Hakenen, Gabby Hansen, Jim Hanser and family, Cheryl Hurd, Pamela Lyons, Robert McGee, Karen Mullin, Gerda Reid, Stu Reid, & Josephine Traughber.

Our homebound

Kathy Doty, Judith Eckhart and Shirley Quinn.

Our friends and loved ones

Kim Arnold, Bruce Atkinson, Zoe Barrett, Makita Bond, Adrian Butler, Roxanne Costan, Dave Eubanks, Josh Ezell & Crew (USS Nimitz), Kyle Forristall, Dave Frogget, Ed Goldberg, Rob Hakenen, Nicholas Hanson, Shaman Houpt, Craig Jimenez, Phil Ladiero, Sonja Maclay, Scott Macroy, Rene Maddox, Mike Michaelson, Helen Powell, Cheryl Rassmussen, Jo Reed, Sharon Sanderson, Toni Scarrott Collins, Bob Stevenson, Rhonda Stokes, Tammy Stone, Nardos Tesfaye, Weldon Tunnell, Lorna Walter, Suzanne Wilson, and Laurie Ziegler.



**Our homebound
Members:**

Kathy Doty, Magnolia Court Senior Assisted Living,

111 Ulati Dr, Room 204,
Vacaville, CA 95687

Judith Eckhart, 3760 Upland Drive,
Auburn, CA 95602

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



We celebrate you!!!

Brett Breeding	09/04
Fay DiSano	09/11
Pamela Lyons	09/12
Vic Metz	09/18



Bob and Janelle Jolley	09/25
Rene and Tammy Bojorquez	09/25



Empowered by Grace!

A young boy walks into a small drug store and asks the druggist, "May I use the telephone?" The druggist replies, "You certainly may," and shows him where the telephone is. The boy calls a grocery store and asks the man who answers the phone, "Is your grocery store looking for someone to stock the shelves?" The man replies, "No, we already have a stock boy." The boy suggests, "If he isn't doing a good job, maybe you need to get someone who will do a better job." The man replies, "No, we are pleased with the work the boy is doing," so the boy hung up the telephone.

The druggist over-hears the conversation and says to the boy, "I'm sorry you didn't get the job." The boy says, "I don't need a job, because I am the stock boy. I was checking to see what they thought of my work."

What if you could call God to inquire if you are fulfilling the purpose for which you are created? What kind of marks would God give you for being a witness, or how you were doing in your service to others, or how you were doing in your giving? What kind of response would you expect to hear?

Would God see you as a person relying on the Holy Spirit to carry out directions or rather working in your own strength and giving yourself credit for your successes? When God looks at you, do you believe you are seen as someone who acknowledges God as the source of all that is good? Does God see you seeking spiritual strength and wisdom? Would God be pleased with the ways you are using the time, talents, and money entrusted to you?

We nurture our discipleship when we use our gifts to serve

Unfortunately, we all fall well short of God's standards, but, because of what Christ did for us on the Cross, we are forgiven for all the times we have failed to honor God with our behavior and efforts to please him. By God's grace we are molded and transformed into God-pleasing people. In Christ, we can do God's work well because we are *empowered by grace!*

Starting the first of October, we will be sharing more information for our annual stewardship emphasis using a program entitled "**Empowered by Grace!**" We hope and pray that you will participate in worship services and associated events. We will conclude the program on Consecration Sunday, October 26th.

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Prayer
Partners *Supporting Others
with Prayer*

New Prayer Partner Ministry

Prayer Partners are those who have a heart for praying with others. Starting August 31, one of our Partners will be available for 15 minutes after worship services to pray individually with anyone with a prayer concern. Whatever is going on in your heart and life will be lifted to God with love, compassion, and confidentiality. The Prayer Partner will be in the choir section of the sanctuary. You may go over and share with them what is on your heart and that person will pray with you.



Council met on Thursday, August 14. The full minutes will be available once they have been approved at the September 2025 meeting.

- The minutes from the July 10th meeting were approved.
- Finances: July was a month of high expenditures (security system, liability insurance, etc.). Offering did not meet expectations. This is common for July.
- We appointed Stew Irwin, Les Johnsen, Linda Frogett, Victor Romuldi, Pamela Lyons and Janelle Jolley to serve as the 2026 Budget Committee.
- Pastor reported on Personnel Committee discussion and a change to a 75% call starting January 1.
- Stewardship Committee shared their theme, "Empowered by Grace" and their calendar of events
- Approved Preschool 2025-2026 Budget with a \$3,600 deficit and the hope of enrolling 3-6 more children.
- The Crisis Communication Plan was approved and will be shared with the congregation at the Semi Annual Meeting and throughout September in the Weekly Update.
- Pastor reported that we did not get the Food Bank grant requesting funds for a new electronic sign
- Our next meeting is Thursday, September 11 at 11:30 a.m. in Pastor Karen's office.



An intergenerational opportunity for service. Everyone is invited and encouraged to join us on this nation-wide day of service in the

ELCA as we travel to Magnolia Court Senior Assisted Living. Immediately following worship, we will go to interact with the residents there.

Ann Hefner-Gravink will be working with our children to prepare something special for the seniors living there. We will all join our voices for a favorite hymn sing (no experience necessary) and more. We will have the opportunity to get to know some of the residents and bring joy into their day.

There will be special worship elements that day and a song written just for the ELCA's God's Work. Our Hands. events.

Everyone is encouraged to wear their St. Mark's polo shirt on that day. Special Thrivent shirts will also be available.

Mark your calendars now and sign-up here or on the table in the narthex. If you need a ride or would like to carpool, note that on the sign-up form.



Security & Alarm System



Due to generous donations, here is an update to our Security System Goal:

GOAL: \$18,124
RAISED TO DATE: \$15,525
REMAINING: \$ 2,499
AS OF: August 25, 2025

Thank you to everyone that has helped fund not only the security system upgrade, but also the IT/Computer and Social

Media need.

June Johnsen



We nurture our discipleship when we worship and study together

Tuesday Book Study

We will be taking a break until September 16 and will let everyone know what book we will be reading together in the Weekly Update.

Wednesday Bible Study 6:30 p.m.

This is a great way to learn more about the scripture readings for the coming week. You'll talk about what they might have in common (or not!) and get a more in-depth understanding of the readings. Contact Jim Hanser (hanserjames@comcast.net) for more info.



Here's what's happening in September

Sept. 7 – God's Work Our Hands Day
 Sept. 14 – Stewardship
 Sept. 21 – What we need to know about Trump's new bill – Sherri Scarrott
 Sept. 28 – Kairo's #4

<https://solano-edu.zoom.us/j/81140367265>

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



Left: August 3, session was so popular it was continued on the 17th



Above and below: Jams in a Jiffy – July Sunday Connections



Seeker's Circle

Seekers Circle will meet on **Thurs., Sept. 11**, 9:30am to 11:30 am in the Digerud Room. Gathering and Fellowship 9:30-10:00. Lesson 10:00 to 11:30 a.m. All are welcome. Karin MacMillan is the Leader of the September session. Topic for the Lesson: Fall 2025: "Money, Stewardship and Generosity" by the Rev. Christa von Zychlin.

Come and join us as we grow in our understanding and faith. A bit later in the

month, I will send out the video lesson and possibly the link to the Bible Study itself. Stay tuned, Diane Metz

(September) Session One: *Money – What do we treasure?* From Genesis through Revelation, gold, silver and jewels serve as icons of God's goodness. And yet, the love of money is a powerful source of argument, lies and literal enslavement. King Solomon, famously, chose wisdom over treasure. Jesus, leaning on his mother's values, teaches his disciples to dig deep for real treasure.



Preschool classes will begin on
Tues., September 2nd.

The year starts with a fundraiser from Stella's Gourmet. They have delicious cookies and popcorn. Stella offered to give the preschool 50% of the profits! Deadline: Friday, September 19. Funds will be used to buy classroom toys, games, puzzles and supplies. If you would like the preschool to get 100% we happily accept donations instead. 😊

Weekly Chapel will begin on Tuesday, September 9. Pastor Karen will join the children every Tuesday and Wednesday throughout the school year for a bible lesson, songs and prayer.



Choir
Rehearsals
Start Tuesday
September 2nd at
11:30am.

They will meet every Tuesdays at 11:30am and Sundays at 8:30am.

Quilters

The Lutheran World Relief Quilt Ministry is active. Quilting for Lutheran World Relief meets on Wednesdays. Summer Hours: 10:00 a.m. to Noon.

Winter Hours: 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.



Virtually, no skill is needed to contribute to this ministry of the Social Justice Ministry Team. 17 quilts are now completed. 4 more are ready to bind. 4 more are ready to tie. 3 more are ready to be quilted by Patty.

Finally, 4 more are ready to sandwich and pin. That's over 30 quilts made since January that should be completed by September! Contact Diane Metz for more information.





We nurture our discipleship
when we serve others

Thank you Volunteers!

We had two opportunities in August to share the love of God with our neighbors. We are grateful to the volunteers who helped:



Travis Air Force Base
(August 7): Dan DiSano, Fay DiSano, Ann Hefner-Gravink, June Johnsen, Jacqueline and Tressa Marrolli.

Back-to-School Resource Fair:

Volunteers packed 2,415 backpacks with donations received! *AMAZING!* There were 70 vendors supplying information and free haircuts, free eye exams, free immunizations and so much more. This event continues to bring nearly 5,000 people to our campus. Our volunteers included Christina Griffin (Food Pantry), Aura Hansen, Ann Hefner-Gravink, Janelle Jolley, Ailish Mendoza, Victor Romualdi and Dorothy Rothenbaum. Thank you for sharing your love of our community!



Foamy fun for all the kids at the Back-to-School Fair thanks to Kelly the Clown!



Feeding more
and more
people each
week!

The Pantry would like to thank our regular weekly donators- Costco, Target and Sprouts in Vacaville as well as Raley's on North Texas in Fairfield and encourage you to frequent these stores. The Pantry would also like to thank Tenbrink Farms for their regular contributions of produce.

AUGUST Stats:

Total Served	3,506
Total Families Served	765
Weekly Average Served	877
Average Families Served	189
YTD Total Served	29,706
YTD Families Served	6,427
YTD Weekly Average Served	874
YTD Weekly Average Families Served	189
Volunteer Hours	600



Food Pantry is blessed TWICE!

Our thanks to The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints of Vacaville for sharing the love of God through their abundance. On Thursday, August 14, the St. Mark's Food Pantry received 163 cases of 21 different non-perishable items. Each year this family of God shares their abundance with a list of other food distribution sites including St. Mark's. God's gifts magnified and spread to others.



Our Food Pantry freezer is full of 1.5# packages of ground beef, thanks to the Fairfield Community Services Foundation, who continues to support our ministry.



**Mondays and
Wednesdays**
at noon (Digerud Room)



Senior Food Program

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



There are a number of great things happening in our Synod! Please sign up for their newsletters and participate in conversations, special worship services, education opportunities and more. Go to <https://www.spselca.org/> and click the button in the upper right corner to stay informed.

Fairfield News:

Click here for the latest local events:

[Fairfield Weekly](#) | [Latest News](#) | [Fairfield, CA](#)

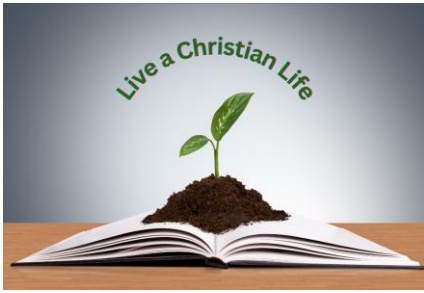
Fairfield Farmers Market

continues through Sept. 25 every Thursday evening from 3-7pm at the corner of Texas & Jefferson Streets.

Dine Out Downtown

Participating downtown restaurants are offering Farmers Market customers 15-20% off of their ENTIRE bill (excluding alcohol) on Thursdays during Farmers Market season, May-September!

The special will be available from 3 pm until the restaurant closes. Visit the Fairfield Farmer's Market, grab a Dine-Out Downtown postcard, and present it to the restaurant of your choice to redeem your special (Participating restaurants, addresses, and hours are listed on the postcard).



What's Happening at St. Mark's

September 2025

Recurring Calendar of Events

Sunday

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

Monday

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

Tuesday

- 9:30 a.m. Preschool Chapel (9/9)
- 10:30 a.m. Book Study (Zoom) begins again on Sept. 16
- 11:30 a.m. Choir Rehearsal
- 2:00 p.m. St. Mark's Food Pantry Distr.

Wednesday

- 9:30 a.m. Preschool Chapel (9/10)
- 9:30 a.m. Solano Food Bank Senior Program (Food Pantry 1st & 3rd Wednesday)
- 10:00 a.m. Quilter's gathering (Youth Room) Time changed...
- 12:00 p.m. Al-Anon (Digerud Room)
- 6:30 p.m. Bible Study

Thursday

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

Friday

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

Additional Events

Tuesday, September 2

- 5:30 p.m. Worship and Music Committee Mtg.

Wednesday, September 3

- 10:00 a.m. Monthly Bible Study at Magnolia Court

Sunday, September 7

- After service God's Work. Our Hands.

Monday, September 8

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

Wednesday, September 10

- 5:30 p.m. Solano Symphony (Digerud Room)

Thursday, September 11

- 9:30 a.m. Seeker's Circle
- 11:30 a.m. Council Meeting

Tuesday, September 16

- 12:15 p.m. Preschool Board (Zoom)

Thursday, September 18

- 8:00 a.m. Preschool Pictures (Narthex/Lobby)
- 10:00 a.m. Capitol Valley Conference Mtg

Friday, September 19

- 8:00 a.m. Preschool Pictures (Narthex/Lobby)

Tuesday, September 23

- 3:00 p.m. Stewardship Committee (Digerud)

Thursday, September 25

- 1:00 p.m. Growing Together (Zoom)
- 7:00 p.m. Symphony Strings (Nelson)

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/@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."



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

St. Mark's Lutheran Church
1600 Union Avenue, Fairfield, CA 94533
707-422-4741

office@stmarksfairfield.org; www.stmarksfairfield.org

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

June Johnsen (President), Dan DiSano (Vice President), Jacqueline Marroli (Secretary),
Stew Irwin (Finance Chair), Toni McCallum and Josephine Traugher (Members at Large).

Elected Leaders

Linda Froggett (Financial Secretary), Les Johnsen (Treasurer)
Victor Romualdi, Personnel Committee Chairperson