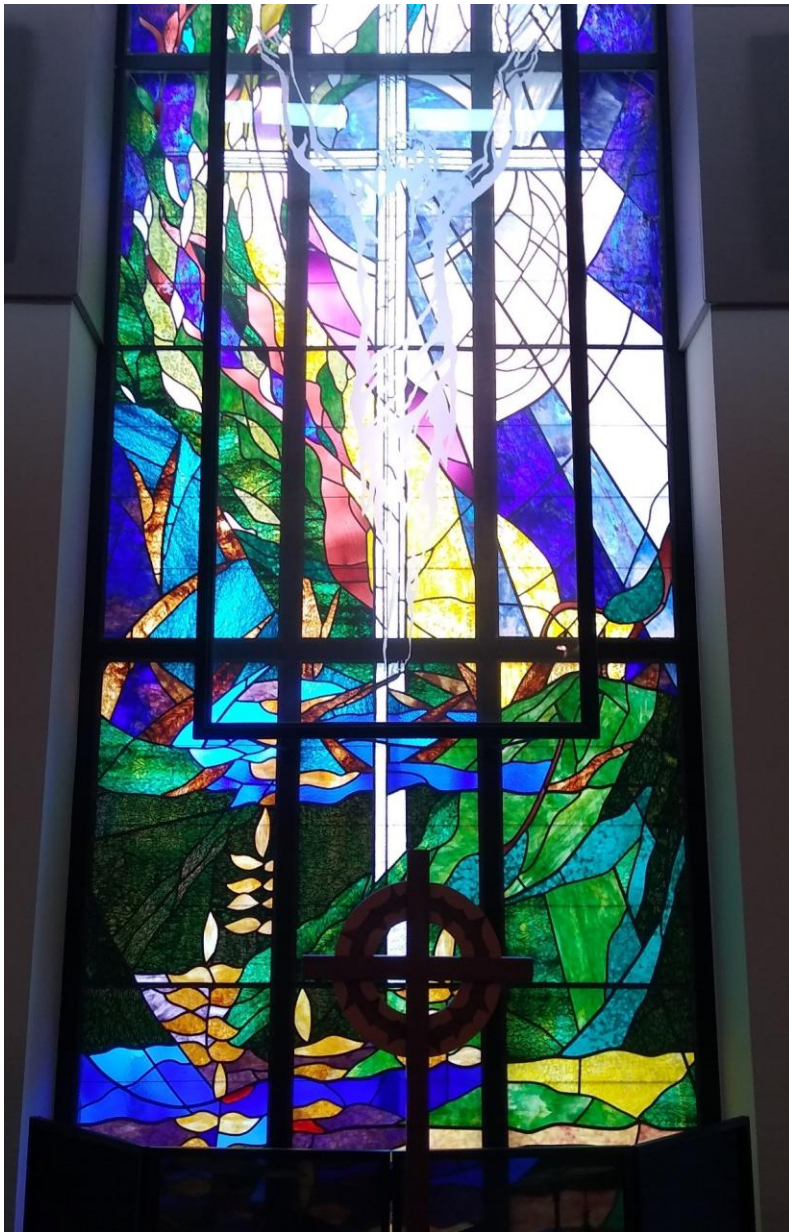




# June 2025



## See it anew

Many members and guests sit in our pews marveling at the amazing stained glass window behind the altar. Did you know it is called "The Spirit of Life" and that it was commissioned especially for St. Mark's in 2002?

Many folks who have been with us for a long time may know or remember the story. For many others, here goes:

This work of art measures approximately 10 feet by 30 feet. This window is made of mouth-blown glasses and tiffany reproduction glasses, including special drapery glasses. The design includes an angel of the Lord at the top right announcing the risen Christ, symbolized by an empty crystal cross. The tree of life that ascends up the left side of the window, upon further meditation, reveals a descending dove. The cobalt blues are symbolic of the New Creation we have in Christ. There is a crown of thorns at the base of the cross, sprinkled with waters of baptism. The symbol of wheat representing Holy Communion, springs to life through the waters of baptism that have fix red faceted jewels, the jewels themselves a symbol of Christ's five wound and precious blood. The rocks below are symbol of our foundation in Christ. Even the leaves of the tree transition

into crystal, a reflection of our new life in Christ. The magentas and lavenders call us to the passion of Christ.

The artists, the Hogan family, began in Dublin, Ireland adorning Europe's churches and cathedrals. Roger and Cynthia Hogen reside in Norther California with their family of 5 children. They continue this tradition as they pass their talent to their children.

Sometimes we need to here the stories again to look at things in a new way. Next month, find out more about the images on the rotating base of the altar!



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



### Please pray for...

#### Our members:

Janet Benson, Ivonne  
Bradford, V-Anne  
Chernock, Kathy Doty,

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

#### Our homebound

Judith Eckhart and Shirley Quinn.

#### Those who are mourning

- Family of Don Neuner, Dawn Metz's dad, who died  
c. 5/9/25.
- Family of Dottie Torres, Dennis Digman's  
daughter-in-law's mother, who died on 5/16/25.
- Family of David Mitchell, Pamela Lyons, ex son-in-  
law, who died on 5/18/25.
- Family of Alice Kovarcik, Jackie Marrolli's  
grandmother, who died on 5/24/25.

#### Our friends and loved ones

Kim Arnold, Bruce Atkinson, Zoe Barrett, Makita  
Bond, Adrian Butler, Diana Chalmers, Roxanne  
Costan, Curtis Deschaine, Dave Eubanks, Dave  
Frogget, Ed Goldberg, Rob Hakenen, Nicholas  
Hanson, Shaman Houpt, Craig Jimenez, Dave Jones,  
Phil Ladiero, Rene Maddox, Mike Michaelson,  
Helen Powell, Cheryl Rassmussen, Jo Reed, Eric  
Rigdon, Sharon Sanderson, Toni Scarrott Collins,  
Bob Stevenson, Rhonda Stokes, Tammy Stone,  
Nardos Tesfaye, Weldon Tunnell, Lorna Walter,  
Suzanne Wilson, and Laurie Ziegler.

### Members ~ New address

Judith Eckhart-3760 Upland Drive,  
Auburn, CA 95602



### Our homebound Members:

Bonnie DeMuth, 201 Watermere Dr.  
#323  
Southlake TX 76092

Judith Eckhart, 3760 Upland Drive,  
Auburn, CA 95602

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



### June Birthdays

Dakota Gravink	06/01
Chris Lindauer	06/02
Chuck Huston	06/03
Stew Irwin	06/05
Trevor deRosier	06/07
Linda Frogget	06/16
Elsie Edgeman	06/20
Karin MacMillan	06/20
Jacob Jolley	06/22
Josephine Traugher	06/26

### Anniversaries....

Carole & Richard Greeley	06/01
Les & June Johnsen	06/13
Dave & Toni McCallum	06/21





We nurture our discipleship when we  
use our gifts to serve

## Stewardship of Praise

As the Stewardship Ministry Team continues the theme *Stewards of God's Love* this year, this month let's consider ways that **praise** can be used in our daily lives and the effect it has.

During the midweek, midday Lenten Devotions in April, the group attending ate lunch together and then read the devotional lessons from *Life Renewed*. The passages we read from the week of March 30<sup>th</sup> were from Ezekial 37 about the valley of dry bones. We talked about native North American children and others whose lives were cut short. We read on in Ezekial and heard that God made the dry bones come alive and that the prophet was using this vision to show how when a people have no hope, life can come again. But in reflecting about these passages, the group felt a sense of doom and death. Finally, as we finished the week's readings, we came to Zephaniah 3: verses 17-18, "The Lord is in your midst; he will rejoice over you with gladness, he will renew you with his love; he will exult over you with loud singing as on a day of festival". Though we were just reading and discussing these passages, the heaviness of the Ezekial passages was visibly lifted by the joyful verse that rounded out the week. As stewards of God's Love, we can be more cognizant praising others instead of being critical or always seeing problems rather than seeing the positive. We can all **praise a little more!** I know that group members attending that day felt a call to share gratitude more often--to be more understanding and little less demanding. **Try it yourself!**



**With the Stewardship Team, I look forward to growing as a Steward of God's Love. –**

**Let me be a little kinder,  
Let me be a little blinder  
To the faults of those around me,  
Let me praise a little more;  
Let me be, when I am weary  
Just a little bit more cheery,  
Let me serve a little better  
Those that I am striving for.**

Edgar Guest 1914

**Diane Metz**





Council met on May 8, 2025. Here are some highlights of that meeting. The full minutes will be available once they have been approved at the June 2025 meeting.

#### Council Highlights

- Minutes of April meeting were approved.
- Stew Irwin was on vacation. However, we were able to review the printed reports.
- Pastor reported that all members will be invited and encouraged to do a Spiritual Gifts Assessment as part of this summer's Sunday Connections.
- Pastor reported her attendance at a seminar for preparing a Crisis Communications plan. Pastor and June will draft something to bring to Council for review.
- Care & Kindness Committee announced and upcoming "How to avoid falls" class offered by Kaiser. More details can be found later in this newsletter.
- Preschool will hold a "Moving On" ceremony on May 22 for the 10 students moving on to kindergarten. That is also the last day of preschool for the school year.
- The Food Pantry is working on two grants proposals and social media items to help raise awareness and funds.
- The Social Media committee is scheduled to meet on May 14 to discuss the audit performed by It's Just Creative.
- Honoraria and building use requirements for non-members were updated.
- August 17 has been set for our semi-annual meeting.



## Security & Alarm System

Thanks to the tremendous support, we have reached our goals for Social media, computers and IT support.

Our focus now is on the remaining funds needed for the Security Alarm upgrade.

Please if you can help, all donations( regardless of the amount), will help us reach our goal. Please be sure you mark your donations for "Security Upgrade".

*Thanks, June Johnsen*



Thank you to our choir for a great program year of singing!

The St. Mark's Chancel Choir, led by Maestro Semyon Lohss of the Solano Symphony Orchestra, will be taking a break for the summer. Sundays of each month and some special festivals. Join us as we make beautiful music to enhance our worship.



**Last Days of Preschool were May 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup>.**

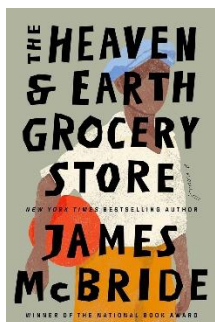


**Preschoolers saying goodbye to Pastor Karen.**  
**Summer Camp** - We still have spaces available for our June and July summer sessions.



We nurture our discipleship when we  
worship and study together

## Tuesday Book Study



Tuesday, **June 10** we will begin discussion "The Heaven & Earth Grocery Story" by James McBride. Anyone is welcome to join us at any time. In person or on Zoom.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88381121677>



## Here's what's happening in June

June 1	Crash Course #9 The Story of Christianity
June 8	Walk down memory lane-Tony Wade And at 12:30pm Summer cards/crafts
June 15	Donuts for Dads
June 22	Kairos #3 Stewardship of Creation
June 29	Pastor Eric Shafer-Global Refuge -Zoom

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

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

## 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](mailto:hanserjames@comcast.net)) for more info.

## Seeker's Circle

Thursday, June 12, 2025, 9:30 a.m.

Seekers Circle will meet on Thursday, June 12, from 9:30am to 11:30 am in the Digerud Room. Diane Metz is the Leader. All are invited to join in this lively discussion and discern projects to further engage in the local community and beyond. June birthdays will be celebrated. Contact Diane Metz at [DLMetz6@gmail.com](mailto:DLMetz6@gmail.com) for more information.

Link for video: [https://youtu.be/PmJwC-OZqDI?si=IhNx\\_hfqRmVgoUp5](https://youtu.be/PmJwC-OZqDI?si=IhNx_hfqRmVgoUp5)





## We nurture our discipleship when we serve others



Feeding more  
and more  
people each  
week!

### APRIL Stats:

- 685 volunteer hours.
- We served 4,479 people (weekly average 896)
- We served 964 families (weekly average 193)

**Current Needs: Bags.** The food pantry can always use bags.

**Special Note:** Distilled water is available at the food pantry to anyone in the congregation.



### Help God's Quilters

The Quilters moved into their new space in late April and are sprucing up the former Nursery/Youth Room. The carpet has been cleaned. A

blackboard wall was

painted to give more visibility. Property Chairs Bob and Janelle Jolley have been repairing furniture and cleaning closets. New storage racks have been purchased. The Quilters are still seeking donations of fabric and twin-sized flat sheets in dark colors for backings (look at Thrift Stores when you shop). The group is also recruiting people who like to work together on projects with their hands and learn or expand quilting skills. With the new space, quilters can come and work at any time BUT check with the office to let staff know. The regular

Quilting Days are Wednesdays; some folks come at 10; others 11 or later; all leave by 2:00 p.m. Contact Diane Metz if you'd like more information. You can also leave a message at the Office. Quilts will be donated to Lutheran World Relief who in turn share them with others in need.



Left: This photo shows more new project tables.



Right: Quilters pose by the newly white wall painted by Vic Metz and

finished professionally by Keith Braselton in front of their new tables on risers. They are welcoming Denise Matison, former member, who's joined the ministry.



Left: This photo shows the newly arranged shelves and cleaned carpet.

## Bread for the World's Offering Letters

**Thank you to all those who generously advocated for food related programs during the month of May by writing letters to elected representatives.**

They were blessed on Sunday, May 25th. If you missed the opportunity, please check out Bread for the World's website: [Pledge To Help End Hunger](https://www.breadfortheworld.org/pledge-to-help-end-hunger). Contact Social Justice Ministry Chairpersons: Diane Metz or Victor Romualdi for more ways to advocate for those in our community, nation and the world.





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.

## 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).

## Participating Restaurants

Cedars Bar & Kitchen 20% (Food Only)  
Casa Agave 20%  
Pizza Twist 20%  
Evelyn's Pizza 20%  
Saffron 20%  
Three Restaurant 20%

## Performers:

Eddie Davis & The Blue Notes – June 5  
Magic Moments DJ – June 12  
B Sharp – June 26 & August 28



## Interfaith Pride Service June 22, 2025

4:00 p.m.

Join neighbors and  
friends in Solano

County for this  
wonderful service

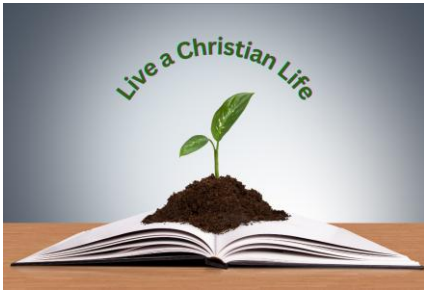
celebrating our oneness

**SOLANO PRIDE**  
**CENTER**

in Christ. The Service will be held at Community Presbyterian Church, 425 Hemlock St, Vacaville, CA 95688. Watch your weekly email for details as they become available.

## Hunger Education opportunity on June 18 via ZOOM

How is **ELCA World Hunger** responding to major federal funding cuts? Join the Sierra Pacific Synod Hunger Network on **June 18 at 7 pm** via Zoom as we hear from Susannah Cunningham, Senior Director for the ELCA Building Resilient Communities Team, and learn how these programs are still making a difference—and how you can help. To register, email **Edie** at [thelotts@gmail.com](mailto:thelotts@gmail.com)



# What's Happening at St. Mark's

## June 2025

### Recurring Calendar of Events

#### Sunday

- 8:30 a.m. Choir Rehearsal (thru 6/8)
- 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

- 10:30 a.m. Book Study (Zoom)
- 11:30 a.m. Choir Rehearsal (thru 6/3)
- 2:00 p.m. St. Mark's Food Pantry Distr.

#### Wednesday

- 9:30 a.m. Solano Food Bank Senior Program (Food Pantry 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday)
- 11:00 a.m. Quilter's gathering (Youth Room)
- 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 (Community Center)

### Additional Events

#### Tuesday, June 3

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

#### Monday, June 9

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

#### Wednesday, June 11

- 5:30 p.m. Solano Symphony Board

#### Thursday, June 12

- 9:30 a.m. Seeker's Circle
- 1:00 p.m. Grow Together Team
- 4:00 p.m. Council Meeting

#### Saturday, June 14

- 9:00 a.m. Sierra Pacific Business Session (online)

#### Thursday, June 19

- 10:00 a.m. Capitol Valley Conference Mtg



# Join us for worship every Sunday

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

on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/SMLCFairfield](https://www.facebook.com/SMLCFairfield) (or click [HERE](#)) and on YouTube at <https://www.youtube.com/@SMLCFairfield> (or click [HERE](#))

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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](mailto:office@stmarksfairfield.org); [www.stmarksfairfield.org](http://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,