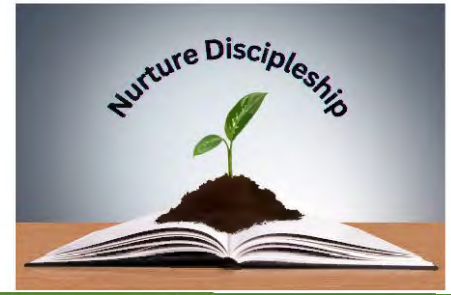




ST. MARK'S  
LUTHERAN CHURCH

October 2025



*"You then, my child, be strengthened by the grace that is in Christ Jesus." 2 Timothy 2:1*

Gospel with people in our neighborhoods, cities, and throughout the world (Acts 1:8). God has placed us among many people who do not know Jesus. With God's help, we can become very intentional with our witnessing. God can open our eyes to opportunities and give us the words to speak.

**Love and Serve Others:** Just as Jesus came not to be served but to serve, we are to live lives in service to others. Jesus tells us, *"But whoever would be great among you must be your servant..."* (Matthew 20:26). Greatness in God's kingdom is characterized by willingness to serve others rather than being served.

**Give Generously:** Created in God's image, we have been made to be giving people. When we give, we display God's image and likeness. Through our generosity, we give glory to our heavenly Father. We are to give the first portion of our income cheerfully and generously (2 Corinthians 9:7-8; 1 Corinthians 16:2).

Our 2025 Stewardship Team: Diane Metz, Stew Irwin, Colleen Rivers and Jim Hanser

Empowered by Grace!  
to Know Your Purpose

The Stewardship Ministry Team reminds us how blessed we are to be given the opportunity to be Jesus' ears, hands, feet, and mouth as the Spirit works through us. *"For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them"* (Ephesians 2:10).

**Share the Good News:** Empowered by the Holy Spirit, we are to share the





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



We are praying  
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, and Josie Traugher.

**Our homebound**

Janet Benson, Kathy Doty, Judith Eckhart  
and Shirley Quinn.

**Those who are mourning**

The family of Scott Macroy (nephew of  
Josephine Lord-Traugher) who died on  
September 25.

**Our friends and loved ones**

Kim Arnold, Bruce Atkinson, Zoe Barrett,  
Makita Bond, Adrian Butler, Roxanne  
Costan, Dave Eubanks, Kyle Forristall,  
Dave Frogget, Ed Goldberg, Rob  
Hakenen, Nicholas Hanson, Shaman  
Haupt, Craig Jimenez, Phil Ladiero, Sonja  
Maclay, Rene Maddox, Mike Michaelson,  
Rev. Kirsten Moore, Helen Powell, Cheryl  
Rasmussen, 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

Janet Benson  
3305 Hartford Ave  
Fairfield, CA 94534

Kathy Doty, Magnolia Court Senior  
Assisted Living, 111 Ulatis Dr, Room 204,  
Vacaville, CA 95687

Judith Eckhart, 3760 Upland Drive,  
Auburn, CA 95602

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

*Please remember them with your cards,  
visits and calls. They soooo appreciate it!*



We celebrate you!!!

Toni McCallum 10/03  
V-Anne Chernock 10/11  
Dennis Digman 10/13  
David McCallum 10/13  
Mike Michaelis 10/17  
Karen Mullin 10/19  
Gerda Reid 10/30



We wish you a  
Happy  
Anniversary!!!

Jim and Rose  
Hanser 10/14



We will be  
celebrating  
**Pastor  
Appreciation  
Day on  
Sunday,  
October 12<sup>th</sup>,**  
with a light

lunch and Pastor's favorite chocolate  
cake. If you would like to contribute to a  
monetary gift, to be used towards PK's  
Aurora Borealis trip in November, please  
contact June Johnsen at 510-772-8860  
or [jjohnsen@telstarinc.com](mailto:jjohnsen@telstarinc.com)



Seeing the Northern  
Lights has been high  
on Pastor Karen's  
bucket list.

God's work. Our hands.



September 7, 2025

An amazing event!

Many thanks to all the volunteers for  
their presence, planning, mingling and  
representing!

Jim Hanser  
Rose Hanser  
Les Johnsen  
Diane Metz  
Vic Metz  
Pat McKillips  
Dan DiSano  
Fay DiSano  
Ayden DiSano  
Adalyn DiSano  
Debi Kopmann  
Marilyn Nelson

And to

- The Seekers Circle who made gift  
bags for all the residents
- To Ann Hefner-Gravink for planning a  
great project for everyone
- To June Johnsen for arranging for the  
yummy sandwiches and ice cream  
sundaes
- To Barbara  
Nelson and  
Dennis Digman  
for providing  
music and  
equipment.



Thank you, Debi Kopmann!

Debi worked with Kim all summer to  
print, mail, record attendance, and much  
more while Kim was on the east coast.  
You did a great job. Pastor Karen and  
Kim appreciate you so much!



## We nurture our discipleship when we use our gifts to serve



### “Luther Mania” returns Reformation Sunday, October 26 – 9:30 a.m.

Remember last year’s hysterical skit with Dr. Martin Luther and Baba Waters? Well, we have another one planned for you! This year you will meet young, “Marty” and his mother, Margaret and father, Hans. Oh, these young adults – they never do what their parents want them to do! We will need 6 people willing to have some fun! Please let Pastor Karen know asap if you dare 😊



Council met on Thursday, September 11, 2025. The full minutes will be available once they have been approved at the October 2025 meeting.

- The minutes from the August meeting were approved.
- Finance Report

- Offerings for August were \$11,000 behind expected. We are waiting and watching to see what happens in September and October.
- Updated us on Fundraising efforts (as of 9/11/25) for Security (need \$1,100); IT (need \$3,600); Social Media (this was a budgeted item and expenses are still well within the budgeted amount).
- The Ops Manual for Financial Policies is being reviewed and changes will be brought to Council in October.
- Proposed change to Constitution, Bylaws & Continuing Resolutions will be brought to Council in October.
- Pastor reported needing absolute commitments from volunteers for the CAN Thanksgiving dinner within the next week. A sign-up will be in the narthex on Sunday.
- Personnel Committee reported that they will bring proposed updates to Council in October.
- Preschool requested that we share the cost of floor waxing (Preschool building); Council voted to contribute \$500 by reducing the Preschool invoice.
- President June Johnsen will activate the Nominating Committee (Dennis Digman, Ann Hefner-Gravink, Janelle Jolley, Pamela Lyons, Stu Reid and Colleen Rivers) in the next week.
- God’s Work. Our Hands. event was a great success. We are encouraging members to consider planning another.

- There will be a \$20/month increase in our IT Support due to an increase cost to the vendor.
- Voted to re-establish a Sabbatical Reserve Fund. It will be a line item to receive donations if someone chooses. It will not be a budget line item.



The 2025  
Nominating  
Committee  
search is on!

Thanks to our faithful Committee members for this year: Dennis Digman, Ann Hefner-Gravink, Janelle Jolley, Pamela Lyons, Stu Reid and Colleen Rivers.

We are looking for passionate leaders for these positions:

President (2-year term)  
Vice President (2-year term)  
Council Member-at-Large (2-year term)  
Nominating Committee (6) (2 outgoing Council members + 4)  
Voting Members to the Assembly (2)  
Alternate Voting Members to the Assembly (2)

Please prayerfully consider how God might be calling you to new and different leadership in the new year. You may contact any Committee person to share your willingness to serve.

## Security & Alarm System

Due to generous donations, here is an update to our

Security System Goal:

**GOAL: \$18,124**  
**RAISED TO DATE: \$17,025**  
**REMAINING: \$ 1,099**  
**AS OF: Sept. 10, 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**

**Join Us for the Blessing of Animals**

**Saturday October 4 11:00 a.m.**

**St. Mark's Lutheran Church**  
**1600 Union Ave, Fairfield, CA**

Bring your pets to celebrate St. Francis' love for animals





We nurture our discipleship when we  
worship and study together

## Tuesday Book Study



We are reading, laughing, and discussing **Something to Look Forward To** by [Fannie Flagg](#). Everyone is welcome to join us at any time. In person or on Zoom.

If you would like a few laughs, pick up this book!

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

## 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.



## Choir Rehearsals

The choir rehearses every

Tuesday at 11:30am and Sunday at 8:30am. The enhance the Worship Service with their anthems on the second and fourth Sundays of the month.



## Here's what's happening in October

Oct. 5 –San Quentin Ministry – Mike Chernock

Oct. 12- Stewardship. *Let's Connect the Dots between God's Grace and Generosity* and Pastor Appreciation Sunday

Oct. 17- FFPD – Christopher Beck

Oct. 25- service project: Make Hygiene Kits for CAN Thanksgiving

Zoom link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85397371644>

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. Our next meeting is Thursday, January 15, 2026 at 1:00 p.m. (Zoom)



*Sunday Connections Group*



Seekers Circle will meet on **Thursday, October 9** from 9:30am to 11:30 a.m. in the Digerud Room.

Gathering and Fellowship 9:30-10:00.  
Lesson 10:00 to 11:30 a.m.

All are welcome.

Diane Metz is the Leader of the October session.

Topic for the Lesson: Fall 2025: "Money, Stewardship and Generosity" by the Rev. Christa von Zychlin.

### **October Session Two: Stewardship – How do you tend your treasure?**

God madly, beautifully, entrusts human beings with the care of all creation, including time, talent and material wealth. In the Old Testament bible, Moses needs help with his time management. In the New Testament Bible, Jesus confronts his disciples with words about God's high expectations for tending treasure.



It is almost time for our annual **Trunk or Treat**. Parents and friends will decorate their vehicle trunks and pass out treats to the children on Thursday, October 30th and Friday, October 31st, at 11:30 am.

St. Mark's Preschool does have an **Amazon wish list**. Many past and current parents, friends, and church members have asked us what we need so we created the list so it can be accessed anytime.

[Click for Amazon Wish List](#)

Feeding more and more people each week!

The Pantry would like to thank our regular weekly donors: Costco, Target and Sprouts in Vacaville as well as Raley's on North Texas in Fairfield We encourage you to frequent these stores.



We 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	191

YTD Total Served	29,706
YTD Families Served	6,427
YTD Weekly Average Served	874
YTD Weekly Average Families	189



## Quilt Ministry



### Blessing of the Quilts Sunday, October 5, 2025 9:30 a.m.

Quilters, friends, and everyone who is passionate about serving God's children all around the world are encouraged to join us.

The quilts will be displayed throughout the Worship Center as we gather to celebrate and give thanks to all who participated in this project. We will share in a time of blessing before boxing them up and delivering them to Lutheran World Relief for distribution abroad and domestically. Volunteers have participated by collecting, sorting, packing, stitching, creating these gifts of comfort and love and pray for those who will receive a tangible sign of hope.



Contact Diane Metz for more information.

We have made 37 quilts! WOW!



We will set up the display of quilts on Wednesday, October 1 and pack the boxes on October 8.

We will continue to meet Wednesdays from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. (other hours as arranged) to start our gift for next year.

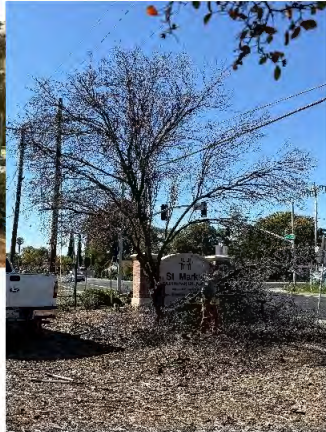




We nurture our discipleship  
when we serve others



Look! You can  
see the sign!



The dead tree is gone but look at the big beautiful sign we can now see! Thanks to June Johnsen for arranging to have the tree removed and to Stew Irwin for cleaning the green gunk off and repainting the letters. And, thanks to Bob & Janelle Jolley the light works again! You are our heroes 😊

Before



After



Friday Oct 17 (5:30 pm) to  
Saturday Oct 18 (3:00 pm), 2025

- Are you passionate about reimagining church and discovering new ways to connect with your community?
- Are you curious about how your church can engage your neighbors more deeply?

This retreat is for innovators, dreamers, and doers who sense God's spirit stirring something fresh in their midst. We'll explore how everyday passions can become the seeds of new Christian community.

It isn't about adding more programs, but about unleashing creativity, experimenting with new forms of church, and walking alongside others who want to see lives and neighborhoods transformed. If you're ready to try something new, this retreat will equip and inspire you to take the next step. Join us as we learn, imagine, and set out on a new trail together.

Meals are included in the cost of registration. [Click here to register.](#)

# Leadership change in the ELCA

## Installation of the Presiding Bishop

Saturday, October 4, 2025 | 2:00 p.m. CDT  
Central Lutheran Church | Minneapolis, Minn.



(Evangelical Lutheran Church in America)



The Rev. Yehiel Curry was elected as the next presiding bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) at the ELCA Churchwide Assembly in Phoenix, Ariz., on July 30, 2025. He will begin this role on Oct. 1, 2025, and be installed on October 4 in Minneapolis.

Currently, he serves as bishop of the ELCA Metropolitan Chicago Synod, where he leads a synod staff and 160 congregations by providing pastoral care, preaching, teaching, administering sacraments, and overseeing ordinations and installations.

He was elected synod bishop in 2019 and reelected in spring 2025. Curry chaired the ELCA Conference of Bishops, fostering ecumenical relationships and theological engagement across the Lutheran communion.

Previously, Curry served as the mission

developer (2007–2012) and pastor (2013–2019) of Shekinah Chapel Lutheran Church in Riverdale, IL. He earned a Bachelor of Arts from Lewis University in Romeoville, IL, and a Master of Divinity from the Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago. He and his wife, LaShonda, are the proud parents of three daughters.

The presiding bishop installation is open to the public, and tickets are not required. **Doors open at 1:00 p.m. Central time, and worship begins at 2:00 p.m.**

## Ending at the beginning



September 17, 2025

"I started my ministry as presiding bishop with these four emphases: We are church. We are Lutheran. We are church together. We are church for the sake of the world. I will end as I began."

In her final Living Lutheran column as presiding bishop, Elizabeth Eaton reflects on the core values that have shaped her leadership. She reminds us that the heart of the church is the gospel — and that God's work through the ELCA is far from over.

[Read the full farewell address](#) and find it in Living Lutheran's fall print issue.



## We nurture our discipleship In the community



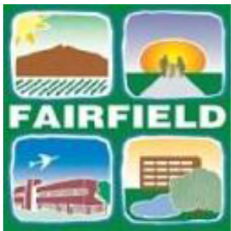
Monday and  
Wednesdays at noon.

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.



### 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

Join neighbors and  
friends supporting our  
community.

**Fairfield Restaurant Week**  
October 5-11.  
[Fairfield.ca.gov/savor](https://www.fairfield.ca.gov/savor)

**HOPE Resource Fair**  
Wednesday, October 8, 2025  
10:00 a.m. — 2 p.m.  
1000 Kentucky Avenue, Fairfield.

Homeless Outreach Partnership  
Engagement (HOPE)

**Veterans Day Parade**  
Tuesday, November 11, 2025  
Concert at 10:00 a.m.  
Parade starts at 12:30 p.m.

Click here for the latest local events:  
[Fairfield Weekly | Latest News | Fairfield, CA](#)



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.

### [Sign Up For The Newsletter!](#)



**2025 Synod Assembly  
Part 3:**

Online Budget Hearings  
- October 29 and 30

Online Budget Gathering-November 1,  
9:00 a.m.-11:00 a.m. for voting  
members. See the website for more  
information.



# What's Happening at St. Mark's

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

#### Wednesday

- 9:30 a.m. Preschool Chapel
- 9:30 a.m. Solano Food Bank Senior Program (Food Pantry 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday)
- 10:00 a.m. Quilter's gathering (Quilt Rm)
- 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

#### Wednesday, October 1

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

#### Saturday, October 4

- 11:00 a.m. Blessing of the Animals

#### Tuesday, October 7

- 10:00 a.m. Budget Team meeting
- 5:30 p.m. Worship and Music Committee Mtg.

#### Wednesday, October 8

- 5:30 p.m. Symphony Board (Digerud)

#### Thursday, October 9

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

#### Monday, October 13

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

#### Thursday, October 16

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

#### Tuesday, October 21

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

### COMING in NOVEMBER:

CAN Thanksgiving Meal-Tuesday, November 25. Time to clean your closets! We will be collecting new and lightly used socks, coats, hats, scarves, and gloves as well as personal care kits for distribution at the CAN Thanksgiving meal.



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](#))

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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."



ELCA

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

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

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