# November 2020 Newsletter





# For all the saints who from their labors rest....

Sunday, November 1 is All Saints' Day in the Christian Church. On this day, St. Mark's Lutheran Church and many churches around the world remember and celebrate those who have gone before us that make it possible for us to live and serve Christ today. We ring a bell in memory of those who have died in the last year.

When we take time to think about the saints that have taught us what it means to be faithful followers the list could go on and on for a long time. Do you remember your first Sunday School teacher? Who taught her/him about Jesus? I'll bet we could trace the saints who have impacted our lives back to the first disciples of Jesus if we took the time to really investigate. The numbers would be huge. The list would be long. We take time this Sunday to celebrate all of them.

But those who have died in Christ are not the only saints in our lives that we celebrate. "All Saints celebrates the baptized people of God, *living and dead*, who are the body of Christ. As November heralds the dying of the landscape in many northern regions, the readings and liturgy call us to remember all who have died in Christ and whose baptism is complete. At the Lord's table we gather with the faithful of every time and place, trusting that the promises of God will be fulfilled and that all tears will be wiped away in the new Jerusalem" (Sunday & Seasons).

November is a great time to give thanks to God for the saints in our lives, past and present and to let those saints who are still living know just how much we appreciate their influence in our lives.

As we thank the saints in our lives, remember to be a saint in the lives of others. Remember that what they see, hear and experience in us impacts their faith in the One who gave it all for us so that we might be living examples of Christ in all that we say and do.

Blessings,

Pastor Karen

Karen Stating, Pastor



# We are praying for...

#### Our members:

Lew Broschard, Judith Eckhart, Lynn Hallahan, Sarajane Hakenen, Jim Hanser and family, Pamela Lyons, Karen Mullin, Cheryl Rasmussen, and Josephine Lord-Traughber.

#### Our homebound:

Sylvia Buringrud, Anita East, Michael East, Bob Evans, Alice Freeman, Margaret Heins, Barbara Patterson, Nina Pfeifer, Shirley Quinn, and Norm Skoglund.

#### Our friends and loved ones:

Erik Andrin, Kedrin Armenta, Gul Banoo, Adrian Butler, Karen Digman, Marianne Falkner, Rhonda Francis, Tori Francis, Pam Houghton, Kelly Marston, Mickey Volk, Danielle Neuner, Wayne Poulsen, Helen Powell, Arlette Sciortino, Dennis Sweeney, Erica Toste, Ron Vang, Mary Vigliezone, Frank Walker, Robert Williamson and family, and Darrel Wood.

#### Those who are mourning:

We pray for the family and friends of Dr. Robert Varady (Cheryl Hurd's doctor) who died on October 9.

The family of Melissa Hoerber.

The Family of Mark Maffei.

Please help us keep our prayer list up to date. Especially the friends list. If a someone is doing well, please let us know. If you would like to add someone, please call the office (707) 422-4741 or email office@stmarksfairfield.org.



We wish you a Happy Birthday!!!

11/03 Pat Broschard
11/05 June Johnsen
11/07 Gordene Pienovi
11/07 Barbara Tenorio
11/11 Colleen Rivers
11/15 Bob Evans
11/27 Garret Gravink
11/28 Richard Ehman
11/28 Aura Hansen
11/29 Jack Torres



Happy Anniversary

11/14 Lulu & Don Eager



# Second mile giving - November 2020

During the month of November our Second Mile offerings will be donated to Lutheran Social Services of Northern California. LSS of Northern California's mission is to promote stability and honor the dignity of those we serve by providing supportive housing services that lead to self-sufficiency. LSS envisions that our communities have hope, stability, and a path to self-sufficiency.

LSS offers the hope of lives transformed to people of all faiths (or no faith) who are vulnerable because of homelessness, mental illness, addiction or disaster. Our mission is to provide services to the public at large, throughout a service area that encompasses Northern California, with offices and programs in Sacramento, San Francisco, Contra Costa and San Joaquin counties.

Please keep LSS in your prayers this month and consider an additional offering toward their ministries. The Sierra Pacific Synod is blessed to accompany this organization in mutual ministry as we proclaim God's creative, redeeming and sanctifying love in our synod.



# Financial Update

The Church Council would like to thank all our members and friends who have been faithful givers even when we cannot worship together. We are blessed to be a part of a generous community here at St. Mark's. Your tithes and offerings are helping us keep our commitments to our campus, our staff, our community, and the wider church.

Here are a few ways you can continue to support our ministry:

#### **Four Ways To Give**

- stmarksfairfield.org: Go to our church's website, click on GIVING at the top, set up a profile or log in.
- GivePlus Mobile App: download this app to your phone from the App Store or Play Store. Either log in using your profile information you use at stmarksfairfield.org/giving or create a new profile. This app is user friendly is customized for St. Marks.
- Text "funds" (quotes not required) to 707929-4175: the first time you do this, a
  weblink will be texted back to you. Follow
  that link and provide your email, address and
  debit/credit card info. When that's done,
  you're all set up and you can enter whatever
  amount you want to the funds that are listed.
  If you don't see a fund you want to donate
  to, send an email to
  financechair@stmarksfairfield.org and we
  can add funds. More info can be found
  here: GivePlus Text Quick Guide
- Mail a check to the church office. You can send your donation (checks only please) to St. Mark's Lutheran Church, 1600 Union Ave. Fairfield, CA 94533.



# Amazon Smile

Remember to support St. Mark's Lutheran Church every time you order from Amazon! Sign up for Amazon Smile at <a href="https://smile.amazon.com/ch/94-2635284">https://smile.amazon.com/ch/94-2635284</a>. Let them know that you want .5% of qualifying purchases to be given to St. Mark's. This is a great way to support our ministry and doesn't cost you a cent!



Youth Service Project

Youth Service Project Update- After four Tuesdays of hard work, the SMLC Youth have completed their first yard! Despite this year's circumstances, the youth continue to give back to the community any way they can.

SMLC Go to the Pumpkin Patch- In the spirit of Fall, the SMLC Youth went to Cool Patch Pumpkins in Dixon, CA. They went through the world's largest corn maze and completed it in under 1 hour!

SMLC Youth Spooktacular Lock In-The Youth were extremely excited to see that Solano County stayed in the red tier. During this event, 10 of our youth kids will get "locked in" the church for a night of games, movies, food, and fellowship. They will also be participating in a costume contest, pumpkin carving and other challenges for a chance to win their very own spooky Halloween basket!



# Adult Bible Studies

Tuesday morning Bible Study Jesus: Divine and Human On hold until further notice.

### Wednesday Bible Study

Catch this fantastic opportunity on Zoom each Wednesday at 6:30 p.m. To be added to the invite list contact Jim Hanser at hanserjames@comcast.net.

#### Seeker's Circle

Seekers Circle at 9:30 a.m. on the second Thursday of the month via Zoom. Contact Diane Metz if you'd like to join the group by emailing <a href="mailto:DLMetz6@gmail.com">DLMetz6@gmail.com</a>.



Genesis Update

Genesis Live! is undergoing some changes and will be back online on September 9th. Subscribe to the new Genesis YouTube channel @https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCTTNSNDqbBYHKwNZuqDm1HQ



Friends in Christ:

St. Mark's Council met in September via zoom. Among the more notable issues:

- The nominating committee has volunteers for all positions. You will receive a complete list of potential candidates prior to the Annual Meeting and election in January.
- The local news articles hint that Solano
   County might slip back to Red mode which
   would mean closing services again. At this
   point, we are continuing services but with
   constant review of changing mechanics and
   allowances.
- There continue to be "homeless" issues on the grounds. We have consulted with the local Police, and they are very attentive to our needs. We walk a fine line between our love for all people vs. our need to keep the property, our members, and especially our school children safe. We've had cut fences, human waste near the doors, and fires started against the building. Sorry to have to report this, but it is imperative that all our members know to call our Police when you see problems – including vehicles illegally parked in the red "no parking" zones. Our parents need to be safe as they come and go to bring their kids to school. (P.S. I don't know how many times I can thank June and Les for their help regarding this issue. Their contacts with city personnel have made our police responses rapid and caring.)
- We also had a traffic accident on the corner of Travis and Union that took out part of our fence (but, thankfully, not our sign!) Insurance will cover the loss.
- The Contemporary services will start in November. We look forward to that and pray for good attendance.
- Sharon Munoz has done such an exceptional job that we have asked her for additional help during the Pandemic. She now teaches a weekly bible class to our preschool as well as heading a Sunday Zoom

- Meeting on "Racial Issues." We made a great choice in asking her to join our staff!
- I'm told we need to consider re-painting the exterior this coming year. It will take a special effort to finance, but MAINTENANCE is always favorable over "REPAIR."
- And one final error on my part to report: I opened the longest meeting we have had this year with the comment: "this should be a very short meeting." One of our more prominent members told me that if I said that again, I would be punished!

And finally, I would have to report that going to church during the Pandemic is *very strange*. There is a great joy in seeing other members and waving, but there is also great sorrow in not being able to touch, hug, sing, chant, or receive communion from a human person. I mention this, not to sew despair, but rather to remind everyone that "this too shall pass." We **will** one day in the (near) future be the same warm and caring family we congregated with each week.

As a result of numerous e-mail interactions, I am well aware that many of you (us) have what the doctors call Pandemic PTSD. We miss social interaction so intensely that it is taking a toll on us. In most cases, our fight-flight response has embedded itself in "fight." In the next week(s), our political turmoil will likely come to a crescendo. It is good and healthy to have strong opinions, but it is also good and healthier to accept other's opinions as "right-for-them." I pray that we can focus on God and God's loving forgiveness and remember that our overshadowing any political affiliations is the lifestyle we call "LOVING CHRISTIAN." God bless all.

Michael Chernock, President St. Mark's Lutheran Church



"For all the saints who from their labors rest..."

Our Members

Beverly Duncan

Lillian Manning

Roger Quinn

Doris Sams

Doris Trean

# Our Friends and Loved Ones

Jake Camus (Pastor Karen's nephew by marriage)

Joyce Copp (Pal McKillip's sister)

Michael Donnelly

Jodea Foster (Law partner of Jeff Thoma)

Connie Gardiner (June Johnsen's Sister-in-law)

Donald Gardiner (June Johnsen's brother)

Brian Kanson (Pam Lyons's cousin)

Scott Kesla (friend of Michael Chernock)

## Melissa Hoerber

Paul R. Landahl (Pastor Karen's long-time friend and colleague).

Michael Scott Lyons (Pam and Judy's Stepson)

Brian Mattson (Michael Chernock's best friend)

Pastor David Miller

Leann Semas (Friend of Lucille Bowers)

Dr. Robert Varady (Cheryl Kurd's doctor).

Jon Wood

Damien Earl Wright (Pamela Lyons great-grandson)





# The Manna Food Pantry

Manna Food Pantry is a ministry of St. Mark's Lutheran Church and Preschool. Food pantry hours are every Tuesday from 3:30 to 5:30 p.m. There are no requirements for receiving food. All are welcome! The Pantry is in need of paper bags and non-perishable food, please feel free to drop off items during office hours are:

Monday 4:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. Wednesday 4:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. Friday 4:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.



# Fairfield Senior Food Program Distribution Schedule for 2020 at St. Mark's, Fairfield

1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday 9:30 a.m. -10:30 a.m.

November 4 & 18 December 2 & 16

Food Assistance Program
Second Wednesday
9:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.



Our thanks to all the volunteers and the those who donate food to Manna. On Tuesday, October 27 we provided food for 574 people in our neighborhood! The volunteers have been busy handing out invitations and posting signs inviting people to come and share the banquet. Having a personal invitation from our volunteers is helping to grow our program.

We are always in need of paper grocery bags, egg cartons, and non-perishable food items.



# Christmas Basket Give Away

St. Marks is continuing our annual tradition of serving our community by distributing our Christmas Baskets. Event is set to take place Monday December 14<sup>th</sup> from 3:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.

How can you help?

If you have any unused Christmas cards and 2021 Calendars those can be dropped off at the church office or Sanctuary.

Canned Goods, bags of rice/beans/pasta Donations of Cash

If you are interested in helping out in distributing on Monday or packing of the baskets (Saturday Dec 12<sup>th</sup> 9:00am to 12:00 in the Mural room) please contact:

June Johnsen (jjohnsen@telstarinc.com)
Janelle Jolley (jjolley@crousesf.com)

Special Thanks go out to Fairfield Community Services Foundation for food donations and to Potrero Hills for donating the boxes.

# St. Mark's November

9am - Worship 12pm - Al-anon 11am - 4pm - Office ho 11am - Pentecost 2:30pm - Ministerios	12pm 4pm -	9am - Worship 12pm 10:30am - Racism 4pm - O 11am - 11am - Pentecost 2:30pm - Ministerios	9am - Worship 11am - Solano 10:30am - Racism 11am - 11am - 11am - Pentecost 2:30pm - Ministerios	Sun  1
12pm - Al-anon 4pm - Office hours	12pm - Al-anon 3:3 4pm - Office hours	12pm - Al-anon 3:3	n ours	Mon 2 12pm - Al-anon 3:3 4pm - Office hours
1	3:30pm - Manna	3:30pm - Manna	3:30pm - Manna	Tue 3:30pm - Manna
2	3pm - Office Hours 4:05pm - Youth 6:30pm - Bible	9:30am - Solano 10am - Staff 3pm - Office Hours 4:05pm - Youth 6:30pm - Bible	9:30am - Solano 3pm - Office Hours 4:05pm - Youth 6:30pm - Bible 7pm - Solano	Wed  9:30am - Solano 10am - Staff 3pm - Office Hours 4:05pm - Youth 6:30pm - Bible
3	Thanksgiving - Office of	6pm - Genesis @	9:30am - Seeker's 5pm - Council 6pm - Genesis @	Thu 5:30pm - Worship 6pm - Genesis @
4	Closed	4pm - Office Hours	4pm - Office Hours	Fri 4pm - Office Hours
5	5pm - Holy Family	5pm - Holy Family	9am - Holy Family 5pm - Holy Family	Sat  7  5pm - Holy Family

# Join us for worship every Sunday 9:00 a.m. in Person & Live streaming Service

# Contemporary Worship resumes November 1 at 11:00 a.m.

on Facebook at <a href="https://www.facebook.com/SMLCFairfield">www.facebook.com/SMLCFairfield</a> (or click <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-E3cZfy\_c-Y">HERE</a>) (or click <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-E3cZfy\_c-Y">HERE</a>)

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 Munoz, Director of Youth and Children's Ministries
Semyon Lohss, Accompanist, Choral Director
Roland Lubin, Contemporary Music Director
Alicia Henderson, Office Administrator
Lucille Bowers, Preschool Director
Michelle Aas, SMLC's bookkeeper

#### **Council Members**

Michael Chernock (President), June Johnsen (Vice President), Janelle Jolley (Secretary), Nancy Huston (Finance Chair), Dave McCallum & Ruth Sweatt (Members at Large).

#### **Elected Leaders**

Linda Frogget (Financial Secretary), Lew Broschard (Treasurer)