



New Times Start
September 5, 2021
Worship ~ 9:30 a.m.

Fellowship
10:30 a.m.
Adult Education
11:00 a.m.

¹³By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. ¹⁴And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Savior of the world. ¹⁵God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God. ¹⁶So we have known and believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them. (1 John 4:13-16)

Do you ever wonder who or what God really is? Is God a being that we can grasp? Is God an ethereal being, untouchable, unreachable? These are questions we sometimes ask ourselves. First John gives us the answer – plain and simple: **God is love.**

When we talk about God's love, it is not just a pretty phrase or some lofty theological concept. The Greek word translated here as "know" implies firsthand experience. We know God's love because it touches us personally. The more we allow ourselves to experience God's love, the more we will be able to trust that love. We can put our full weight on it, knowing that God will never jerk it out from under us." (quoted with permission from Debra Stanford daily devotion for August 9, 2021).

You see, God cannot, does not, take away the deep abiding love, because that is God's nature – love. When we see evil, violence, disease, hatred in our world, we can be sure that it is not of God. Because we rely on the never-failing love of God we can face anything. When we have that firm foundation, we can stand up against all kinds of evil and trust that we are doing God's will.

If God's love lives in us, because we have experienced it for ourselves, we can share that love with others. Our call, our mission, our purpose as God's people is to make sure everyone experiences God's love and comes to know it for themselves.

Of course, we do this in many and various ways. As we move into a new season in our world (autumn) and our church, we look at ways we can reach out to people near and far with the love of God. Watch your emails for more information about why the Hybrid Church group and all the committees at St. Mark's are doing to make this happen. God's love is at work in and around us. God share the love!



In Our Thoughts and Prayer...

Our members

Lew Broschard, Richard Ehman, Lynn Hallahan, Jim Hanser and family, Eva Lipke, Karen Mullin, Larry Nelson, Bette Noll, Cheryl Rasmussen, Gerda Reid, Josephine Lord-Traughber and Jerry Zaier.

Our homebound

Sylvia Buringrud, Anita and Michael East, Judith Eckhart, Bob Evans, Alice Freeman, Barbara Patterson, Nina Pfeifer, Shirley Quinn, Barbara Tenorio.

Our friends and loved ones

Bree Assaker, Bruce Atkinson, Gul Banoo, Makita Bond, Ken Briggs, Adrian Butler, Carmen Chow, David Corr, Josh Costan, Roxane Costan, Madeline Dolly Decker, Karen Digman, Maria Dix, Firefighter Ryan, David Gibbs, Kelly Marston, Mickey Volk, Diane Gomes Neves, Art Posadas, Wayne Poulsen, Helen Powell, Rachel Ramirez, Arlette Sciortino, Pastor Susan Scott, Joan Stevens, Dennis Sweeney, Susan & Johnny Teal, Erica Toste, Ron Vang, Mary Vigliezone, Frank Walker, Robert Williamson and family, Darryl Wood, Al Waggoner, and Laurie Ziegler.

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!!!

Amy Hurd – 09/03
 Brett Breeding – 09/04
 Vanessa Chavez – 09/05
 Brian Holland – 09/09
 Victoria Armenta – 09/09
 Sherry Keener – 09/10
 Courtney Arnold – 09/10
 Fay DiSano – 09/11
 Pamela Lyons – 09/12
 Leia Saielli – 09/12
 Trent Puskas – 09/13
 Janice Napier – 09/15
 Vic Metz – 09/18
 Nancy Satterford – 09/18
 Kathy Danzeisen – 09/21
 Grant Maclay – 09/21
 Zach Saielli – 09/22
 Paul Theiss – 09/24



Kathy & David Danzeisen - 09/02
 Dennis & Paula Sweeney – 09/03
 Larry & Barbara Nelson – 09/04
 Michaelis Mike – 09/14
 Janelle & Robert Jolley – 09/25
 Rene & Tammy Bojorquez – 09/25



The St.

Mark's website and Facebook page are in the process of being updated. Thanks to the gifts and talents of Mike Gravink and Sharon Muñoz! Check it out: stmarksfairfield.org & <https://www.facebook.com/SMLCFairfield>. Please give us feedback. What information would you like to see on the website? Is it user-friendly? We are working to provide guests and members easy access to all the wonderful things happening – let us know how we are doing!



Sylvia Buringrud
631 Whitehall Circle
Fairfield, CA 94533

Bonnie DeMuth
Legacy of Bear Creek
200 Teller Smithfield Rd. South 210
Teller, Texas 76248

Anita East
1836 Virginia St
Fairfield CA 94533

Judith Eckhart
2113 Alturas Court
Fairfield CA 94534

Bob Evans
1113 Quail Dr

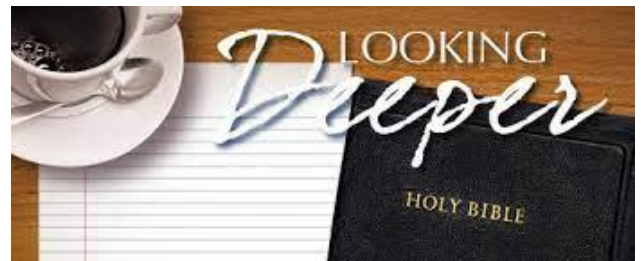
Fairfield, CA 94533

Alice Freeman
1073 Flicker Ln
Fairfield, CA 94533

Barbara Patterson
1078 Meadowlark Drive
Fairfield, CA 94533

Nina Pfiefer
455 Jerry Lee Rd.
Vacaville, CA 95687

Shirley Quinn
11 Lemon Tree Circle
Vacaville CA 95687



Adult Education and Fellowship

Opportunities at St. Mark's

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: hanserjames@comcast.net.

Tuesday Bible / Book Study

Tuesday Bible/Book Study Returns – September 14 @ 10:30 a.m.

Starting in September the group will read and discuss the hysterical yet all too real book *You'll Never Believe What Happened to Lacey: Crazy Stories about Racism* by Amber Ruffin (Author), Lacey Lamar (Author). For those who participated in this summer's Gather Magazines L.I.F.E. (Liberation Is for Everyone!) study by Rev. Angela! Khabeb, you will remember this is the book written by her sisters. It is available from Amazon in paperback and kindle versions (please remember to use SmileAmazon so St. Mark's receives a portion of your purchase.)

We will meet in person in the Pastor's Study and on Zoom (<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87014621580>)

Seeker's Circle

Next Seekers Circle meeting is Thursday, September 9th, 2021. The session begins at 10:00 a.m. and concludes at 11:30 a.m. We will be in person and on Zoom. Contact Diane Metz (dlmetz6@gmail.com) for more information and the Zoom link.



Bills Still in Progress

Our springtime letters to legislators boosted the chances that more hungry people will be fed. The following bills are still active: please remind your legislators in Sacramento and Washington that we're tracking them.

These California bills have widespread support in the State Legislature but haven't yet passed:

AB 221, Emergency Food for All
SB 108, State Healthy Food Access Policy
SB 364, School Lunches for All

These concerns are before Congress but haven't made it into law:

- Making the Child Tax Credit permanent. This promises to cut child poverty in the U.S. by 50%

- \$300 million for global nutrition. This has gathered 14 co-sponsors, 6 Republican and 8 Democratic.

To learn more and help, follow this link:

<https://documentcloud.adobe.com/link/review?uri=urn:aaid:scds:US:0c959c1c-596d-4d6e-b6b5-bc37f125dbf1>

- Paul Theiss

Worship Volunteers Needed

As part of our next steps in opening, we are open to readers, ushers, communion assistants, greeters, A/V techs and more. If you are willing to help, please contact Stu Reid (stuktu@yahoo.com) to get on the list.

Choir Rehearsals Begin

The Choir will rehearse on Tuesdays beginning September 7 at 11:30 a.m. in the Worship Center. Sheet music and recordings will be available for those who are unable to attend but would like to sing on second, third, and fourth Sundays.

Contemporary Worship Team

Beginning September 5, our Contemporary Worship Team will lead several parts of our worship service with their contemporary songs. They will bring us new and familiar praise music each month. We are always looking for people who love to sing and/or play contemporary music to join our faithful group of Mike Sweatt and Dennis Digman.

Preschool Year begins September 7.

Our amazing preschool program will begin its regular school year on September 7. We continue to have classes for 3- to 5-year-old students with Monday, Wednesday, Friday classes and Tuesday, Thursday classes (5-day sessions are also available). Please contact Miss Lucille

(preschool@stmarksfairfield.org) for more info.

[Newsletter](#)

[Calendar](#)

Miss Sharon and Pastor Karen will resume weekly chapel times with the kids on September 14. What the Genesis YouTube site

(<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCTTNSNDqBvYHKwNZuqDm1HQ>) for great videos created by

Miss Sharon for all our young people. These are not just for our preschoolers!



Friends in Christ:

St. Mark's Council did not meet in August 2021, but reports were set to Council.

1. Pastor is taking a well-deserved rest from August 17

– 20. In the interim we are blessed to have Pastor Paul Theiss and Pastor Dianne Finnecy shepherding our weekly services. Thank you to both of them!

2. The process is completed for hiring of our new Office Administrator and Pastor is presently training our newest member of staff: **Jordan Jackson-Pena**. He is reachable by e-mail at the office: office@stmarksfairfield.org. And yes, if you remember that name from our Youth Group, you would be right! I should editorially add that his grasp and commitment to the position thus far has been phenomenal. Like our last hire, Sharon Munoz, St. Mark's has been incredible blessed by God to be able to add these incredible young and dedicated Christians to our staff and family!
3. Many of you know that we had an untimely and very unfortunate loss of one of our youth group this month. Our thanks go out to those who helped the family with burial expenses along with Youth Director Sharon, Pastor Karen and so many others who have helped all of us get through this tragedy.
4. Live streaming has been going extremely well due to the efforts of our high-tech and highly committed volunteers. As an adjunct to their duties, they are presently looking into an additional camera and repair of the badly aged speakers (30 ft. up) in the Sanctuary walls. (I just wish they would have called me to play on the fork-lift we rented.)
5. People are starting to trickle back into in-person worship, but the new Delta virus has slowed full progress in that area. Rest assured that it is our intent to continue on-line worship for a long time to come.
6. Choir is expected to return sometime in September but, of course, Covid rules will apply.
7. Church council and the Worship committee have made numerous inquiries and have determined that the majority of the congregation would like to return to the 9:30

service. That change will take effect starting September 3, 2021.

8. The post-service "Fellowship Time" (with food) is still on hold. We all want it to return on a regular basis, but the effort vs. the number of in-person attendees have its permanent return in a state of flux. We are watching it closely and will bring it back as soon as the in-person count can sustain it. In the interim, we have coffee makers (donated) and have cleaned the large coffee maker that fell into disrepair during Pandemic. Its revitalization required purchase of a reverse-osmosis machine to clean the water that (only) goes into the coffee maker. Pray we can bring that back soon.
9. There was also a situation with a broken water heater that leaked water and ruined the floor of the small bathroom it served. A creative solution was a small 4-gallon water heater that solved the problem and minimized what might have been a major expenditure.
10. The September meeting will be in-person at the Church on Thursday, September 9.

In closing, I would like to mention an additional effort that is being led by Pastor Karen. A small group has been studying a book called, "HYBRID CHURCH." The idea is that, if we have learned anything positive from Pandemic, it's that we have not done well ministering to people who cannot make Church Services but who want to be an integral part of the process. When we looked at the incredible value of our present on-line services, the Church in general realized that this is something that **MUST** continue in some format well after Covid stops separating us.

Among other things, we have already started to request on-line prayers in the service even as we have in-house members praying. We make sure our announcements encompass both groups and their individual needs. AND... we know now how much we don't know. In that vein, we would ask that all of you deeply consider how we can "HYBRIDIZE" the two congregations and what other creating ways we can become a **larger** but still one **single** family!

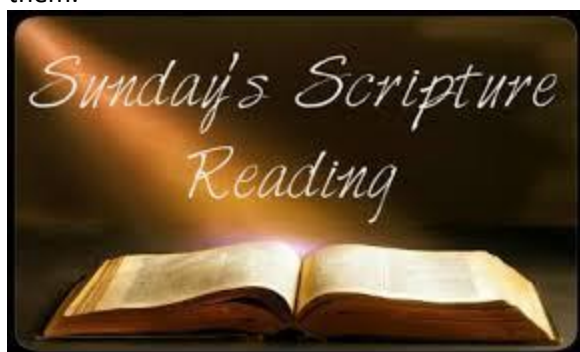
God's Blessings to All.
Michael



Our Little Free Libraries are stocked!

You might remember that last year in the midst of the pandemic,

Mason Yee, earned his Eagle Scout by building and installing two Little Free libraries in front of St. Mark's. Now that we can safely share books again, the libraries have been stocked and are ready to "take one" or "bring one." Thank you to Rene Bojorquez for getting donated books stocked up. The libraries are open any time for you to stop by, pick up a book or leave a book you think someone else would enjoy. The one on the right is for children's books and the one on the left is for adults. Please help us keep this neat and clean as you use them.



Weekly Scripture Readings

September 5, 2021

Isa 35: 4-7a

Psalms 146

James 2:1-10 [11-13] 14-17

Mark 7:24-37

September 12, 2021

Isa 50:4-9a

Psalms 116:1-9

James 3:1-2

Mark 8:27-38

September 19, 2021

Jeremiah 11:18-20

Psalms 54

James 3:13-4:3,7-8a

Mark 9:30-37

September 26, 2021

September 2021

Num 11:4-6,10-16,24-29

Psalms 19:7-14

James 5:13-20

Mark 9:38-50



All Creation Sings

The ELCA has recently published a supplement to the Evangelical Lutheran Worship hymnal. This new supplement includes songs and liturgies for worship. In July we at St. Mark's will begin adding to our list of favorite songs by adding a few new ones each month or so. In July and August, you can look forward to learning:

- Ten Thousand Reason Bless the Lord, O My Soul – ACS 1097
- Come to me, O weary traveler ACS 1017
- Loaves were broken, words were spoken ACS 966
- God of the Fertile Fields ACS 1063
- Look Who Gathers at Christ's Table ACS 977

Would you like to learn more about this new book of music and liturgies and listen to a few of the new songs? Visit:

<https://www.augsburgfortress.org/promos/all-creation-sings/>

If you are interested in purchasing a copy for your personal use, please let the church office know. We will place a bulk order to save on shipping.

Financial Support



The Church Council would like to thank all our members and friends for their faithful giving. 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:

- stmarksfairfield.org: Go to our church's website, click on GIVING at the top, set up a profile or log in.

- 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.



Do you want to learn ways to be an ally the “least of these” in California? Lutheran Office of Public Policy (<https://lutheranpublicpolicyca.org/>) will help you keep up with changing legislation and how we can be a part of the solutions.



Staying Connected to God

One of the most important things we as followers of Jesus can do for our own well-being is to stay connected. Prayer, devotions and reading scripture are a few ways we can strengthen that connection. But where to start? This ongoing column will bring you new ideas and things to try to see what works best for you. Have a great idea you want to share with others? Let us know!

Here is a first installment:

- Bishop Megan Rohrer's weekly prayer time: <https://www.facebook.com/meganrohrer>
- Living Lutheran Spiritual Practices and Resources: <https://www.livinglutheran.org/category/spiritual-practices-and-resources/>
- Daily Devotions from Luther Seminary: <https://www.luthersem.edu/godpause/>
- ELCA Bible Study resource page: https://www.elca.org/Our-Work/Congregations-and-Synods/Faith-Practices/Bible-Studies?_ga=2.69257232.1045168385.1627061166-820988456.1537304296



Dear Church...

Is a love letter from a Black ELCA pastor to the Church he loves, but is still the whitest denomination in the U.S.?

How do we become a more multi-racial, multi-cultural church? How did we get here?

Author, Lenny Duncan, tells of his experience through his deep love for the ELCA and calls us to look deeply at ourselves and ask tough questions.

Once you have read it, let's get a discussion started. Where is St. Mark's in this picture? How do we become a more welcoming congregation for *all* people?



YouTube Subscribers!

Whether you join on YouTube on Sunday mornings or “on the ground,” we need you to subscribe to our YouTube channel. We are 17 subscribers away from getting our own channel name (i.e., St. Mark's, Fairfield). Until then we have the weird letter and number combination and are not easy to find in a search. So, please...go to <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCzf60vRI9n7f9XxxTMQaznw>, look to the right (on most internet browsers) and click the red “subscribe” button. That's all there is to it! No cost, no muss, no fuss. This will, however, make it easier for everyone to find us.



The 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!

In July we served 1765 people and were blessed with 299 hours of volunteer commitment.

Thanks to your generosity, the Food Pantry has enough bags and egg cartons to last for a while. Your donations of non-perishable food items are always welcome.

Solano Food Bank Programs Schedule for 2021 at St. Mark's, Fairfield

Seniors Program

1st & 3rd Wednesday
9:30 a.m. -10:30 a.m.

September 1 & 15
October 6 & 20
November 3 & 17
December 1 & 15

Food Assistance Program

Second Wednesday
9:30 a.m. to 10:30



Manna Food Pantry to Benefit! Saturday, September 25, 2021

The Twilight Rotary Club will sponsor this festival at the McNaughton Park 729 Great Jones St, Fairfield, CA 94533.

Tickets are \$125/person. The Manna Food Pantry at St. Mark's will be the beneficiary of up to \$10,000.00 from this event. Please plan to support the Rotary Club and their work.

Please contact: nmeadows@dailyrepublic.net for tickets.



Select Learning

Select Learning is a ministry partner of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. It offers a variety of learning opportunities for everyone. Here is the link for its 2021-2022 [electronic catalog](#). In the new catalog you will find additional links to new online courses and podcasts, along with more courses and dozens of resources to assist you in equipping the baptized for service in the world.



Fairfield CAN (Clergy Action Network)

The CAN meeting for August 24th was missed due to our Pastor being out on vacation. Please see next months newsletter for an update.

Second Mile Giving – September 2021



Staying Green

Here are few ways you can help recycling efforts at St. Mark's.

- Preschool Recycles printer ink cartridges (ink jet).
- Used batteries
- Use the bins around the campus for paper, tin, and plastic bottles

If you have these items and would like to drop them off at church on Sunday or the church office or preschool office, please do.



Sierra Pacific Synod
committed to being re-formed

**Invitation to Bishop Megan Rohrer
Installation Service**

*Your prayers and presence are joyfully requested for the Holy Eucharist and
Rite of Installation of the 5th Bishop of the Sierra Pacific Synod for the
Reverend Dr. Megan Rohrer.*



Sierra Pacific Synod
committed to being re-formed



**Invitation to Bishop Megan Rohrer
Service of Installation**

*Your prayers and presence are joyfully requested for the
Holy Eucharist and Rite of Installation of the 5th Bishop of
the Sierra Pacific Synod for the Reverend Dr. Megan
Rohrer.*

Hello Siblings in Christ,

First, we want to thank you for being patient with us this past month as we plan an unexpected event in the midst of transition and a pandemic that refuses to quit. You have been gracious and generous in your support.

The good news is that we have received the okay from our hosts at Grace Cathedral to begin inviting people. Our numbers are still limited from full capacity, but we're grateful to invite 300 people at this time. We hope that you will join us!

Those who are worshipping in person at Grace Cathedral will be required to show proof of vaccination upon arrival. Those without proof of vaccination will not be admitted. Children who are 12 years old and under are able to be admitted with proof of a negative COVID test within 72 hours of the event. All people at worship will be required to wear masks.

You can register by clicking here.

If you are able to join us at Grace Cathedral we hope you will vest and process with us. The color of the day is red. There will be a place for you to vest before worship. We will begin lining up for the procession at 1:00pm. A reception will follow worship.

There are also other interesting or fun events happening around this historic occasion: a trans listening panel, a roller-skating party, a commemoration of 9/11, a service project, and who knows what else at this point.

We have also set aside some hotel rooms for those who might want to stay the night on Friday or Saturday. And we've identified some places near the Cathedral where you can reserve a parking spot.

All of this information can be found on our website. You won't see the registration link there yet. We'd like to give you a couple days of a head start to make your reservation. We will publicize these available spots to the general public on August 9th. All opportunities to RSVP will close on September 5th.

If you have any questions or need help, you can email info@spselca.org or manda@spselca.org.

Blessings,
Sierra Pacific Synod Installation Team



What's Happening at St. Mark's

September 2021 ~ Calendar of Events

Weekly Events

Sunday

- 9:30 a.m. SMLC Worship (Worship Center/Live Streaming)
- 10:30 a.m. SMLC Fellowship (Worship Center/Zoom)
- 11:00 a.m. SMLC Education (Digerud/Zoom)
- 11:00 a.m. Pentecost Temple (Community Center)
- 2:30 p.m. Ministerios Ebenezer (Community Center)

Monday

- 12:00 p.m. Al-Anon Meeting (Digerud Room)
- 4:30-7:30 p.m. Office Open

Tuesday

- 9:15 a.m. Preschool Chapel (Begins 9/14)
- 10:30 a.m. Book Conversation w/ PK (Begins 9/14)
- 11:30 a.m. Choir Rehearsal
- 3:30 p.m. Manna Food Pantry Distribution
- 4:30-7:30 p.m. Office Open

Wednesday

- 9:15 a.m. Preschool Chapel (Begins 9/14)
- 4:30-7:30 p.m. Office Open
- 6:30 p.m. Bible Study (Zoom)
- Youth Group (Live) (Youth Room)

Thursday

- 4:30-7:30 p.m. Office Open

Friday

- 4:30-7:30 p.m. Office Open

Saturday

- 3:30 p.m. Holy Family Old Catholic (Community Center)

Additional Events

- September 1 9:00 a.m. Preschool Orientation
- 9:30 a.m. Solano County Food Distribution (Food Pantry)

- September 5 10:00 a.m. FSUSD/Touro using Parking Lot (2nd Dose Vaccine Clinic)
- 10:30 a.m. Hybrid Church Discussion Group (Digerud Room)

- September 7 5:30 p.m. Worship & Music

- September 8 9:30 a.m. Solano Food Assistance Program (Food Pantry)
- 7:00 p.m. Solano Symphony Board

- September 9 10:00 a.m. Seeker's Circle (Digerud Room/Zoom)
- 5:00 p.m. Council Meeting

- September 11 2:00 p.m. Bishop Megan Rohrer Installation

- September 13 11:00 a.m. Solano Symphony Auditions

- September 15 9:30 a.m. Solano County Food Distribution (Food Pantry)

- September 23 9:30 a.m. Preschool Board Meeting

- September 30 8:00 a.m. Preschool Photography

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 Munoz, Director of Youth and Children's Ministries

Jordan Jackson-Pena, Office Administrator

Semyon Lohss, Accompanist, Choral Director

Lucille Bowers, Preschool Director

Michelle Aas, SMLC's bookkeeper

Council Members

Michael Chernock (President), June Johnsen (Vice President), Ann Hefner Gravink (Secretary),
Nancy Huston (Finance Chair), Dave McCallum & Marilyn Kilian (Members at Large).

Elected Leaders

Pam Lyons (Financial Secretary), Dan DiSano (Treasurer)

V-Anne Chernock, Personnel Committee Chairperson, Tom Lingel, Property Committee Chairperson