



Advent Worship

Our Sunday morning Advent series focuses on the ways in which God is with us through our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Each week will focus on a different word picture of the coming Christ found in the poetic and prophetic words of Isaiah. Services will reveal how Christ continues to be present with us even now. The theme verse for the entire series is: "Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel (which means, God with us)" (Matthew 1:23). The weekly themes are:

- **Week 1:** Our Potter (Isaiah 64:8): God is with us as our Potter, who shapes according to his will.
- **Week 2:** Our Shepherd (Isaiah 40:11): God is with us as our Shepherd, who carries us close to his heart.
- **Week 3:** Our Living Branch (Isaiah 11:1): God is with us as our Living Branch, who died and rose to give us eternal life.
- **Week 4:** Our Guide (Isaiah 2:3): God is with us as our Guide, who leads us according to his Word.



Tidings of Comfort and Joy

Midweek services begin December 1 at 7:00 p.m.

We will host Zoom services

(<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84292492712>) and use the "Joyous Light" liturgy.

Weekly Themes

Week 1: The Angel Speaks to Zechariah's Fear

Week 2: The Angel Speaks to Joseph's Confusion

Week 3: The Angel Speaks to Mary's Doubt

Week 4: The Angel Speaks to the Shepherds' Curiosity

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service
Friday, December 24, 2021
7:00 p.m.

(Note: there will be no Christmas Day service this year)



In Our Thoughts and Prayers...

Our members

Lew Broschard, Richard Ehman, Mary Francis, Lynn Hallahan, Jim Hanser and family, Tom Lingel, Eva Lipke, Karen Mullin, Marilyn Nelson, Cheryl Rasmussen, Gerda Reid, Josephine Lord-Traughber and Jerry Zaier.



Our homebound members

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

Our friends and loved ones

Bree Assaker, Bruce Atkinson, Alec Barrett, Makita Bond, Michael Boyle, Alyssa Buch, Carmen Chow, David Corr, Karen Digman, Firefighter Ryan, Annette Murphy, Martha Peña, Wayne Poulsen, Helen Powell, Rachel Ramirez, Arlette Sciortino, Bill and Elaine Smith, Dennis Sweeney, Larry Thebaud, Mary Vigliezone, Aidan Volk, Ida Volk, Mickey Volk, Lorna Walter, and Laurie Ziegler.

Please help us keep our prayer list up to date. Especially the friends list. If 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.



Vic and Diane Metz – December 27

Stu and Gerda Reid – December 27



Charlotte Rivers - 12/02

Diane Metz - 12/03

Charlie Thoma - 12/05

Michael Pienovi – 12/16

Jackie Marrolli – 12/21

Les Johnsen – 12/22

Dan DiSano – 12/25

Judy Lyons – 12/27

Alice Freeman – 12/28

Tressa Ladiero-Marrolli – 12/31

(If you have a birthday or anniversary that is not listed in our calendar, please contact the church office.)



Join us for a time of reflection and remembering as we recognize that not everyone feels "merry and bright" during the holiday season. For many people the loss of a loved one, a job, a relationship, or loneliness make getting into the spirit of Christmas difficult. This time of worship helps us acknowledge those feelings. We will light candles in memory of loved ones, situations and circumstances that make our hearts feel heavy. Sometimes acknowledging the feels allows us to celebrate.



Remember our
homebound
members this
holiday season

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

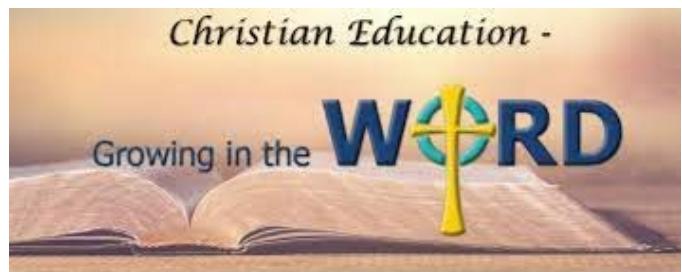
Judith Eckhart
2113 Alturas Court
Fairfield CA 94534

Bob Evans
1113 Quail Dr
Fairfield, CA 94533

Alice Freeman
1073 Flicker Ln
Fairfield, CA 94533

Barbara Patterson
1078 Meadowlark Drive
Fairfield, CA 94533

Shirley Quinn
11 Lemon Tree Circle
Vacaville CA 95687



Wednesday Bible Study – 6:30 p.m. On hiatus until January 2022

Catch this fantastic opportunity on Zoom each Wednesday. The group discusses the readings for the next Sunday. Jim sends out the readings so you have a chance to read them in advance. To be added to the invite list contact Jim Hanser: hanserjames@comcast.net.



Tuesday Book Study 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. Our discussion begins November 23 at 10:30 a.m. in person or on Zoom:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87130437154>.

Seeker's Circle

The next Seekers Circle meeting is Thursday, December 9, 2021. The session begins at 10:00 a.m. and concludes at 11:30 a.m. If you would like to meet in person, please let Diane know. If not, we will meet on Zoom. Contact Diane Metz (dmetz6@gmail.com) for more information and the Zoom link.

Sunday Education Hour – 11:00 a.m.

(Zoom and in person)

Here is what is coming in December!

December 5 – Christmas Card Making with Ann Hefner-Gravink in the Fireside Room.

December 12 – Advent Craft with Cindy deRosier (Zoom).



Christmas Eve Poinsettias

Help us celebrate the birth of the Christ child with lovely poinsettias this Christmas Eve!

Each 6" plant is \$12.00. Orders are due in the church office by Sunday, December 12. You may order one by emailing the office (office@stmarksfairfield.org) or by using the form emailed out on Friday, November 20, 2021.

Please include the following information:

- Your Name
- Your phone number
- How many plants you would like
- Who the plants are in memory/honor/celebration of (please specify).

If you plan to mail a check to the church office or pay online through our website.

You will be able to pick up your plant after our Christmas Eve service or during office hours beginning Tuesday, December 28.



Friends in Christ:

St. Mark's Council met in person on November 11, 2021.

1. The group made every effort to keep topics limited because of the deliberations and directions we needed to address regarding our high building maintenance costs and increasing safety requirements.

2. The Columbarium Handbook updates were given to the Council last month. They were approved, and the finished documents were sent to the Personnel Committee for final tweaking of the actual wording. The minor changes from Personnel were approved.
3. There was one guest present. Our contractor painter "Keith" was at the meeting to tell us how impressed he has been with all that St. Mark's does with the community. His time under contract has allowed him to view us in action, and he was, as he said it, "blown away" by our dedicated service to our community. He then suggested that the people of our community should be personally informed (perhaps by visiting teams of one adult member and a youth member) regarding our contributions to our neighborhood - and to also allow them to contribute toward those efforts. Keith then pledged \$30.00 per month and gave us his first check. I know the Council was unprepared and visibly moved by Keith's appearance.
4. Our treasurer gave her monthly review – economically, we are surviving but not moving into a Post-Pandemic re-birth with all the funds we need to accomplish all our survival AND outreach goals.
5. Again, with Pandemic still bending norms, it was decided that this year's Council will assume the role of Stewardship Committee and Marilyn Kilian stepped up to help lead us in that effort. By now, you should have heard June's Stewardship talk and received your pledge cards and additional information. Of course, we each must do what works best for us, but I

would be remiss if I didn't pass on the multiplicity of accolades from members who have availed themselves of on-line pledging and monthly payments. It is a process that is much easier on our accounting staff as well. (Just a thought 😊.)

6. Pastor addressed us with her report, and we discussed private personnel issues.
7. The Annual Meeting was set for January 30, 2022.
8. We were then at the point where we had to explore the massive bills we regularly incur for maintenance of the building(s). Although the initial discussion was animated, we quickly realized that the enormity of upcoming maintenance and safety items on Campus would NOT come from regular funding and that we MUST reinstate the Capital Campaign Committee.

We then started to explore more specific items when Pastor and June reported working on a grant for "property safety." A church down the street from us just received over \$100,000 for their property safety upgrades. It was then reported that the response to our request would require a report from members of the Fairfield Police Department. Of course, they are well aware and fully supportive of anything we can do to enhance campus safety. (Such as a 7- or 8-foot fence around the property, electric gates, more security cameras, etc.) While we had only a short time to submit the request, the good news would be that we would know their response by the end of December. It was a no-brainer at that point to table any more talk about specific projects until we knew if and how much we might be granted.

When discussions started, I resorted to a technique beaten into all Engineers. It is a sad truth that, no matter what the topic or who the participants are, almost 99% of all group problem-solving starts with a solution, and then efforts are made to warp that solution to the issues. A more efficient method is to ask the difficult question, "WHAT IS THE PROBLEM STATEMENT?" Of course, it is quite tempting to have said, "we have needs, and we need to find the money to

meet them." To my great joy, when I asked the "problem" question, the Council got it immediately, and commentaries were focused on "Who are we?" and "Where are we going?" as opposed to the ever-popular, "We need money."

Members agreed that St. Mark's is a FAMILY, and we all want to keep that family intact and help it grow wherever we can. To do that, we MUST make the Campus welcoming and safe for our members, students, visitors, and staff - and all functional space must be habitable. With those recognitions, we were then able to evaluate and prioritize where to go from here. As a result, the Capital Campaign is being re-constituted, and we are holding our corporate breath in hopes of winning that grant! **God is GOOD!**

God Bless
Michael



Meet our new Office Administrator

Hello, my name is Gregori Merriweather (she/her) and I am your new office administrator! My first name is pronounced like Gregory but please feel free to call me GiGi, all of my friends and loved ones do! I am thrilled to have joined the St. Mark's family, it has only been a couple of weeks so far and I am already feeling like I fit right in. To get to know me a little more, I would like to share some background information. I have previously worked for other local non-profits assisting with their administration needs, so I am familiar and comfortable with the duties this position calls for. I am 28 years old, I am a single mom with a very special 7 year old boy who also answers to Gregory! Together him and I enjoy almost all things outdoors, we love to hike and he is an avid bike rider. My days consist of work and family and I am very satisfied with that. I am excited to see myself grow within this family and hope to get to know each of you on an individual letter. Thank you for having me!

GiGi Merriweather



Planning for 2022

We want first to express heartfelt gratitude for everyone's consistent giving through all the changes and challenges of the past two years; and second, to ask everyone to begin prayerfully considering what they will be able to contribute in the coming year.

As we look to a new year, the Council is charged with preparing a spending plan (budget). To make that process more accurate, we need to have an idea of what our income might look like. Just like your household budget, data is important.

That said, we pray that you have prayerfully consider your financial support for St. Mark's in 2022. In mid-November you received a pledge card in the mail. We encourage you to complete that card along with the questionnaire and return them to St. Mark's at your earliest convenience. You can drop them in the mail or our office mail slot to the right of the main office entrance, email the Financial Secretary (Pamela Lyons (LorineCaldwell@aol.com), pledge online through our website, or drop them in the offering basket on Sunday. 2022 will be a great year and we look forward to our ministry together.

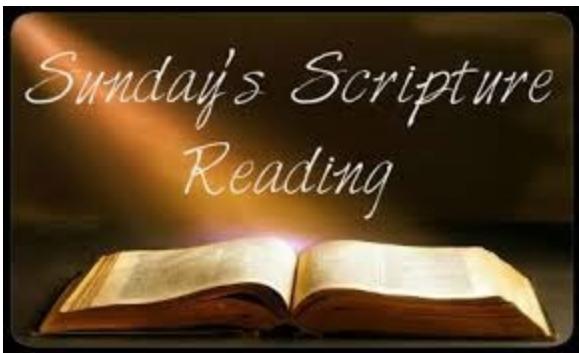


Your Hands
and Heart Are
Needed for
Worship!

We all know that many hands make light work. We need people to help keep the important ministries on the move.

- **Ushers** – arrive by 9:10 on Sunday morning and greet folks. Count the number of people in the worship center (including A/V tech, pastor, organist, children – everyone) and write that number of the attendance sheet in the hallway with a circle around it. At the end of the service take the offering into the sacristy, put it in an envelope with the date on it and put it into the safe. (Envelopes and pens are the drawer under the safe; to the left of the refrigerator). Contact Stu Reid (stuktu@yahoo.com)
- **Reader** – Read the first and second readings for the day and lead the Psalm (responsively with congregation). Readings are sent out early in the week before your Sunday and a large print copy will be on the reading stand. We are working on including our online community as readers. If you are interested in recording the readings for Sunday morning, please let us know. Contact Stu Reid (stuktu@yahoo.com)
- **A/V Techs** – We need three A/V techs each week – sound board, slides, and cameras. We are working on a training manual and training is available. Contact Stu Reid (stuktu@yahoo.com)
- **Altar Care** – Set up and clean up communion for Sunday worship (a binder and training are available). Check water in font and other tidying up duties for the month. Contact Toni McCallum (vacamccallums@gmail.com).
- **Counters Needed** – work with a partner to set up time and day that is convenient (preferably no later than Tuesday early morning). Take money our of safe and drawer, count, and deposit. (Training available). Contact Pamela Lyons (LorineCaldwell@aol.com) or Linda Frogget at lfrogghr@comcast.net. Training is available.





Weekly Scripture Readings for October

December 5 – Second Sunday in Advent

First Reading: Isaiah 40:1-11

Second Reading: 1 Peter 2:21-25

Gospel: John 10:11-18

December 12 – Third Sunday in Advent

First Reading: Isaiah 11:1-10

Second Reading: Colossians 2:6-10

Gospel: John 15:1-5

December 19 – Fourth Sunday in Advent

First Reading: Isaiah 2:1-5

Second Reading: Ephesians 4:1-6

Gospel: John 14:1-6

December 26 – Lessons and Carols

ANNUAL MEETING

Sunday, January 30, 2022

We will have our Annual Meeting immediately following worship on January 30, 2022.

We will vote on the adoption of a budget for 2022 budget and elect leaders. Mark your calendars now to join us.

All committee and task force leaders are asked to submit an annual report to the church office (office@stmarksfairfield.org) no later than January 15.

Our Youth Group meets on Wednesday evenings at 6:30 p.m. for fun, fellowship, bible lessons and more.

We look forward to meeting some of the members of our Youth Group on Sunday, October 31 when they will host our fellowship time. Plan to join us!



Dear St. Mark's Family,

The youth ministry at St. Mark's welcomes 15 new youth this year and we are so grateful to have them join us. We want these young people to know that they have a place where they are welcomed and loved. We do this by creating a space where they can be themselves at St. Mark's. Much of the work that we do with the youth is made possible from support of the wider church family.

Donations to the Winter Youth Retreat go towards doing what we are here to do: helping young people uncover how much God loves them, and particularly help those for whom the cost may be prohibitive. Thank you for your prayerful consideration as we invest in the next generation.

If you would like to support the Youth Ministry, please consider the following:

\$95 - Sponsor 1 youth
\$190 - Sponsor 2 youths
\$285 - Sponsor 3 youths

The cost goes directly towards transportation, lodging, meals & sledding.

Sincerely,
Sharon



The Manna Food Pantry Christmas Food Box giveaway. Again, this year we plan to give away 150 boxes of food to our neighbors. Please bring non-perishable food items, 2022 calendars and Christmas cards by December 10. If you are able to help pack boxes on Saturday, December 11, please contact Janelle Jolley (jolley@pacbell.net). Distribution will be on Monday, December 13 from 3:30 – 5:30 p.m. If you can help contact Janelle.



Every month, our Synod partners with a different nonprofit organization that embodies the spirit of Christ and cares for community members in diverse ways. Below you'll find a list of our current mission partners and when we encourage you to support them.

This month we are encouraged to consider donating to Lutheran Campus Ministries. They work to bring good news and support to students and their families on our college campuses. Check

[Stanford University](#)
[University of California, Berkeley](#)
[California State University, Monterey](#)
[California State University, Fresno](#)
[University of California, Davis](#)
[University of California, Santa Cruz](#)

Donate here:

https://www.paypal.com/donate/?hosted_button_id=CFFP9AN3VBM9S&source=url



Nonprofit
Security Grant
Program

The State of California offers grants to nonprofit organizations to help improve the security of their property and people. The Council has applied for a grant to help increase security on our campus in the form of new fencing, gates, and more. Now, we need your prayers! The property updates are expensive and needed. Please pray with us that we are selected for a 2022 grant. We will know in mid to late December if we receive the grant.



Lutheran Social Services of Northern California (LSS), your social ministry partner, invites your parish to make the December holiday season brighter for **4,000 formerly homeless and at risk children, parents, grandparents,**

great-grandparents, teenagers and other vulnerable adults **in your Northern California community.**

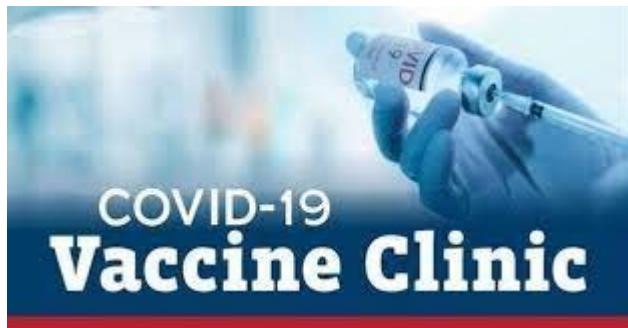
The holiday season can be particularly challenging for many in your community who lack the resources to participate in all the celebrations. But you can bring your vulnerable neighbors holiday cheer by joining LSS in our **Holiday Gift Drive.** While several congregations are already participating (Thank you!), the need is great.

There are multiple opportunities to participate, including;

- Adopt one of our supportive housing programs (30-60 people)
- Order from our [Amazon](#) and [Target](#) participant Wish Lists
- Make a [cash donation](#) for LSS to do the shopping for you
- Send a check (to Holiday Gift Drive, Lutheran Social Services of Northern California, 1465 Civic Ct, Ste 810, Concord, CA 94520) for LSS to do the shopping for you

Check out our [webpage](#) or contact Rachel Flores at RFlores@lssnorcal.org for more information.

Thank you in advance for your care and attention to your vulnerable neighbors.



Solano County Public Health hosts mass vaccination clinics for COVID-19 shots, including boosters

Starting October 13 at the Solano County Fairgrounds in Vallejo. Pfizer boosters are available for people 65, in long-term care facilities or included in the CDC definition of special medical conditions. Clinics are open Wednesday – Saturday from 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. The clinics will continue into the middle of December (closed Nov. 3 -6 and Nov. 24-27). Register to get a booster or your first/second dose at <https://vax.phast-vax-ca.org/en-US/>. Those requiring registration assistance, call (800) 672-0150. We hope to add Moderna and Johnson & Johnson (J&J/Janssen) for first/second dose vaccination soon.



The Rotary Club Donation

On December 15 the Twilight Rotary Club will host an event at which they will honor St. Mark's Food pantry with a donation from their September 25th Lobster Feed. We are more than grateful to the Rotary Club for selecting the Manna Food Pantry as a recipient of this year's event.

We remember with thanksgiving...

Nina Louise Pfeifer

November 18, 1955 – November 6, 2021

Just a few memories people have shared:

Nina was a “permanent” usher while she was physically able. She greeted people at the door of worship every Sunday that she could. She was outgoing and loved her St. Mark’s family.

As Nina’s health declined, it was the members of St. Mark’s that visited her on a regular basis, snuck in a few York Peppermint patties on occasion and brought communion, companionship, and support to her whenever possible.

In her final hours Nina wanted everyone to know just how much St. Mark’s meant to her and it was her desire to be interred in our columbarium surrounded by her St. Mark’s family.

Rev. Robert Anderson

May 8, 1927 – June 30, 2021



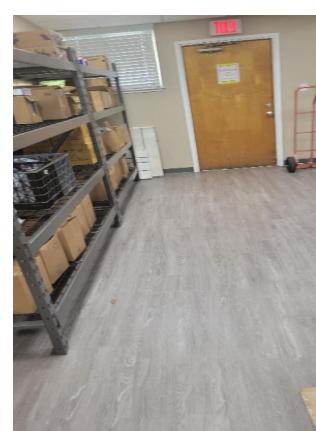
Bob was a long-time member of St. Mark's, although no longer an active member, he is remembered with fondness/Bob was active with the Preschool Ministries, Lutheran Men in Mission, Worship and Music and all-around AMAZING servant at St. Mark's. We were pleased to have him and wife Ethel in our midst.

Letters of condolence may be sent to his children in care of his daughter Erica Gregory, 7 Wilkins Ct. Tiburon, CA 94920



The Manna Food Pantry

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!



A great big thank you goes out to Telstar who made a donation to cover the cost of new flooring in the pantry storage room and the hallway outside the offices. We can't thank you enough!



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.
December 1 & 15

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

What's Happening at St. Mark's

December 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)

Tuesday

- 9:15 a.m. Preschool Chapel (Preschool Bldg)
10:30 a.m. Book Conversation w/ Pastor (not on December 28)
3:30 p.m. Manna Food Pantry Distribution

Wednesday

- 9:15 a.m. Preschool Chapel (Preschool Bldg)
9:30 a.m. Solano Food Bank Program (Food Pantry 1st, 2nd 3rd Wednesday)
1:00 p.m. Al-Anon (Digerud Room)
6:30 p.m. Youth Group (Live) (Youth Room)
7:00 p.m. Advent Worship (Zoom)
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84292492712>

Friday

- 7:00 p.m. Ebenezer Mission

Additional Events

- December 2 9:30 a.m. Preschool Board Meeting
December 7 5:30 p.m. Worship & Music Committee (Zoom)
December 8 7:00 p.m. Solano Symphony Board
December 9 10:00 a.m. Seeker's Circle (Zoom)
5:30 p.m. Council (Digerud)
December 11 9:00 a.m. Christmas Box packing (Community Center)
December 13 3:30 p.m. Christmas Food Box distribution
December 19 4:00 p.m. Blue Christmas Service (Worship Center)
Preschool Closed – December 20 – January 2
December 24 7:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Candlelight Service
Pastor Karen on vacation from December 25 – January 4.

You may also see the calendar of events on our web site (stmarksfairfield.org) for the latest information.

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

Rev. Karen Stetins, Senior Pastor
Sharon Munoz, Director of Youth and Children's Ministries
Gregori (GiGi) Merriweather, 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