



## July 2019 Newsletter



### Summer Reflection Luke 21:29-36

Summer time often brings a hustle and bustle to our daily lives that just is not present the rest of the year. Even though the days are longer sometimes it feels like we just don't have enough time to catch our breath let alone reflect on our relationship with Christ. This time of year reminds me of The Lesson of the Fig Tree:

<sup>29</sup> Then he told them a parable: "Look at the fig tree and all the trees; <sup>30</sup> as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already near. <sup>31</sup> So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. <sup>32</sup> Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all things have taken place. <sup>33</sup> Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

<sup>34</sup> "Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life, and that day does not catch you unexpectedly, <sup>35</sup> like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth. <sup>36</sup> Be alert at all times, praying that you may have the strength to escape all these things that will take place, and to stand before the Son of Man."

Don't let summer wrap you up some much that you lose yourself in all the hustle and bustle of daily life. Take a moment to enjoy the beauty of summer and the reflection of God's glory that we find in our day to day. Don't wait until the harvest to remember God. Take this wonderful time of year to reflect on your relationship with Christ and let the warmth of summer remind you of God's loving embrace.

Yours in Christ,  
*Ron Armenta, Director  
Youth and Children's Ministries*



We are praying for...

**Our members:**

Kedrin Armenta, Pat Broschard, V- Anne Chernock, Bev Duncan, Judith Eckhart, Bob Evans, Linda Frogget, Lynn Hallahan, Sarajane Hakenen, Jim Hanser and family, Karen Mullin, Bette Noll, Josephine Lord-Traughber.

**Our homebound:**

Sylvia Buringrud, Anita East, Alice Freeman, Margaret Heins, Lillian Manning, Nina Pfiefer, Roger & Shirley Quinn, Doris Sams, Etta Sivertsen, Norm Skoglund, Doris Trean.

**Those who are mourning:**

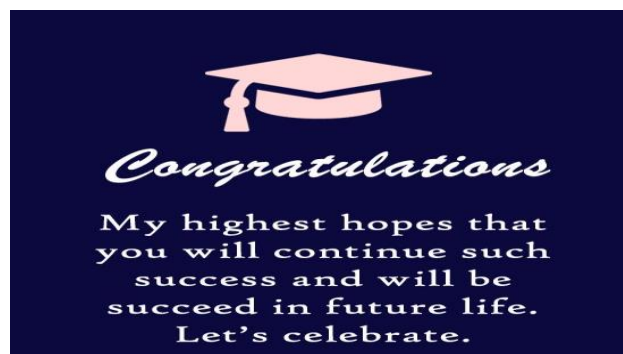
The Williams family

**Our friends and loved ones:**

Royce Cartwright, Karen Digman, Rhonda Francis, Tori Francis, John Grady, Jackie Gregory, Paul Grundmann, Brian Hanson, Robert Johnson, Tim Lingel, Clancy Long-Sheek, Dave Smith, Gabbie & Gary Ludwig, Jack McPike, Jonathan Quinn, Maudie Syhlman, Shelly, Mary Vigliezone, Dom Villegas, Robert Williamson and family, Tom Wood.

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

*If you asked us to put a friend on the list, please update the church office as soon as possible. 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](mailto:office@stmarksfairfield.org).*



## Congratulations Graduate!

We celebrate Molly Bowers! Molly graduated from Armijo High School on June 6. Molly plans to attend Solano Community College in the fall.



## July 4<sup>th</sup> Parade & BBQ

This year we are participating in the 4<sup>th</sup> of July parade in downtown Fairfield, we are looking for volunteers to ride on the float and others to walk along side to hand out post cards (with jelly bean packets attached) that invite the community to our BBQ at the church after the parade.

We are hosting a community BBQ that will include food, games for kids and adults and music from 12:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. at our campus in the grass and courtyard. We are also looking for volunteers that would be willing to man (or women) the BBQ, serve food, drinks and help out with the games. We will have sign-up sheets available in the Worship Center.

Come have a fun day with our St. Marks' family and our community.

# You're Invited

Everyone is invited for an informal barbeque at the home of Les and June Johnsen on Saturday, July 13 at 3:00 p.m. We will gather for fellowship and good food. You are invited to bring a dish to share. The pool will be open so bring your suits and towels! Please RSVP to June Johnsen (jjohnsen@telstarinc.com) if you can join us.



Our 2019 Directory is here!

We have extra directories. If you would like one please sign the form in the narthex.



## Why we do what we do...

In the most recent issue of *Living Lutheran* there was a great article about Lutheran Worship – why we do it, what it all means. Even some life-long Lutherans may not know the “whys” and “hows.” Please check out this great article at <https://www.livinglutheran.org/2019/06/worship-101/>

## Please Note

### Tuesday Morning Bible Study

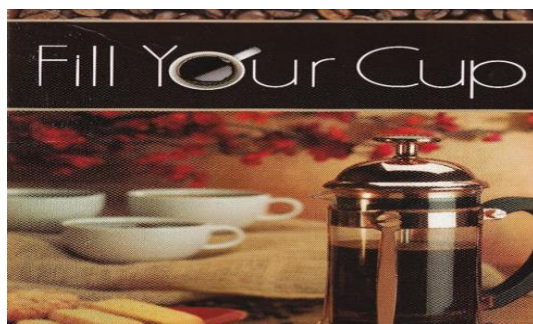
Bible Study will resume in September. Watch the bulletins and newsletter for dates and topics.



Welcome Michael Chernock!

On Sunday, July 21 Michael Chernock will share the Morning Message at both services while Pastor Karen is on the Mexico Mission Trip. Michael has been working hard to share the Good News with our members and friends. Please join us for worship.





## Retreat coming in August

**Saturday, August 10**

**9:30 a.m. to 12:00 noon**

This retreat will include a short bible study to fill our souls with new inspiration and offer a time of fellowship and creativity. We will start with refreshments at 9:30. We will also complete a service project.

**Come and invite your friends!**

A light lunch will also be available before we begin our second Paint and Sip event that begins at 1:00 p.m. (see details below).



Once again, we will have Judy Butler of Craft Waves come and teach us to paint a beautiful canvas to talk home.

Cost: \$20 (make checks payable to Diane Metz)

Register with Diane at [dlmetz6@gmail.com](mailto:dlmetz6@gmail.com) or call 707-208-7228.



## SAVE THE DATE

Saturday, August 24, 2019

Congregational Care Ministry

Presents

Exploring Disability Culture ~

Why "Little Things Mean A Lot."

A discussion will be presented by Michael Januse, Advocate and Program Specialist IV, California Department of Developmental Services. Michael's career has focused on advocacy and policy development related to disability issues as well as Health Care policy with a specialty in cross cultural communication and cultural competency. This event will be held at Ascension Lutheran, 7607 Garden Gate Dr, Citrus Heights, CA. Lunch will be provided so we ask that people sign up using our google doc <https://forms.gle/bWBrbZgTWcHvrkYq9> by August 15. There is no cost for this event. For more information please contact Katie Smith at [katies@luthchurch.org](mailto:katies@luthchurch.org)



## Adult Forum

### Starting July 7

**RE: FORM – St. Mark's Lutheran Church - Bible Class**  
**July 2019 – Sundays at 11:15 a.m. Digerud Room**

#### **WHAT'S IT ALL ABOUT?**

It has likely been a while since most of us were confirmed or attended Adult Confirmation classes. Just think back on how much change has happened in our lives since that important life-passage. World events have put significant pressures on our views of life not to mention the massive social and scientific changes we have encountered. Certainly it goes without saying that all these outside pressures weigh (or should weigh) heavily on our faith life and need to be revisited now and then. With this in mind, St Mark's Education Committee would like to provide an opportunity for us all to take a deep breath and *Re-Look* at our own Confirmation lessons through the eyes and more matured understandings we have achieved as adults. The course will utilize a curriculum developed by the Sparkhouse Publishing Company. (The same group that gave us the Sparkhouse Bible.) The class will be taught by Michael Chernock but the topics will be selected and prioritized by the class itself. The potential topics are attached and "yes," when you see them you will likely agree with us that they would hardly qualify as "passive, Pabulum issues." On the other hand, where better to fully explore these provocative basic tenets of our Christian faith than in the non-judgmental and truly open and supportive environment of a Christian Adult Sunday Class?

#### **The Teacher:**

Michael Chernock is a recent transplant from Marin and has been a member of St. Marks for less than a

year. He very recently moved here with his wife V-Anne following a 36 year active membership at All Saints Lutheran in Novato, CA.

The genesis for this class derived from a recent experience where Michael was using these same RE:Form materials to teach All Saints' Confirmation students. One week into the 2½ year class, the parents of those same students came to Mike and their Pastor and asked if it would be possible to create an adult course utilizing the same materials *and* with the same timetable as their children. Of course, the answer was obviously a "YES" and within weeks, course attendance included many more parishioners than the parents. The course then continued for the duration of the Confirmation class.

We invite all members to come and check out the course which will be held during the Sunday Adult Education hour starting on July 7<sup>th</sup>.

#### **UNITS AND TOPICS**

##### **Unit 1 – BIBLE**

1. Who wrote the Bible – God or Humans?
2. Is the Bible true?
3. Why does the Bible contradict itself at times?
4. Is the New Testament more important than the Old Testament?
5. Why are there so many versions of the Bible?

##### **Unit 2 – CREED**

1. Can it be proven that God exists?
2. Is God male?
3. How can God be "three in one?"
4. Does God still create stuff today?
5. Why did Jesus go to Hell?
6. Is the Holy Spirit a person or wind or fire or what?
7. Why do we say we believe in "the Holy Catholic Church" if we're not Catholic?
8. Do cremated people go to heaven?

##### **Unit 3 – DISCIPLESHIP**

1. Why should I follow Jesus; can't I just say I believe in him?
2. Why should I pray when God doesn't answer all my prayers?

3. Why should I pray the Lord's Prayer when it feels like I'm just going through the motions?
4. Can someone lose their salvation?
5. Can I be a Christian without going to church?

#### **Unit 4 – JESUS**

1. Was Jesus of Nazareth God?
2. Did Jesus know he was God?
3. If Jesus was God why did he have to die?
4. Why did Jesus get baptized?
5. Is believing in Jesus really the only way to get to heaven?

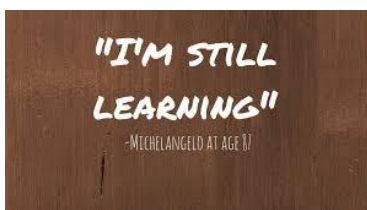
#### **Unit 5 – OTHER BELIEFS**

1. If there is only one God, why are there so many different religions?
2. Why do Christians believe Christianity is the best religion?
3. Why are there so many different Christian churches?

#### **Unit 6 – TOUGH QUESTIONS**

1. Is it a sin to think about sex?
2. How do I stop doing things I know I shouldn't?
3. Is divorce a sin?
4. What does it mean to be "born again?"
5. What if my friends aren't Christian?
6. Is it okay to be angry at God?
7. Did God create the devil?
8. Can you accept the theory of evolution and still be a Christian?
9. Why does God let bad things happen?
10. Can I do something bad enough to make God stop loving me?
11. Does Revelation really describe how the world will end?
12. What does God think about war?

Mark your calendar now to join Michael and others in this great exploration of faith.



## **Celebration of Life Preplanning**

One of the best gifts we can give our loved ones is to plan ahead. You can plan your Celebration of Life worship service. In the narthex you will find a planning guide and form to complete. You may keep it on file at home for your loved ones and bring a copy to the church office for our files. Pastor Karen would be happy to meet with you and discuss your plans. Packets will be mailed upon request.

## **COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS**

### **Church Council Highlights June 13, 2019**

- Council approved the St. Mark's Preschool Budget as presented by the Preschool Board.
- Reviewed suggested changes to our website.
- Agreed to work with the Youth Group to plant trees in our community to celebrate "God's Work. Our Hands." Day in September.
- Approved a letter to go out with giving statements.
- Approved WELCA women's retreat date of August 10, 2019
- Review Operations Manual Chapter 5.
- Reviewed details for upcoming 4<sup>th</sup> of July parade and BBQ.



The last Sunday of June, July, and August we will begin our time of worship together at 9:30 with a hymn sing. Join us for some of the favorites you chose.



## Seekers Circle

Thursday, July 11<sup>th</sup> is the next meeting 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. -- Digerud Room (second Thursday of the month).

9:30 a.m. – Fellowship, Prayer, Business Meeting, and Bible Study. Diane Metz will lead the discussion on “For Just Such a Time as This: Helping our Voice Bloom.”

Talk to Linda Lindauer or Diane Metz or email Diane at [DLMetz6@gmail.com](mailto:DLMetz6@gmail.com).



Once again this year, St. Mark's will be a site for the Healthy Eating Summer Meal Program for those 18 and under. We will hand out lunches from 11:00 – 11:30 Monday-Thursday, June 10 through August 15.

Our thanks to all the volunteers who are making this possible!

Want to volunteer? Please be in touch with Ruth Sweatt. We could use substitutes for occasional help, too. It takes only about 45 minutes out of your day and kids in our community are fed nutritious meals.



We wish you a Happy Birthday!!!

07/05 Hallahan, Lynn

07/06 Kruse, Pat

07/07 McKillips, Patricia

07/09 Esparza, Wayne

07/16 Thoma, Jeffrey

07/16 Wright, George

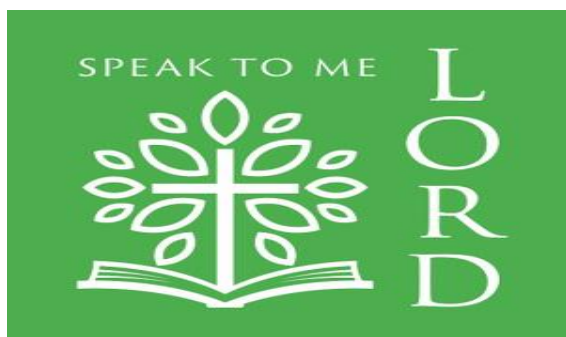
07/17 Matthews, Sky

07/29 Perkins, Karen

07/31 Lipke, Beverly







## Upcoming Scripture readings

### **July 7** – Lectionary 14 (Pent 4)

Isaiah 66:10-14

Psalm 66:1-9

Galatians 6:[1-6] 7-16

Luke 10:1-11, 16-20

### **July 14** – Lectionary 15 (Pent 5)

Deuteronomy 30:9-14

Psalm 25:1-10

Colossians 1:1-14

Luke 10:25-37

### **July 21** – Lectionary 16 (Pent 6)

Genesis 18:1-10a

Psalm 15

Colossians 1:15-28

Luke 10:38-42

### **July 28** – Lectionary 17 (Pent 7)

Genesis 18:20-32

Psalm 138

Colossians 2:6-15 [16-19]

Luke 11:1-13

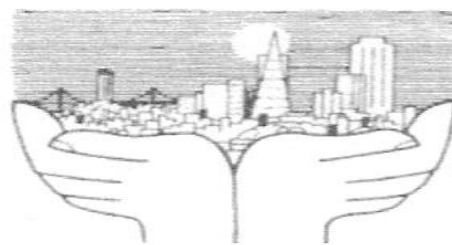
### **August 4** – Lectionary 18 (Pent 8)

Ecclesiastes 1:2, 12-14; 2:18-23

Psalm 49:1-12

Colossians 3:1-11

Luke 12:13-21



## July Second Mile Giving

The Sierra Pacific Second Mile Giving recipient for July is San Francisco Night Ministry. San Francisco Night Ministry, is often referred to as the Church's "Night Shift." We are engaged in over 30,000 significant conversations, and serve over 10,500 meals each year, becoming an important bridge and steady support for many people as they face the darkness of the night, but not alone. We provide compassionate, non-judgmental pastoral care, care of the soul, counseling, referrals, and crisis intervention to anyone in any kind of distress, every night of the year between the hours of 10:00 p.m. and 4:00 a.m. Please keep the Night Ministry 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.



You can support St. Mark's Lutheran Church every time you order from Amazon! Sign up for Amazon Smile at <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/94-2635284>. Let them know that you want .05% 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!





## We appreciate you

- We can't thank our Summer Lunch program volunteers for coming out each Monday – Thursday this summer to help assure that children in our neighborhood have a healthy meal. Thanks to Ruth Sweat for coordinating and to Stu Reid, Marilyn Kilian, Kathy Doty, Dave McCallum, Josephine Traugher, and Janelle Jolley.
- What a great time we had at our Pentecost picnic! Our thanks to Stu Reid and Ruth Sweatt for coordinating the event and to everyone who helped set-up, clean-up, brought food to share or just came for the fellowship. It was a hot day, but the shade and wind helped us stay cool enough for a great time.



## Save the Date

### Back-to-School Resource Fair

Saturday, August 24, 2019

10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

This is an annual event held at St. Mark's to support the students in our neighborhood in getting a good start on the new school year.

We are looking for donations of new backpacks (not blue or red) and lots and lots of school supplies – pencils, pens, paper, spiral notebooks, rulers, scissors, etc. Donations can be dropped off in the narthex or the church office.

In cooperation with the Fairfield Unified School District and many other organizations and agencies in the community, we give away an average of 1,500 backpacks each year! That is amazing.

It is a great experience. We are in need of volunteers for set-up, clean-up, directing traffic, and providing information. Please watch for a sign-up sheet in the narthex soon. In the meantime, watch for those great sales on school supplies and help us stock up!



## Partners in Ministry

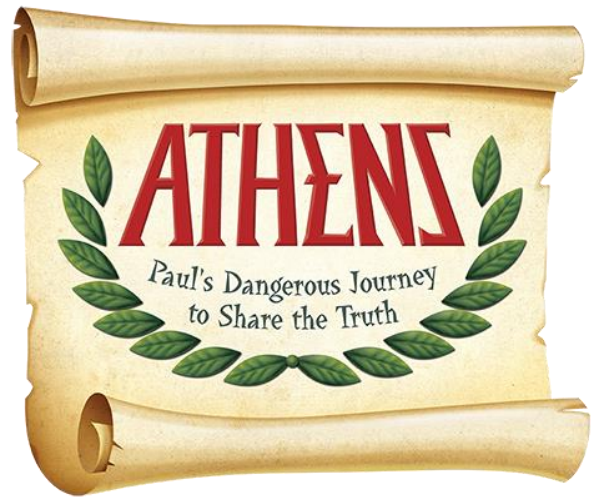
This year our youth, in an effort to become better stewards of God's creation, are partnering up with the community to plant trees and invite the entire congregation to join them in this endeavor. More information to follow as we finalize coordination and planning of this year's God's Work Our Hands event! #DoSomething

With another VBC in the books our focus in youth ministries turns to our annual mission trip to Mexico. We will depart on Saturday July 20th and return on Saturday July 27th.



Our next Mexico Meeting is [July 10<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 p.m.](#) and is a mandatory event for all participants and volunteer staff. Please bring any outstanding paperwork, trip fees and your passport to this meeting.

[July 10, 2019](#) is absolutely the last day participants can turn in their 2019 Mexico Mission Packets. We will be unable to accept any additional participants for this year's mission trip after that date.



## VBC Helpers

My wonderful partners in ministry,

This year we had another successful Vacation Bible Camp with 76 children in attendance! We could not have done it without the support of over 40 volunteers. From the behind the scenes folks to VBC station leaders and from the kitchen staff to the camp counselors; our congregation really stepped up once again giving the children of our community a safe, fun and welcoming environment to learn about God's love and the gospel of Jesus Christ! This year's VBC was bittersweet for me as it closes another chapter in my ministry work here at St. Marks but to see my church family pull together to keep this outreach ministry thriving fill my heart with joy! Thank you so much for all your support, prayers and hard work.

Yours in Christ,

Ron Armenta



## Manna Food Pantry

Manna Food Pantry is a ministry of St. Mark's Lutheran Church and Preschool. We exist to serve the needs of people in our community. There are no requirements for receiving food. All are welcome!

The Pantry is in need of paper bags and canned fruit, please feel free to drop off bags during office hours Monday-Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.



## Holy Family Old Catholic Church Food Pantry

Every 2nd Saturday  
9:30 a.m. -10:30 a.m.

(distributed from the Manna Food  
Pantry at St. Mark's)



Phone (925) 771-1303 or (707) 421-9777 x 205

St. Mark's is pleased to host the Contra Costa & Solano County Food Bank on our campus. Food is distributed from the Manna Food Pantry door on our campus. Here are more details:

## Fairfield Senior Food Program Distribution Schedule for 2019 at St. Mark's, Fairfield

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

June 5 and 19  
July 3 and 17  
August 7 and 21  
September 4 and 18  
October 2 and 16

## Food Assistance Program

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



# St. Mark's Lutheran Church ~ July 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
9:45am - Worship @ 11am - Pentecost COGIC @ 11:45am - Worship @	11am - Summer Lunch 11am - Summer Lunch 11am - Summer Lunch	11am - Summer Lunch 3:30pm - Manna Food 7pm - Choir Practice @	9:30am - Solano County 10am - Staff Meeting @ 11am - Summer Lunch 11:30am - Al-Anon @ 5pm - Mexico Mission 6:30pm - Bible Study @ 6:30pm - Youth Group @	Church Office Closed 10am - 4th of July Parade 11am - No Lunch today- 12pm - 4th of July BBQ 7pm - Music Team		5pm - Holy Family Worship
9:45am - Worship @ 11am - Pentecost COGIC @ 11:45am - Worship @	11am - Summer Lunch 11am - Summer Lunch 11am - Summer Lunch	11am - Summer Lunch 3:30pm - Manna Food 7pm - Choir Practice @	9:30am - Solano County 10am - Staff Meeting @ 11am - Summer Lunch 11:30am - Al-Anon @ 5pm - Mexico Mission 6:30pm - Bible Study @ 6:30pm - Youth Group @	9:30am - Seeker's Circle @ 11am - Summer Lunch 11:30am - Council Meeting @ 5pm - Music Team		9am - Holy Family Food 5pm - Holy Family Worship
9:45am - Worship @ 11am - Pentecost COGIC @ 11:45am - Worship @	11am - Summer Lunch 11am - Summer Lunch 11am - Summer Lunch	11am - Summer Lunch 3:30pm - Manna Food 7pm - Choir Practice @	9:30am - Solano County 10am - Staff Meeting @ 11am - Summer Lunch 11:30am - Al-Anon @ 5pm - Mexico Mission 6:30pm - Bible Study @ 6:30pm - Youth Group @	11am - Summer Lunch 7pm - Music Team	6pm - Mexico Mission (Load)	Mexico Mission 5pm - Holy Family Worship
9:45am - Worship @ 11am - Pentecost COGIC @ 11:45am - Worship @	11am - Summer Lunch 11am - Summer Lunch 11am - Summer Lunch	11am - Summer Lunch 3:30pm - Manna Food 7pm - Choir Practice @	10:30am - SPC Interim 11am - Summer Lunch 11:30am - Al-Anon @ 6:30pm - Bible Study @ 6:30pm - Boy Scout 6:30pm - Youth Group @	11am - Summer Lunch 7pm - Music Team		10am - Alicia Henderson @ 5pm - Holy Family Worship
9:45am - Worship @ 11am - Pentecost COGIC @ 11:45am - Worship @	11am - Summer Lunch 11am - Summer Lunch 11am - Summer Lunch	11am - Summer Lunch 3:30pm - Manna Food 7pm - Choir Practice @	11am - Summer Lunch 11:30am - Al-Anon @ 5pm - Mexico Equipment 6:30pm - Bible Study @	11am - Summer Lunch 1:30pm - Care & Kindness 7pm - Music Team		5pm - Holy Family Worship



Join us for worship...  
Sundays  
9:45 a.m. Traditional Service with Children's Church  
10:45 a.m. Fellowship  
11:15 Adult Education Hour  
11:45 a.m. Contemporary Service



### 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.

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## St. Mark's Lutheran Church



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America  
God's work. Our hands.

1600 Union Avenue, Fairfield, CA 94533

707-422-4741

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

### Rev. Karen Stetins, Senior Pastor

Ron Armenta, Director of Youth and Children's Ministries

Semyon Lohss, Accompanist, Choral Director

Alicia Henderson, Office Administrator

Lucille Bowers, Preschool Director

Michelle Aas, SMLC's bookkeeper

### Council Members

Janelle Jolley (President), Dan DiSano (Vice President), Jeff Thoma (Secretary),  
Nancy Huston (Finance Chair), Dave McCallum & Ruth Sweatt (Members at Large),  
Linda Frogget (Financial Secretary), Lew Broschard (Treasurer)