



#### Friends in Christ:

Over 100 days in quarantine and still counting! That notwithstanding, we are continually being blessed by our Lord. For example, the Fairfield Community Services Foundation has continued to shower us with an incredible amount of food for our food pantry. When we mentioned that our facilities for keeping that food were challenged, they then bought us a \$3,000 energy efficient refrigerator to better handle our bounty! Who does that? Well, God, of course. But I still thanked the Foundation (*and June Johnsen*) from all of us for being God's arm this time. We also approved the little free library even though we may not be able to put books into it until "post-pandemic." And finally, as you must know, we are opening the church on June 28, 2020. Be assured that you are **welcome but not required** to attend until such time as YOU feel comfortable to do so. We are being safe, AND we are also continuing the streaming services (*with new equipment donated by Parishioners who are also God's arms and hands here at St. Mark's*). We will closely monitor all aspects of opening and a special shout out to the Worship and Music Committee for their prayerful decisions as well as physical efforts to bring all issues up to State and County standards.

Our final topic is a resurgence in concern by our family for social issues - specifically, our Nation's social unrest. Here's where it gets PERSONAL, and I only risk exposing myself on these issues, not because I want you to think as I do. Rather, it is to let you know how serious this is for me (us) and to encourage you all to look inside yourself for answers to "how to move forward as a dynamic and loving, Christian congregation.

Confession 1: I was pretty cocky that I am above all this. After all, I spent 20+ years ministering bi-weekly to San Quentin prisoners, the majority of whom were black, and many of whom I counted among my better friends. I talked at great length about these issues with people who were daily living these issues in their rawest format. I also have dozens of close black friends on the outside as well – so clearly, I've got a handle on this! Bottom line: I WAS WRONG! WHAT HAS TRANSPIRED RECENTLY MAKES ME CONCLUDE THAT I HAVE **NO IDEA** WHAT THEY HAVE ENDURED NOR HOW TO SOLVE IT.

Confession 2: I now have a black, adopted grandson. He was unwanted by his drug-addicted mother – especially when he was born blind with Cerebral Palsy and a stomach tube for feeding. Recently, my Minneapolis, minister-daughter (his legally adopted mother) declared on Facebook that she was heartbroken to admit that she is almost happy that James is blind. That's because she will never be told that he was run down and shot in the street. That broke Grandpa's heart as well.

Now, **NO FEELING BAD HERE!** The black people I mentioned are still friends, and they still love me! (I actually contacted a number of them to be sure.) Grandson James is seemingly unaware that he is legally blind and crippled and he has already been fitted for short-distance reading glasses as well as a special walker (after they noted that he was alternately kicking both legs.) He also sits up on his own, sings songs (in tune) and says "offda" like any true Minnesotan (Yah, the latter was Grandpa's contribution.)

So what, then, is the point? I think it is just this. For me, (and JUST ME) when the unrest started, I immediately leaned on the Engineer part of me and instantly knee-jerked into solutions. "Increased involvement with Black and Hispanic churches." "Scholarships for underprivileged in our Youth Group." All good ideas, no? NO!!! At least, NOT YET. The problem is that I was practicing my dim understanding of the Golden Rule and forgot that it needs a little tweaking. DO UNTO OTHERS AS YOU WOULD HAVE THEM DO UNTO YOU – really means: DO UNTO OTHERS AS **THEY** WOULD HAVE YOU DO UNTO **THEM**. The focus is "THEM!"

So how do I do that?

As I floated about aimlessly, there came another 3:00 am conversation, and God reminded me to check out what the Dalai Lama once said: **“When you talk, you are only repeating what you already know. But if you listen, you may learn something new.”**

For me, *and only me*, I think I need to take some serious time to listen before acting. I’m not yet totally sure what “action” looks like, but I’m committed to making every effort to search that out. Having said that, I want to make it very clear that I fully support any immediate congregational efforts toward Action and Social Responsibility. But for me, I think I need to spend serious time **ACTIVELY** Listening! I’m guessing that Pandemic time might be a perfect time for that!

More to come about this and LGBTQ issues – (and I certainly do mean: “More to Come.”)

God Bless us to become blessings to others.

Michael



## We are praying for...

### Our members:

Cindy Ardorchek, Kedrin Armenta, Lew Broschard, Judith Eckhart, Lynn Hallahan, Sarajane Hakenen, Jim Hanser and family, Pamela Lyons, Karen Mullin, Cheryl Rasmussen, and Josephine Lord-Traugher.

### Our homebound:

Sylvia Buringrud, Bev Duncan, Anita East, Bob Evans, Alice Freeman, Margaret Heins, Barbara Patterson, Pat McKillips, Nina Pfiefer, Roger & Shirley Quinn and Norm Skoglund.

### Our friends and loved ones:

Erik Andrin, Jerry Aperans, Victoria and Ron Armenta Sr., Gul Banoo, Adrian Butler, Karen Digman, Marianne Falkner, Rhonda Francis, Tori Francis, Brian Hanson, Pam Houghton, Danielle Neuner, Wayne Poulsen, John Scarrott, Florence Stuart, John Syhlman, Erica Toste, Ron Vang, Mary Vigliezone, Robert Williamson and family.



We wish you a Happy Birthday!!!

*07/07 Patricia McKillips  
7/09 Wayne Esparza  
07/16 Jeffrey Thoma  
07/26 Mario Schwarzbach  
07/29 Karen Perkins*



*07/16 Pat & Stew Irwin  
07/24 Fay & Dan DiSano*



Thank You Fairfield Community  
Resource Foundation!

In addition to last month's amazing supply of food, the Foundation has donated two new, high-efficiency refrigerators to the Manna Food Pantry. They have also committed more food support throughout the next year. We can't thank them enough for all the ways they are helping us feed our neighbors.



## Amazon Smile

Remember to 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 .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!



## New Live- Streaming Equipment

The team has also been working on getting the equipment we need to continue live-streaming our worship. We have had great feedback and participation in these service and plan to continue them. Special thanks to the people who donated the money necessary to purchase this equipment and to Mike Sweatt for all his research. He worked tirelessly to make sure we have good equipment at affordable prices. He is also the one setting up all the equipment. Please stop by and say "thanks" next time you have a chance.



## SMLC Golf Tournament

The golf tournament will be on Saturday, August 29, 2020. If anyone would like to sign up, Please feel free to email Sharon at [sharon@stmarksfairfield.org](mailto:sharon@stmarksfairfield.org), the last day to sign up is August 7.



## 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 707-929-4175:** 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](mailto: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.



## Worship & Music Updates Returning to in-person worship

The Worship & Music Committee have been busy preparing for the reopening of in-person worship. The list of details to assure everyone's safety was long and will probably change as times goes on. We are committed to your safety and the safety of everyone involved in leading worship.

For those who are ready to return to public worship, we will open on **Sunday, June 28, 2020 for the 9:45 a.m. service.** *We will continue to live-stream the service for those who prefer to stay home.*

Here is what the Worship & Music Committee is doing to keep you safe if you come to worship:

- ✘ Greeters will wear masks and gloves and help us all remember the new ways of being together.
- ✘ Hand sanitizer will be available in the narthex and worship center.
- ✘ We will close off every other pew to help maintain social distance.
- ✘ We will dismiss participants one row at a time to avoid congestion at the doorway.
- ✘ We will not have a coffee hour.
- ✘ Water fountains will be shut off and covered. Please feel free to bring your own water.
- ✘ We will place an offering basket on a pedestal by the front door to graciously receive your offerings.
- ✘ We will run ventilation continuously to keep the air in the sanctuary clean.
- ✘ The cleaning team will disinfect all the public places each week before worship.

## Worship & Music (Continue)

In order to protect each other, and especially the most vulnerable among us, we ask that each participant:

- ✘ Wear a mask at all times except when consuming the bread and wine. We have a limited number of disposable masks if you forget to bring one.
- ✘ Keep a 6-foot social distance from non-family members while entering, leaving and sitting in pews.
- ✘ Limit the number of people in restrooms to two at a time.
- ✘ Allow our song leader to sing the songs; we will sing them in our hearts but not out loud.
- ✘ Pass the peace with “air” hugs, high-fives, or the peace sign.



## Second mile giving ~ July 2020

What Does Night Ministry Provide? Night Ministry provides crisis intervention, counseling, referrals and pastoral care to anyone in any kind of distress, anxiety or difficulty from 10:00 pm to 4:00 am every night of the year. This is accomplished primarily through our Crisis Telephone Line (serving the entire Bay Area and beyond) and with Night Ministers who literally walk the streets of San Francisco. In addition, we sponsor two weekly outdoor worship services: Open Cathedral – Civic Center Every Sunday at 2:00 pm McAllister @ Leavenworth by U.N. Plaza Open Cathedral – Mission Every Thursday at 5:30 pm 16th & Mission BART station Each Open Cathedral is followed by a simple meal and time for private conversation, much like we offer each night. Our Community Gathering for Bible study and community building is held every Tuesday evening. A Wellness Program invites Registered Nurses and other health professionals to walk the streets with Night Ministry July 2020

Ministers and offer basic first aid, screenings, information, education and referrals. In addition, Night Ministry co-sponsors the Annual Interfaith Memorial for San Francisco's Homeless Dead each December. We have developed a Van Ministry to support our Open Cathedrals and other programs. We offer a Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE) Program for the training of seminarians and ordained clergy. Night Ministry is also involved in a number of collaborations and partnerships, including:

- SF CARES (with San Francisco Lutheran Congregations and Welcome) is a ministry of education, volunteering, advocacy and service for the elderly and the poor.
- Sacred Space – San Francisco (with St. Aidan's Episcopal Church and Metropolitan Community Church – San Francisco) for outreach and programs in the LGBTQIA communities of San Francisco.
- San Francisco Interfaith Council assisting with San Francisco's Winter Shelter.
- "The Church's Night Shift" on behalf of all congregations and religious organizations in the Bay Area and beyond.
- Internships and Field Work placements for students in area schools of theology, nursing, journalism, and social work.



## Council Highlights

The SMLC Council met on Thursday, July 11, 2020. Below you will find highlights of that meeting. The official, approved minutes will be available after they are approved at the July meeting.

- Ruth Sweatt led devotions based on the parable of the Good Samaritan.
- Visitors present: Pam Lyons, V-Anne Chernock, Joseph Lord-Traugher and Diane Metz



- The minutes of the May 14, 2020 meeting were approved.
- The break in of Saturday, June 6 was discussed. Nothing of consequence was stolen. Les Johnsen boarded up the nursery door and will arrange for new glass.
- The location of the new Little Free Library was discussed and approved by consensus.
- Financial report: offerings are on target; our thanks to Stew Irwin for helping Nancy Huston out during this busy time; it was noted the SQUARE (credit card processing account) has been transferred into Sharon's name for Youth Ministry events; also, a new credit card in Sharon's name has been ordered.
- Council supported the Preschool Board's request to reopen for two three-week sessions of summer school with a limited number of students and following all CDC and licensing board protocols.
- Worship Committee noted that we need to add live-streaming to our copyright license in order to continue this worship option. It was approved.
- We celebrated the most recent donation to the Manna Food Pantry by the Fairfield Community Resource Foundation.
- The Constitution and By-laws committee reported their progress and readiness to send to the Synod for pre-approval.
- After a long discussion about reopening SMLC for in-person worship, the council voted to reopen on Sunday, June 28, 2020 at 9:45 a.m. for those who are comfortable returning. The Contemporary Service will begin again at a later date.
- We discussed possible ways to show our support for "Black Lives Matter." A number of suggestions were discussed. More research needs to be done before a decision is made.



## Worship Time Survey

Our thanks to the 38 people who responded to our survey about the preferred times for worship. The survey is now closed and the Worship Team will discuss the results at their June 30 meeting and make a recommendation to council at their next meeting.



## Adult Bible Studies

### Tuesday morning Bible Study

#### Jesus: Divine and Human

On hold until further notice.

**Wednesday Bible Study** Due to the corona virus isolation we have started up the Wednesday Evening Adult Bible Study by video online using Zoom. If you are interested in joining us, please email Jim Hanser at [hanserjames@comcast.net](mailto:hanserjames@comcast.net) and he will explain how to do it! It is a simple process on computer, iPad, or mobile device.

### Seeker's Circle

**Second Thursday at 9:30 a.m.** 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 [DLMetz6@gmail.com](mailto:DLMetz6@gmail.com).

Download the May issue of Gather magazine (it's free). That's the Bible Study we'll use.



## Upcoming Scripture readings

### July 5– Lectionary 14 (Pent 5)

Zechariah 9: 9-12

Psalms 145:8-14

Romans 7:15-25a

Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30

### July 12- Lectionary 15 (Pent 6)

Isaiah 55:10-13

Psalms 65: [1-8] 9-13

Romans 8:1-11

Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

### July 19 – Lectionary 16 (Pent 7)

Isaiah 44:6-8

Psalms 86:11-17

Romans 8:12-25

Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43

### July 26- Lectionary 17 (Pent 8)

1 Kings 3:5-12

Psalms 119:129-136

Romans 8:26-39

Matthew 13:31-33, 36-43

### August 2- Lectionary 18 (Pent 9)

Isaiah 55:1-5

Psalms 145:8-9, 14-21

Romans 9:1-5

Matthew 14:13-21



## Mexico Mission Update

Due to current global circumstances we have had to cancel this year's Mexico Mission Trip for now. Amor Ministries has offered to allow us to use our non-refundable \$500 registration fee to go on our mission trip anytime during the 2020 year. So, if things get better and we are again safely able to travel, we can go on the mission trip during Christmas break if the interest is there to do so.



## Youth Update

All in person youth activities and fundraisers are cancelled until further notice however we are still reaching our youth using technology, such as zoom hangouts where we play games, listen to music and we also do movie watch parties! We are still having weekly youth groups via our live streaming video podcasts.

## Wednesday Youth bible studies



Due to social distancing and other guidance Wednesday's at 4:05 pm we live stream our Youth Group video podcast.

There is a lesson, discussion, weekly check in, a trivia game, home scavenger hunt and more. We also have guests drop in to share their thoughts on the week's scripture selection. Past guests have included: Justin Devine, Elizabeth Mall, Ryan Crone and Roland Lubin. Upcoming guests include Matt Baird (lead singer of the Christian band Spoken) and TJ Matthews. We virtually come to the youth live each week on YouTube. If you are interested in being a guest contact me at (707) 290-0233. If you want to check out the show, here is the link to my channel...

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCrZDkVBAq8QgnmR1aRJKAzA>



## Genesis

Dear Genesis Parents,

As many of you know by now, St. Mark's will begin opening up June 28, 2020. With the congregation joining back together for Sunday service, this means Genesis and Youth group will also begin to meet shortly.

Our first day back to Genesis will be July 1, 2020 at 5:00 p.m. However, I understand if you do not yet feel comfortable bringing your children back to church. Which is why I will hold Genesis via Zoom on Wednesday at 5:00 p.m., starting next week. The Zoom call will consist of a lesson and fellowship time so the kids can say hi to friends that they have met during their time here. If you have any questions please feel free to contact me at [sharon@stmarksfairfield.org](mailto:sharon@stmarksfairfield.org).

Sharon Munoz



Holy Family Old Catholic

Church

**Closed until further notice.**



## 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 Monday-Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 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.

July 1 & 15  
August 5 & 19  
September 2 & 16  
October 7 & 21  
November 4 & 18  
December 2 & 16

## Food Assistance Program

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



# St. Mark's July 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
28 9:45am - Worship	29 11am - Solano	30 3:30pm - Manna	1 9:30am - Solano 10am - Staff 4:05pm - Youth 6:30pm - Bible	2 6pm - Genesis @	3	4
5 9:45am - Worship	6 3:30pm - Manna	7 9:30am - Solano 4:05pm - Youth 6:30pm - Bible 7pm - Solano	8 9:30am - Seeker's 5pm - Council 6pm - Genesis @ 7pm - Music Team	9	10 9am - Holy Family	11
12 9:45am - Worship	13 3:30pm - Manna	14 9:30am - Solano 10am - Staff 4:05pm - Youth 6:30pm - Bible	15 6pm - Genesis @ 7pm - Music Team	16	17	18
19 9:45am - Worship 11:45am - Worship	20 3:30pm - Manna	21 4:05pm - Youth 6:30pm - Bible	22 6pm - Genesis @ 7pm - Music Team	23	24	25
26 9:45am - Worship 11:45am - Worship	27 3:30pm - Manna	28 4:05pm - Youth 6:30pm - Bible	29 6pm - Genesis @ 7pm - Music Team	30	31	1

Join us for worship every Sunday  
9:45 a.m. Traditional Service & Live streaming  
11:45 a.m. Contemporary Service

on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/SMLCFairfield](https://www.facebook.com/SMLCFairfield) (or click [HERE](#)) and on  
YouTube at [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-E3cZfy\\_c-Y](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-E3cZfy_c-Y) (or click [HERE](#))

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**St. Mark's Mission:** To Nurture Discipleship, Communicate the Gospel and Serve the Community.

**St. Mark's Vision:** To transform each church member into Christ-led disciples, nurtured and equipped by God's Word, whose purpose is to build up the Body of Christ in Solano County and the world.

**St. Mark's Welcoming Statement:** Adopted January 19, 2020

"We are St. Mark's Lutheran Church where everyone is welcomed and everyone is loved. We invite all into the grace, love and acceptance we have from God. We welcome YOU: who you are, as you are."



- All who are single, married, partnered, divorced, with or without children
- All sexual orientations, gender identities and gender expressions
- All racial, ethnic, and social backgrounds
- All who are housed 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](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

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),

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