



GO AND MAKE DISCIPLES OF ALL THE NATIONS

## Always reforming...

We hear this thing echoing through reformation theologians throughout history. Luther, one of the reformers we celebrate on Reformation Sunday (October 31) was an advocate for taking a serious look at the way we do “church” on a regular basis and asking ourselves what is working and what is not working. Working for what or whom is the next question. Luther and others, like Jesus and Paul, would tell us that the sole function of the church as an institution is to: “Go into all the world and proclaim the good news to the whole creation. (Mark 6:15) Or the similar words from Matthew 28, printed over our heads as we leave the worship space each week (see picture).

How my heart breaks for those who haven't heard what we have heard – that God loves us in spite of ourselves. The write of Romans reminds us “<sup>38</sup>For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, <sup>39</sup>nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.” (Romans 8:38-39)

These are words we sometimes hear when we celebrate the lives of our loved ones – because they are words of hope, comfort, and promise.

I rejoice daily that I know these words, that I have heard them enough times to take them into my being and trust them.

I believe many, if not all of us, can recite words like these from scripture. Oh, I don't mean verbatim or by chapter and verse, but by content and meaning. Words that, through the years, have reminded us of who we are and who God is.

As we walk through this month of October and look forward to celebrating Reformation Sunday, (remember to wear red!), I invite everyone to take time to ask themselves the questions above. Let's begin a conversation about what is working, what is not when we consider our mission to “make disciples of all nations.” Let's continue to be reformers today and in our world as it.

Blessings to you all as you proclaim the Good News.

*Karen Stetins, Pastor*



## In Our Thoughts and Prayer...

### Our members

Lew Broschard, Richard Ehman, Mary Francis, Lynn Hallahan, Jim Hanser and family, Eva Lipke, Karen Mullin, Cheryl Rasmussen, Josephine Lord-Traugher 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, Makita Bond, Michael Boyle, Alyssa Buch, Carmen Chow, David Corr, Karen Digman, Linda Eckhart, Firefighter Ryan, David Gibbs, Donna Hibschi, Annette Murphy, Martha Peña, Wayne Poulsen, Helen Powell, Rachel Ramirez, Arlette Sciortino, Dennis Sweeney, Mary Vigliezone, Aidan Volk, Ida Volk, Mickey Volk, and Laurie Ziegler.

### Those who are grieving

The family of Marilyn Mendoza (friend of Michael and V-Anne Chernock) who died recently.

*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](mailto:office@stmarksfairfield.org).*



## We wish you a Happy Birthday!!!

Marilyn Kilian – 10/03  
Toni McCallum – 10/03  
V-Anne Chernock – 10/11  
Dennis Digman – 10/13  
David McCallum – 10/13  
Al Bergoust – 10/15  
Mike Michaelis – 10/17  
Karen Mullin – 10/19  
Helen Bergoust – 10/26  
Molly Bowers – 10/26  
Gerda Reid – 10/30



## We wish you a Happy Anniversary!!

Rose and Jim Hanser 10/14



## Remembering Our Homebound Members

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

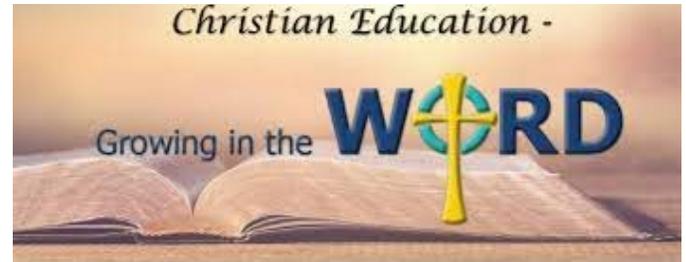
Bob Evans  
1113 Quail Dr  
Fairfield, CA 94533

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



### Wednesday Bible Study – 6:30 p.m.

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](mailto:hanserjames@comcast.net).

### Tuesday Bible / Book Study

#### Tuesday Bible/Book Study – 10:30 a.m.

In October we will continue our conversation the book *You'll Never Believe What Happened to Lacey: Crazy Stories about Racism* by Amber Ruffin (Author), Lacey Lamar (Author). Join us in the Pastor's Study or on Zoom <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87130437154>. Note: We will not have a class on Tuesday, October 26 (Pastor will be on vacation).

### Seeker's Circle

The next Seekers Circle meeting is Thursday, October 14, 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 ([dlmetz6@gmail.com](mailto:dlmetz6@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 October and November!

October 3 - Christian Bucket List with Cindy deRosier. Come join us as we look at one pastor's ideas for a Christian Bucket List. Share your experiences with anything in the list you've done, suggest items that should (or shouldn't!) be on the list, and/or get ideas for your own Christian Bucket List. All are welcome!

October 10 & 17 Paul Theiss will continue to lead our "Trail Guide to the Bible."

Starting October 24 (through November 21) Diane Metz and Jim Hanser will lead us through the book "Half Truths: God Helps Those Who Help Themselves and Other Things the Bible Doesn't Say" by Adam Hamilton. We will talk about 5 long-held beliefs of what is written in the Bible that don't really exist. While you do not have to purchase the book, it might be helpful. It is available from Amazon (Kindle, paperback and hard cover), other discount vendors, and the library.



## Blessing of the Animals Sunday, October 3, 2021 2:00 p.m.

We celebrate St. Francis of Assisi once again this year with a Blessing of the Animals on Sunday, October 3 at 2:00 p.m. in the courtyard outside the worship center. Join Pastor Karen and bring all your created creatures with you.



Friends in Christ:

St. Mark's Council met in person on September 9, 2021.

1. Pastor has returned from her Mid-west vacation and has hit the ground running.
2. To make it official, Michael was authorized to initiate the Nominating Committee for 2022.
3. Much has been discussed regarding the Hybrid Church and its importance was once again reiterated. The concepts are something we will be continuing for (hopefully) a very long time.
4. The Education Committee reported a schedule for the next two months (see Constant Contact reports). If anyone would like to offer their services to teach something they feel worthwhile, the committee is open to suggestions.
5. The Columbarium Task Force was asked to review the status of our columbarium, policies and procedures. They will pass their ideas to the Council and Personnel Committee for inclusion in the SMLC Operations Manual. (Note: in the course of those meetings, it was recommended that we paint and spruce up the area and, thanks to the Johnsens [again] that whole process has been funded and authorized.)
6. Appreciation was expressed for Pastor Paul Theiss and Pastor Diane Finnis for substituting for Pastor Karen while on vacation.
7. The specter of people living on the property once again required June calling her contacts at the Fairfield Police Dept. and they alleviated the problem immediately. (Ongoing problem...)
8. We were informed that Bob Marston and John Gardiner (to name a few) from Telstar Instruments have donated \$8,000 to repair the floor in the food pantry. Most people lovingly support a food pantry with food

and that is great, but it is especially notable when donors realize how important it is to the success of the pantry to have an adequate and clean environment from which to do their ministry. So, thank you, Telstar.

There is not much to add this month so I would like to close this newsletter with a report on how we are now closing every Council Meeting. We used to close with a prayer, which is always uplifting, but now we close with a session I call “**What’s the Best Thing That Has Happened to You This Month?**”

And yes, that may seem a little simplistic, but it has two huge wins. First of all, it causes us to look back on all the GOOD things in our life this past month. While we are searching for “the best” among the many events, it necessitates RECOGNIZING all the many blessings we have received. It shouldn’t, but it generally amazes us all how many good things have happened that we would probably have taken for granted if we hadn’t been forced to take the time to recall.

The second win is that we share in the “wins” of all our other Council friends and get to know each other so much better. I don’t know if there is such a meme, but I believe that “blessings shared are blessings quadrupled!”

God Bless  
Michael



### 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:

October 2021

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>

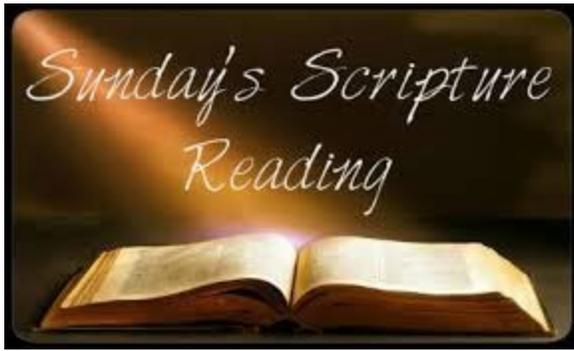
- Paul Theiss



### Your Hands and Heart Are Needed!

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

- **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 ([stuku@yahoo.com](mailto:stuku@yahoo.com)) to get on the list.
- **Counters Needed** - Each week your generous donations need to be counted and deposited into our bank account. It takes a couple of people about an hour to perform this task. If you would be willing, please contact Linda Frogget at [lfrogghr@comcast.net](mailto:lfrogghr@comcast.net). Training is available.



## Our Little Free Libraries

Our Little Free Libraries (one for adults and one for kids) 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 for October

### **October 3, 2021**

Genesis 2:18-24  
Psalm 8  
Hebrews 1:1-4, 2:5-12  
Mark 10:2-16

### **October 10, 2021**

Amos 5:6-7, 10-15  
Psalm 91:9-16  
Hebrews 5:1-10  
Mark 10:35-45

### **October 17, 2021**

Isaiah 53:4-12  
Psalms 54  
James 3:13-4:3, 7-8a  
Mark 9:30-37

### **October 24, 2021**

Jeremiah 31:7-9  
Psalm 126  
Hebrews 7:23-28  
Mark 10:46-52

### **October 31, 2021 – Reformation Sunday**

Jeremiah 31:31-34  
Psalm 46  
Romans 3:19-28  
John 8:31-36

## Financial Support

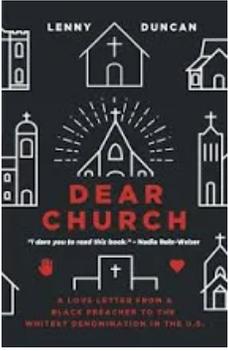


### Our thanks...

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](http://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.



## 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.



## Fairfield CAN (Clergy Action Network)

At the CAN meeting on August 28 religious leaders from all over Fairfield came together to brainstorm ways in which the faith communities can be a part the solution to struggles we face. A couple of ideas

that came up focused on affordable housing, helping veterans and creating a youth center. We also discussed ways we might be a support to our service men and women returning to Travis Air Force base. Please keep watching the bulletin and newsletter for details as they become available.



## Sierra Pacific Synod Mission Partners

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 out their web sites for more information.

- [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](https://www.paypal.com/donate/?hosted_button_id=CFFP9AN3VBM9S&source=url)



## 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!

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.



Thank you Twilight Rotary Club!

Many thanks to the Twilight Rotary Club, the St. Mark's members who attended and the whole community for coming out and supporting our Manna Food Pantry. On Saturday, September 25 we celebrated the 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Lobster Boil. It was great to be out and partying with our neighbors.

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

### Seniors Program

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

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

### Food Assistance Program

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



### 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.

# What's Happening at St. Mark's

## October 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
- 3:30 p.m. Manna Food Pantry Distribution

#### Wednesday

- 9:15 a.m. Preschool Chapel (Preschool Bldg)
- 6:30 p.m. Bible Study (Zoom)
- Youth Group (Live) (Youth Room)

#### Saturday

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

### Additional Events

- October 1 8:00 a.m. Preschool Photography (Worship Center)  
1:00 p.m. Columbarium Task Force (Pastor's Office)
- October 2 1:00 p.m. Dunn Memorial (Worship Center)
- October 3 2:00 p.m. Blessing of the Animals (Courtyard)
- October 5 5:30 p.m. Keith Braselton (Bethel Room)
- October 6 10:00 a.m. Columbarium Task Force (Pastor's Office)
- October 9 9:00 a.m. Holy Family Food Program (Food Pantry)
- October 11 11:00 a.m. Solano Symphony Auditions (Worship Center)
- October 14 10:00 a.m. Seeker's Circle (Zoom and in person)  
5:30 p.m. Council (Digerud Room)
- October 21 9:30 a.m. Preschool Board (Digerud & Zoom)
- October 24 No 10:30 a.m. Bible Study
- October 28 10:30 a.m. Preschool Book Fair (Narthex)  
11:00 a.m. Preschool Trunk or Treat (Parking Lot)
- October 29 10:30 a.m. Preschool Book Fair (Narthex)  
11:00 a.m. Preschool Trunk or Treat (Parking Lot)

Join us for worship every Sunday  
9:30 a.m. for in person & live streaming 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 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](mailto:office@stmarksfairfield.org); [www.stmarksfairfield.org](http://www.stmarksfairfield.org)

Rev. Karen Stetins, Senior Pastor

Sharon Munoz, Director of Youth and Children's Ministries

Vacant at this time, 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