



March 29, 2020

## Community News St. Mark's Lutheran Church Fairfield, California

Dear Partners in Ministry,

The April 2020 newsletter was written in March with the assumption...or at least the hope and prayer that we would be together again by April 1. However, we won't know that until the time comes.

Our decisions will be based on Governor Newsom's actions. If the "shelter at home" order remains in effect, please consider the events (i.e. bible studies, meetings, food pantry distribution, etc.) in the newsletter cancelled. Once the order is lifted, we will joyfully resume our activities.

We will continue to live stream worship at 9:45 a.m. each Sunday until further notice with only the pastor, sound tech, video tech, organist, song leader, and monologist. If you are signed up for any other worship duties, please know that we appreciate your willingness and look forward to serving together soon.

The April, May, June edition of *Christ in our Home* will be mailed to our homebound friends. If you would like a copy mailed to you, please email the church office. We will send them out on a first-come-first-served basis.

The office mail, email and voice mail are being checked regularly. Please don't hesitate to be in touch.

Many blessings,  
Pastor Karen



Christ is Risen! Alleluia!  
Christ is Risen, indeed! Alleluia!

That is our joyful cry each Easter morning. We rejoice at the Good News that Christ is risen from the grave. He conquered death and lives. Alleluia means "may God be praised." So, we use that word liberally and with great joy.

I look forward to Easter morning each year – the trumpets, the flowers, the brightness of the day. Don't you wish we could keep that "Easter" feeling all year? It is true that each Sunday when we gather, we celebrate Easter. We celebrate Christ's rising from the dead for our sakes – to forgive our sins – to remind us that we, too, will rise and be with Christ in eternity. Yet that "Alleluia" feeling becomes routine, Sunday-to-Sunday regularity. What if it didn't become "regular?" What if we kept that energy going all year round? Okay, I know it would be hard to keep up that energy year-round. But a girl can wish 😊

Then again sustaining that energy can be exhausting. Perhaps we need to look back to the Transfiguration story from a few weeks ago and remember that Jesus calls us to come down from the "mountain-top" experiences to share the good news in everyday life. To be messengers of this Good News that we celebrate in the most "regular" moments of life. In order to have a "mountain-top" experience, we have to learn and grow through the day-to-day experience – the daily God-sightings that increase our faith, bring us closer to the One who gave it all for us and allows us to truly experience the joy of Easter again and again.

As we finish our journey to the cross during Holy Week, prepare to be amazed, surprised, and enlivened once again this Easter morning. Sing "Alleluia" until your Spirit soars and join the choirs of angels in proclaiming that Christ is Risen!

Happy and blessed Easter to you and your loved ones.

*Keion Stetins, Pastor*



## We are praying for...

### **Our members:**

Kedrin Armenta, 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, Nina Pfiefer, Roger & Shirley Quinn, Norm Skoglund, Doris Trean.

### **Our friends and loved ones:**

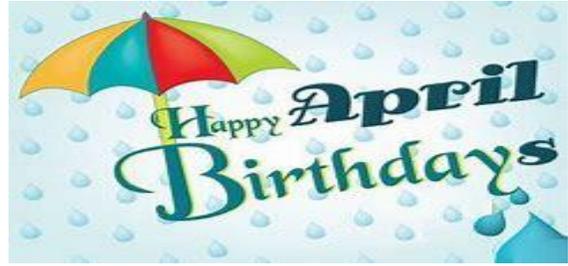
Erik Andrin, Jerry Aperans, Victoria and Ron Armenta Sr., Gul Banoo, Adrian Butler, Karen Digman, Marianne Falkner, Rhonda Francis, Tori Francis, Brian Hanson, Pam Houghton, Danielle Neuner, Wayne Poulsen, Marcy Rush, John Syhlman, Ron Vang, Mary Vigliezone, Robert Williamson and family, Tom Wood.

### **Those who are mourning:**

The family of Jake Camus (Pastor's Karen's nephew by marriage) who died suddenly on March 5 leaving a wife and four children.

The Prusso family (Dennis passed away on March 7.)

*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!!!

*04/03 Matt Puskas*

*04/05 Rose Hanser*

*04/06 Michael Chernock*

*04/10 Jennifer Counihan*

*04/11 Linda Lindauer*

*04/15 Nelson Scarrott*

*04/17 Anita East*

*04/17 Tammy Bojorquez*

*04/21 Stu Reid*

*04/22 Aharon Sweatt*

*04/25 Lincoln Stetins*

*04/26 Erika Saielli*

*04/28 Arrienne Maneja*

*04/29 Ruth Sweatt*

# Holy Week and Easter Worship

Join us for these powerful worship experiences as we complete our journey to the cross with Jesus.



7:00 p.m.

We will hear from "Peter" as he reflects on his part in Jesus' life and death, watch as participants feet are washed as Jesus did, and celebrate with the disciples Jesus' last meal with them. Finally, we will watch as the altar and chancel area are stripped of their finery in remembrance of how Jesus was stripped not only of his clothing, but also his dignity and humanity.



7:00 p.m.

Scripture, songs, and extinguishing of candles help us experience the death of Jesus in a most profound way. Lights dimmed, a cross laid bare, we connect with the power of Jesus' gift to us on the cross.



9:45 a.m. and 11:45 a.m.

Trumpets will announce that Christ is Risen! This high energy service will celebrate the return of the word "Alleluia" and the resurrection of Jesus for our sakes. There will be a pancake breakfast before each service. Come celebrate!

## special THANKS TO:

### Special Thanks

Our heartfelt thanks to everyone who made our Lenten Series, "By My Hand. For My Sake" so meaningful. Each week's drama was powerful and challenging. Don't forget to join us on Maundy Thursday at 7:00 p.m. to hear from "Peter" and "Mary Magdalene" on Easter Sunday.

Michael and V-Anne Chernock (Adam & Eve)

Stu Reid (Nicodemus)

Sam Mullin (Judas)

Jim Hanser (Barabbas)

Jordan Jackson (Pilate)

Diane Metz (The Thief's Mother)

Paul Theiss (Peter)

Marilyn Nelson (Mary Magdalene)



## Youth Director Search Team

The Team is working hard to find our next Youth Director. Copies of the job description are available in the narthex. Please pick one up for anyone you believe might be a good candidate.



## Coronavirus Precautions

The Worship & Music Committee has incorporated the following:

1. No common cup during communion.
2. Altar Guild and Fellowship servers will be wearing gloves
3. A basket will be set at the back of the sanctuary for offering.
4. The Passing of the Peace: use fist-bump, elbow bump, or wave.
5. Pastor and Assisting Minister will drop bread into communicant's hands.
6. Kitchen counters and tables will be sanitized just before worship begins.
7. Hand sanitizer is available in the narthex and sanctuary

We pray that we can be part of the solution during this time of concern.



## 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!



## Welcome New Members

We rejoice to receive into our fellowship of faith Zach and Ericka Saielli by Affirmation of Faith and Leia and Cassandra Saielli by Holy Baptism. The Saielli family has been worshiping with us since last fall. They were received at the 11:45 a.m. service on March 15, 2020. Stop by and meet them



## Upcoming Scripture readings

### April 5– Passion/Palm Sunday

Isaiah 50:4-9a  
Psalm 31:9-16  
Philippians 2:5-11  
Matthew 22:34-40

### April 9–Maundy Thursday

Exodus 12:1-4 [5-10] 11-14  
Psalm 116:1-2, 12-19  
1 Corinthians 11:23-26  
John 13:1-17, 31b-35

### April 10– Good Friday

Isaiah 53:3-6  
John 18:1–19:30

### April 12-Easter Day

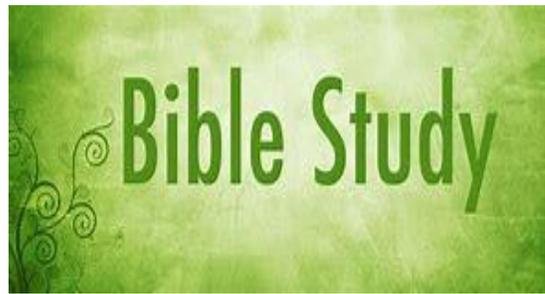
Acts 10:34-43  
Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24  
Colossians 3:1-4  
Matthew 28:1-10

### April 19- 2 Easter

Acts 2:14a, 22-32  
Psalm 16  
1 Peter 1:3-9  
John 20:19-31

### April 26- 3 Easter

Acts 2:14a, 36-41  
Psalm 116:1-4, 12-19  
1 Peter 1:17-23  
Luke 24:13-35



## Adult Bible studies

### Tuesday morning Bible Study

#### Jesus: Divine and Human

Every Tuesday at 10:30 a.m. Bible Study will look at the Gospel of Matthew and how it is we understand Jesus as fully divine and fully human. How can that be?? Come and see!

### Seeker's Circle

**Second Thursday at 9:30 a.m.** The Seeker's Circle meets in the Digerud Room for fellowship, bible study and service project. Join them any time.





PLTS students: Front Row – Courtney Geibert and Paul Benz; Back Row Left to Right – John Barton, Joshua Stromberg, Jennifer Matas, Nikkeya Berryhill, and Kate Drefke.

## Second mile giving ~ April 2020

### Pray. Give. Encourage.

PLTS equips faithful leaders who enliven the church and care for the world. Today is a new day for theological education in the West. With expanded residential and online learning options, new faculty, shared teaching resources within Cal Lutheran and the Graduate Theological Union, our students learn, live, and serve in a place that is multi-cultural, economically diverse, and invigorating.

PLTS is one of eight seminaries of the ELCA, a founding member of the Graduate Theological Union, and a graduate school of California Lutheran University. PLTS was the first ELCA seminary to become Reconciling in Christ (RIC).

Theological education at PLTS is done in the context of people who are rich and poor, liberal and conservative, and a wide array of human race, religion, sexuality, education, experience, and background. If our theology did not take all people into account, it would be deficient.

Follow us on social media:

<https://www.facebook.com/pltsofclu/>.



## Council Highlights

March 12, 2020

- The minutes of the February Council meeting and the January congregational meeting were approved.
- Trevor deRosier was approved for Confirmation on April 5, 2020.
- Voted to purchase 2 welcoming banners for our campus. Two more will be donated.
- Read a letter of congratulations to Madelene Sciortino and Charlie Thoma on their election to the Sierra Pacific Synod Youth Committee.
- Approved financial reports and committee reports as presented.
- Voted to create a task force to review our constitution, bylaws, and policies and procedures.
- Voted to create a task force to review safety on our campus.
- Pastor Karen reported that the search team for the new youth director is accepting applications at this time.



## The President's Corner

Friends in Christ:

I hesitate to write this month's newsletter article for fear that by this afternoon, the latest information will have changed, and my discussion outdated. But, alas, I guess there will be no "best time" in the foreseeable future, so here goes...

I am not blinded to the fact that the Corona Virus is a prevalent concern to us all but neither do I want to give it any points, much less let it win. In fact, Sunday, on our way to church, we were passing by Travis Air Force base (or Corona Land as we have recently come to call it) and there, right above 800+ people in quarantine was the largest and brightest rainbow we have seen in a very long time. It didn't have a sign on it saying "I'VE GOT THIS" but it was incredibly clear to us that this statement from GOD was unmistakably clear: GOD IS STILL IN CHARGE!

And when it comes to St. Mark's and our incredible family, Pastor and I would add, WE ARE ALL FAMILY AND TOGETHER, WE'VE GOT THIS! Pastor and I are in daily contact attempting to keep up with the seemingly minute-by-minute changes in social status from Federal, State, County, City and Synodical advisors – not to mention our most important input – YOU! I'm sure she is getting quite tired of my question, "what is the problem statement" but the technique has been valuable in focusing down to the core of our decisions – not to mention leading to some creative solutions.

There would be no way to list all of the decisions that are made or still needing to be made but the one most directly applicable is the decision to live-stream church services for the foreseeable future. It is important to all of us to keep God's love paramount as daily changes do their best to cloud our focus. Of course, we will keep you all well informed with e-blasts, but for now, just know that our church family's welfare is paramount to our decision and priority list!

Pardon the President's hat here but I would be remiss if I didn't remind you that church bills must be paid here as everywhere so I must encourage you (gently) to pray about keeping up your pledge. And, for those of you who do not have your contributions automatically deducted, please know that you can send your weekly or monthly (tithes?) donations to the church and our counters will be there regularly to count and distribute the monies. (St. Mark's Lutheran, 1600 Union Avenue, Fairfield, 94533)

And by way of wanting to be of full assistance, if you are one of those misguided people who have purchased and are hoarding toilet paper, I will save you any deliberations: A tithe would amount to 3 rolls of toilet paper out of each package.

God Bless and be safe and be smart.  
Michael Chernock, President



## St. Marks' Preschool Families

St. Mark's Preschool will be following Solano County and FSUSD's decision to close for the next 2 weeks due to the corona virus. Already some children have not been to school the past few weeks and other families have already informed us they will not be in the next few weeks. The health and safety of the children, staff and families is always our number one priority. This virus is uncharted territory for all of us and we like you want everyone to be safe. Our plan is to reopen Monday, March 30<sup>th</sup> 2020 as is FSUSD's plan.

We will keep you updated of any changes.

Love, Hugs and Prayers for everyone to stay healthy!

Sincerely  
Miss Lucille and the entire staff at St. Mark's



## St. Mark's Preschool open Teacher position

St. Mark's Preschool is currently looking for a qualified Early Childhood Education preschool teacher to join our staff. St. Mark's is a well-established part-time program in the community and has been teaching young children for over 40 years.

Job Responsibilities: Supervision of twelve children (3 and 4-year old), 5 days per week. Create lesson plans to coordinate with the center's monthly themes. Prepare and clean up classroom and other areas of the school as needed. Must be happy, energetic, creative, loving, playful, polite, and reliable! Work cooperatively with parents and staff.

Will need all of the following job requirements:  
Transcripts with a minimum of 12 ECE core units  
Fingerprint clearance; Health screening; Current T.B. test.

Position is for 25 hours per week.

Contact:

**St. Mark's Preschool**

**Lucille Bowers**

1600 Union Avenue Fairfield, CA 94533

(707) 422-4742

[preschool@stmarksfairfield.org](mailto:preschool@stmarksfairfield.org)

[stmarkspreschool@sbcglobal.net](mailto:stmarkspreschool@sbcglobal.net)



## Manna Food Pantry

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.

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## 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)

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## Solano County Food Bank

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:



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

## 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.

April 1 & 15

May 6 & 20

June 3 & 17

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 ~ April 2020

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

Join us for worship on 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

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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

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)