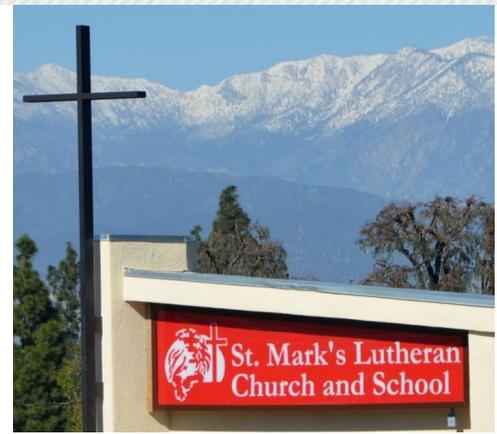




Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

The Monitor

The newsletter of St. Mark's Lutheran Church, Hacienda Heights, CA, bringing you news and information in an environmentally friendly format.



August 2022

St. Mark's Mission Statement

OUR MISSION

Reaching out to the community to share the Gospel through faith, fellowship, and service.

OUR VISION

Become the visible presence of Christ in this community.

Pastor Mericle's Message

Dear St Mark's Community:

I hope that you have taken some time in July to vacation, travel and spend extra time with family. Those are important moments and a great treasure to have. As we head into August, things will be changing on the campus as the school begins a new semester. Once again, we will enjoy over 600 children at St. Mark's nearly every day and are reminded that the St. Mark's Church community includes these students, parents, and staff as part of our community with which we serve and share God's love. So keep them all in your prayers as we begin registration and teacher orientation this week. School officially starts on August 10th and during one of the chapels, we will return to doing a blessing of the backpacks that Covid-19 has prevented for the past two years. We also look forward to Rally Day on August 28th to celebrate the beginning of the school year for both church and school, as we formally install the Day School teachers, staff and the Sunday School teachers. In addition the 6th grade class will sing for us during worship. I encourage you to attend this special day of celebration and fun with activities after worship along with food from The Habit truck. Be sure to order your burger by August 17th. It might also be a good day to bring a neighbor to see the Church when it is full. Just be sure to order their burgers too .

On a personal note, Sondra and I are grateful for your prayers and well wishes following her femur surgery on July 22nd. I went back to Minnesota last week to be with her and help bring her home during an exceptionally long day of flying back to Los Angeles and navigating transportation, check-in, security, getting to the gate, on and off the plane, and to baggage claim. Sondra was a real trooper and we made it home. She will begin physical therapy this week. We are also thankful for future help that has been offered. You are a real blessing to us. Thanks be to God!

Blessings in Christ,
Pastor Jim Mericle

President's Pen

Where did July go? This is the time of year when we all are either spending extra time with family and friends

Where did July go? This is the time of year when we all are either spending extra time with family and friends just because it is summer or taking time from our daily busy routines to enjoy a little vacation. Wherever your journeys take you, keep St. Mark's Church and School in your prayers.

And now here we are in August and ready to rally around the St. Mark's family as we mark our calendars to celebrate Rally Day on Sunday, August 28, 2022, following the 10 am church service. So many wonderful volunteers from our church work together to make this a memorable event for all. Thank you, St. Mark's family, for again sharing your talents and love with all of us to make August 28th, a special day at St. Mark's. When I reflect on the first half of the year already gone, I am reminded how rich we all are because of our personal relationship with God and the joy we receive from helping each other to make St. Mark's a very special place for families and individuals alike to worship together each Sunday and for the students and families who benefit so greatly from attending St. Mark's School. Our prayers and thoughts are with all the students and faculty members at St. Mark's as they begin another school year soon.

Our "get well wishes" and prayers go out to Sondra Mericle as she recovers from her recent fall. Although this was definitely not what she had planned being just a few months from retirement, we at St. Mark's will now have an opportunity to share our time and support with her as she recovers from their home in Whittier. Please keep your eyes focused on the church bulletins, information in the Monitor, and look out for the updates provided from the Church office via email about the many wonderful and exciting activities planned from now until the end of the year for St. Mark's.

May God's grace be with each of us, as we travel through our own daily journeys in life.

God Bless and Smile.
Gwen Andrizzi



Has summer really come to an end?? OH MY!! I know that we are all looking forward to starting the 2022-23 academic year. Students are meeting their teachers for the first time, seeing old friends, telling stories of summer adventures and silently, mentally preparing for all that is to come this school year. I know that I'm looking forward to seeing all of our students, their eyes filled with excitement on the 1st day of school. What are you most excited about?

Together Toward Tomorrow is one of our themes for the upcoming year.

How can we continue to be leaders in our everyday lives, living a life of integrity, serving others and working together. We have an amazing team, each member playing an important role in our growth and continued upward movement in making sure that SML is the best K-8 private school.

We look forward to Rally Day, where the opportunity comes for church and school to join as one. It's going to be a fun one! Lastly, I ask that the church congregation to pray for the health and safety of our students, families and staff members.



Thank you,
Monica Gerardo
Principal
St. Mark's Lutheran School <https://stmarkslutheranschool.org/>

YOUTH GROUP





Hello and happy summer!

This past month for youth group was rather quiet for Youth Group. We had a hike early in the month in which three students attended. We hiked above Orange Grove Middle School and enjoyed the views of the San Gabriel Valley. The summer was intended to end with a beach day clean up and beach day, but due to lack of interest, this event was cancelled.

I am looking forward to the new school year and to hopefully engage with some new students.

Thanks for all the support!

Best,
Melissa

ANNOUNCEMENTS



Update on Sondra Mericle

Because of Sondra's recent fall, which resulted in emergency surgery, she has traveled with the Pastor back to their home here in Whittier for her recovery.

Part of this extensive and intense recovery will require that she go to physical therapy appointments on a regular basis beginning the week of August 1st. We, as a congregation, would like to help the Pastor in driving her to these appointments. Therefore, we need

VOLUNTEERS to drive her to her regularly scheduled physical therapy appointments in Whittier.

If you are able to volunteer some time to drive her to any of these appointments, please call or email Francoise, as she will maintain the master schedule for these appointments. The appointments will probably go for about an hour.

The Pastor and Sondra are very appreciative of our assistance in helping them with this effort, so that Sondra can have a smooth and timely recovery.

Thank you for your support.

Gwen Andrizzi, President

SOCIAL MINISTRIES

THANK YOU to St. Mark's Church members who generously donated crayons, pencils, paper, backpacks and more for New Horizons in Hacienda

Heights. We filled 30 requested backpacks and gave extra backpacks + supplies for back-up. Thank you SML members for your generous donations,



shopping, time and help assembling the backpacks!



Pickup Day

FRIDAY, AUGUST 26TH. Family Movie Nite in the St. Mark's Parking Lot
It's the weekend kick-off to our Rally

Sunday on the 28th. Movie to be announced in two weeks. Pizza + snacks can be purchased. We are trying to get a jumpstart on Christmas! All





donations will go towards gingerbread houses and Christmas presents for New Horizons. Please consider donating even if you don't attend.



Are you interested in learning how to use your cell phone or iPad?

I have someone to teach classes and help you maneuver both of these. Come prepared. Questions and help needed in specific areas will need to be communicated prior to the class. That way we can coordinate areas of need. If Apple product, bring your Apple ID password and email. Class date will be determined once we have a minimum of 5 people. Class cost is \$15.00 for 1 1/2 hours. Money will go to Social Ministries for Christmas and to the instructor. If interested, contact Carolyn Collosi, 562-686-7405, leave a message or email ccollosi14@gmail.com



FOOD PANTRY

Action Food Pantry is open on Thursdays from 12:00 -4:00 PM for distributions. They are also in need of volunteers on Thursdays starting at 9:00 AM to help with setting up, sorting, meeting with clients, etc. Contact Pastor Jim for more information. Please designate your donation for Action Pantry and place in the basket in the Narthex. Monetary donations can be made through the website or by check - just mention it is for the Action Food Pantry.

We will continue donating to our local food bank in Hacienda Heights, New Horizons. They distribute food twice a month. Currently they continue to request ANY breakfast food item(s) as children still on summer break. If giving a monetary donation, please note New Horizons on the memo line. Please label your donation New Horizons and place in the basket in the Narthex. Thank you for your donations.

"God's work. Our hands." Sunday

**Sept. 11
2022**

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 11th, WE NEED YOUR HANDS! We will assemble small bud vases with flowers for distribution to local convalescent homes. We will start at 8:45 a.m. and distribution will be after church. Bring in your extra **SMALL BUD VASES**. Ask your friends and neighbors if they have some! Please bring to church so they can be washed and cleaned prior to this event. There's a box on the narthex counter marked "vases".

Volunteers for flower distribution for our SML elderly/shut-ins would be appreciated! If you know of someone to whom you would like to take flowers to, let us know! Please consider a small donation towards this project for the flower cost. Let us know if you can help – Carolyn Collosi and Sharon Bradford



Rally Day is the “kick-off” of our new school year, Sunday School, Confirmation class and Teacher Installation. It’s a time where we come together as a church and school.

Habit Food truck, games, face painting, ice cream jumper and petting zoo!
Fun for everyone!

PRE-ORDER your meal - \$7.00 cash or check

Pre-Pay by WEDNESDAY, August 17, 2022 (non-refundable)

at registration, school or church office



- ★Charburger With/Without Cheese, fries and drink
- ★BBQ Chicken burger fries and drink
- ★Grilled Cheese, fries and drink

Peanut Butter donations will be collected for Action Food Pantry in Covina. Collection table will be located on Church Patio. - Thank you

Special **THANK YOU** to St. Mark’s Lutheran Church members who have donated 1/2 the cost of the meal.

Serving in Worship

Altar Guild:

August

Lynn Yann

Kim Winn

Betty Castaneda

August 7th

Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost

10:00 AM – HOLY COMMUNION

LECTOR: Rylee Birtja

SERMONETTE: Janna Barnhart

TECH: Chris Birtja, Garrett Birtja

CO-DIRECTOR OF USHERS: Phil

Barnhart, Frank Winn

Monthly Group Meetings

LADIES' PRAYER BREAKFAST

Saturday, August 27th

8:00 a.m.

The Corner Bakery

Azusa Ave. & Colima Rd.

Hacienda Heights

MEN'S PRAYER BREAKFAST

Saturday, August 27th

8:00 a.m.

NEED SOMEONE TO PRAY WITH YOU?

St. Mark's friends, Kim Winn or another Prayer Warrior will be available to pray with you after church service, if you have a prayer request or concern. This will be in the little side chapel. Please call or

text with a prayer request anytime to Kim Winn. (626) 676-2997



Don't forget about our little

HEAD USHERS: Ron Hussey, Steven Chou

USHERS: Emil Wolfe, Dick Heinrich, Frank Winn

August 14th

Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost

10:00 AM – SERVICE OF THE WORD

LECTOR: Norm Rumpf

SERMONETTE: Lynn Yann

TECH: Dan O'Connell, Shand Garrett

CO-DIRECTOR OF USHERS: Phil

Barnhart, Frank Winn

HEAD USHERS: Frank Winn, Ron

Amon

USHERS: Janna Barnhart, Phil

Barnhart, Dan Guerrero, Steven

Chou, Bill Rosentreter

August 21st

Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost

10:00 AM – HOLY COMMUNION

LECTOR: Christopher Birtja

SERMONETTE: Gwen Andrizzi

TECH: Nathan Magdaleno,

Luke Rodriguez

CO-DIRECTOR OF USHERS: Phil

Barnhart, Frank Winn

HEAD USHER: Phil Barnhart

USHERS: Kurt Van Riper, Gary Hill,

Janna Barnhart

August 28th

Rally Sunday

6th grade sings

Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost

10:00 AM – HOLY COMMUNION

LECTOR: Daniel O'Connell

SERMONETTE: Krista Guerrero

TECH: Dan O'Connell, Steven Chou

CO-DIRECTOR OF USHERS: Phil

Barnhart, Frank Winn

HEAD USHERS: Dan Guerrero, Emil

Wolfe

USHERS: Irvin Thomas, Frank Winn

Denny's
1150 S. 7th Ave., Hacienda Heights
(60 Fwy and 7th Ave.)

Men's & Ladies' Luncheon

Tuesday, August 23, 2022

NOON

Cedar Creek Inn Restaurant

20 Pointe Dr.

Brea, CA 92821

Please RSVP as the restaurant
will require reservations.

I will request separate tables!

Anna Guerriero 626-330-7310

or jaguerriero42@gmail.com



Alex Cormack 8/1
Luke Rodriguez 8/2
Mary Rodriguez 8/9
Daniella Hernandez 8/9
Kaitlin Garrett 8/11
Dan Guerrero 8/14
Penny Chou 8/14
Sharon Le Blanc 8/18
Gay Cormack 8/24
Terry Van Riper 8/25
Vernon Weigand 8/27



**July
2022**

Regular Offering Actual; **\$14,626.**

Budget; \$19,167.

Regular YTD Actual; **\$111,222.**

Budget; \$134,167.

Special Giving Actual; \$1,134.

Budget; \$2,917.



library located
next to the
church office.
Take a book
bring a book.



If you know of
someone who
could use a
greeting card
(illness, facing
surgery, going through a difficult
time, or miss seeing you), please
submit the person's name, address,
and reason for the card
to Kim Winn

at bestmomeverkdw@gmail.com
and she will send one out.



Ruth Circle will meet
on Zoom Monday
evening, August 8,
7:00 PM. The Bible
Study begins on
page 36 of the

July/August Gather magazine, and
is titled "Crafted in Christ", Session
Three, Ties That Bind. Marion Locke
will lead the study. Contact Sharon
Heck by email if you wish to receive
the Zoom link which will be sent by
email a day or so before the
meeting. s.heck4peace@gmail.com

We hope to see many of you on
Zoom.

Highlights from Church Council Meeting July 28, 2022

- Pastor and Sondra are home. Sondra has a long physical journey. To assist them with their schedule and PT appointments, we will be putting together a schedule for anyone who can volunteer some time to take her to/from physical therapy two-three times a week. This would be a wonderful opportunity for church members to share our St. Mark's fellowship with Sondra and get to know her (Gwen Andrizzi).
- Communication follow-up – A Follow-Up List of Commitments is recommended and will be developed from the minutes. It will help us keep track of items that are rolled over to the next month so we can be

from the minutes. It will help us keep track of items that are rolled over to the next month so we can be sure that we are following through with items (Gwen Andrizzi).

- Pastor's vacation is tentatively September 19th –22nd (Pastor Jim).
- AB506 Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention – Pastor should proceed with finalizing the written policy which will include procedures (Pastor Jim).
- We will finish our sermon series that takes us through the summer: Living our life in the Way of Christ (June 19–August 21) On Rally Sunday, August 28th, a new series called **Essentials** will begin (Pastor Jim)
- Rev. Rich Melheim will be here September 25th–27th for a worship sermon and an assembly for school children on Tuesday, likely at 9:00 am. There will be a special talk on Holding your Family Together and the Introduction of Faith 5 to the parents of the school/church and community. Childcare will be provided so parents can attend. This will be a gift of the congregation to our families in the church, school, and community. Dr. Melheim will only charge us the cost of the plane flight and will stay at our place. We are long time friends and partners in ministry. Donations to underwrite this are welcomed (Pastor Jim).
- Norm Rumpf moved to open (1) one year CD, with a value of \$20,000, using funds currently at Merrill Lynch. Each successive CD is to require a separate motion, to be certain that there is not a risk of exceeding funds available. Betty Castaneda seconded motion (Norm Rumpf).

St. Mark's Lutheran



A congregation of the
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
gathered by Christ into community.
There is a place for you here!
Worship Services: Sunday 10:00 AM

Like us on Facebook

St. Mark's Lutheran Church has a page on Facebook. If you use social media it is a great way to stay up with the ministry happening at our church and around the world. Receive updates to breaking prayer needs, worship service information, and opportunities to serve



Quick Links

[ELCA](#)
[St. Mark's Lutheran School](#)
[Southwest California Synod](#)
[More About St. Mark's](#)

[Join Our Mailing List](#)

Staff Listing



Pastor James Mericle
pastorjim@stmarkshh.com
562-360-9812



[Francoise Dutil](#) - Office Administrator
fdutil@stmarks.ws
626-961-2486



[Melissa Magdaleno](#) - Director of Youth
Ministry
youthdirector@stmarks.ws
626-961-2486



Renee Gehlbach - Director of Music
Ministry
rmgehlbach@gmail.com
626-961-2486

God's word is a lamp unto thy feet and a light unto thy path. Psalm 119:105
May The Monitor light up your inbox and lead you in Christ's way via St. Mark's Lutheran Church.