



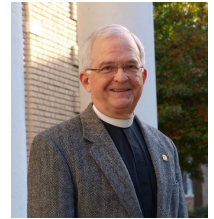
St. Mark's
LUTHERAN CHURCH

RE:MARK'S

AUGUST 2019

Dear Ministry Partners,

There was a time when many churches took a breather during the summer. While that reality may still exist in some places, it is not like that this year with the people of St. Mark's!



By the time you read this letter, Becky Sachsenmaier and her host of helpers will have shepherded another successful rummage sale. Thank you for your donations as well as your purchases. This year's proceeds amounting to over \$5,000 will be shared with two ministries: One Youth at a Time and Living Waters Lutheran Church.

Our Call Committee is moving quickly toward identifying a primary candidate. This candidate will be presented to the Church Council. Following council approval, we'll schedule a time for the congregation to meet the candidate prior to a Special Congregation Meeting to vote on an Official Call and Compensation Package. The newly called pastor will then require a month or so in transition prior to officially beginning at St. Mark's. Please continue to pray for our Call Committee as well as the pastor God is preparing to serve in ministry partnership with the people of St. Mark's.

For the past two years, St. Mark's has shared a vicar with Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church. **Vicar Matt** completes his internship in August and will be teaching at Warren Wilson College in Swannanoa as he continues his journey toward ordination. **Sunday August 11th will be his final Sunday with us. Plan now to attend a 9:45am brunch reception to celebrate his ministry here.**

A Special Congregation Meeting to vote on our building renovations and financing will be scheduled once our contractor completes pricing. We anticipate receiving this information at the next Building Committee meeting on August 20th. In the meantime, offices, classrooms, and meeting places are being vacated so that construction can begin once congregation approval is given. A display in the Welcome Center highlights the areas where renovation will occur.

Thank you for keeping your Operating Fund and Building Fund tithes and offerings up to date during the summer months. Support for *Rooted in Faith*—the special campaign to support a number of initiatives including building renovations—also continues to be strong. If you did not make a commitment to *Rooted in Faith*, please consider doing so. Any additional offerings for this project will reduce the amount we will eventually need to borrow. And, as always, if you need to change your previous pledge (whether to increase or to decrease) please speak with parish administrator Scottie Miller.

As most of you are aware, I recently returned following a month's recovery from back surgery. While I was out of commission, volunteers and staff kept things operating smoothly. Your support through prayer and a showering of get-well cards buoyed my spirit and hastened my recovery. Thank you for being such caring saints. The surgery was successful and my strength grows daily.

Pastor Trexler

COUNCIL CORNER



We have entered the season of Pentecost, a time of spiritual growth and discipleship. It is also a time of family reunions, picnics, outdoor adventures, and watching gardens grow. Hopefully it is a time for each to refresh and to be steadfast in our relationships with family and friends. We also anxiously await word about the call to a new pastor. The Church Council has conducted some important business at our July meeting. Here are the highlights.

Pastor Trexler has returned after his back surgery. We welcome him and continue to pray for full recovery, and pray for Pastor Linda and other members undergoing surgery and long periods of rehabilitation.

Vacation Bible School is scheduled for July 7-11. Faith Formation Rally Day is August 25.

The annual rummage/bake/plant sale will be held Saturday, July 20, in the Fellowship Hall

The Worship and Music Committee is looking at a possible date in the Fall when the weather is cooler, to hold our Lutheridge service.

The Property Committee is tracking where everything is being moved and stored during renovations. The chain link fence running from Merrimon Ave, including the poles and fence supporting the grape vines, is being replaced.

The Building Committee reports that the contract to install solar panels has been signed, with installation to be coordinated with the upcoming renovations. The committee is meeting with the architect and contractor to formulate the renovation proposal and to prepare a motion to present to Church Council for the congregational meeting.

The Call Committee reports that they are interviewing two pastoral candidates for the second time.

Council approved the 2018 Audit Report with no findings.

The Council reviewed a letter concerning the Loving Neighbors and the minutes of its' April Board meeting. After much discussion, the motion was approved to have Goal #2 of 2020 Strategic Vision (Serve Young Children and Families/Stop Generational Poverty) referred to the Long Range Planning Committee for further implementation.

Paul Smith resigned from Council due to his moving from the area. The Council elected Kathy Eison to fill his term of office.

Our Staff, Church Council, the Committees, Teams, volunteers and members of St. Mark's are dedicated to "Making disciples by loving Christ, growing in faith, serving all people".

Mark Fritch

President, Church Council

Farewell Celebration for Vicar Matt—Sunday, August 11th @ 9:45

We have been blessed

beyond words to have Vicar Matt at St. Mark's these past couple of years. From his preaching, his helping with the youth, and his friendship, he has been a wonderful aspect to this church.

We would like to take the time to tell him how thankful we are for him. Join us, Sunday, August 11th in the Fellowship Hall for breakfast and maybe a few surprises.



Save the Date - Rally Day is August 25th!

Get ready to kick off another year of learning and growing in faith together! Rally Day is an intergenerational event. Children of God of **all** ages, children and adults, are encouraged to come as we celebrate a new year of learning at St. Mark's. Join us in the Fellowship Hall on Sunday, August 25 at 9:45.



ST. MARK'S HAPPENINGS

Adult Faith Formation Team Meeting

The Faith Formation Team will meet August 18th after the 11 am service. We will discuss and plan classes for the Fall and Winter.



Faith Formation During Construction

Faith Formation classes without classrooms? Yes! Well, for this year at least.



During our construction and renovation, St. Mark's will continue to have Faith Formation for children and adults each Sunday. Children and Youth will all meet in the Fellowship Hall. Adults will meet in the Commons (right outside of the Sanctuary). Interested in helping with Children's Faith Formation this year? Have a suggestion for an adult class or would like to teach? Let Deacon Katie know you are interested!

THANK YOU



Notes of THANKS

THANK YOU to the more than 40 Youth and Adults that helped make VBS a wonderful week of learning about Jesus for 18 kids this year! You are a wonderful gift to our children and to me! - Deacon Katie

I would like to Thank my St. Mark's Family for all the prayers, cards and support during this time where I am taking a huge step to have a better quality of life! Thanks for always stepping up and pitching in to help our family!

*With Love
Karin, Burton, Cord and Trey*



- 1 Jean Castle
- 2 Sierra Chick, Samantha Kirby
- 3 Nate Mueller, David Schmidt
- 4 Nadia Miller
- 8 Al Seale, Laura Van Tassel
- 11 Mark Totman
- 12 Naomi Otterness, Bryan Short
- 14 Debbie Layne
- 17 Ryan Hutson, Sara Niedenthal
- 19 Bonnie Richards
- 21 Trudy Streilein
- 22 Doug Aanonsen
- 23 Claire Lewis
- 24 Allison Weems
- 26 Matthew Roe
- 27 Grace Schmidt
- 28 Ed Malkin
- 30 Mary Dudde
- 31 Erin Bonawitz-Roe, Aaron Neighbors



- 3 Norm & Patricia Bumby
- 5 Jim & Trudy Streilein
- 6 Eric & Kristina Lewis
- 7 Bill & Anne Sites
- 11 Chris & Alice Brown
- 14 Norm & Bonnie Richards
Bill & Alice Silver
- 22 Randy & Kari Warren

A WORD FROM OUR CANTOR

Late in May of this year, I attended the national conference of the Association of Lutheran Church Musicians. This gathering is held every two years in various cities around the country, this year in beautiful (*beautiful*) Portland, Oregon. It included thought-provoking workshops, inspiring keynote speakers, and beautiful worship services. I also got to enjoy time with friends and colleagues old and new. Thank you St. Mark's for helping to make this possible!



Worship at these conferences tends to be elaborate and creative -- huge organs, brass groups, percussionists, handbells, choirs, wind and string ensembles, and more. Yet somehow, it is always clear that everything is there to support the singing of the assembly.

So may it ever be among us. The Lutheran tradition has always had a place for instruments and music of every kind, but always in support of congregational singing. This is just the opposite of our culture's understanding of music -- that is, something for professionals to make and everyone else to listen to. But in our insistence on singing together, we bear witness to a different way. We show that music is not just for those who can play perfectly, read notes, or even sing in tune. Music is the birthright of **every human being**.

Have you ever been told by a loved one that you ought to just mouth the words, because your voice isn't very good? Were you given a solo in elementary school only to flub it at the big moment, and vow never to do that again? Do you love listening to great instrumentalists, but think there's no way you could ever be good enough to play yourself? These messages can easily become lodged in our brains, cutting us off from "one of the most magnificent gifts God has given" (Luther). The good news is that they are not true! "Break forth into joyous song and sing praises!" the psalmist cries. "Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly... singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs," adds Paul. Note the lack of the modifiers "if you can carry a tune," "if you made it through junior high band," or "if you can read notes." The clear message of scripture is that every person has a song to sing.

American composer Charles Ives recounts a story about his father, who was asked how he could stand to hear the town stonemason singing off-key, wrong notes, in "...that horrible, raucous voice." His father answered, "He is a supreme musician... watch him closely and reverently, look into his face and hear the music of the ages. Don't pay too much attention to the sounds -- for if you do, you may miss the music."

~Cantor David

FINANCIAL REPORT JUNE 2019



Operating Fund	June	YTD
Income budgeted	\$41,740	\$250,440
Gifts received	\$51,740	\$274,514
Expenditures	\$38,777	\$240,139
Difference	\$ 12,963	\$ 34,374

Building Fund	June	YTD
Gifts received	\$ 4,406	\$ 9,618
Amount needed	\$ 2,201	\$13,206
Difference	\$ 2,205	\$ (3,588)*
Loan balance 6/30/19	\$274,295	

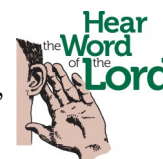
*\$38,226 on Reserve

Rooted in Faith:

Balance of funds as of 6/30/19: \$281,518

AUGUST SCRIPTURE

Sunday Scripture Lessons:



Sunday, August 4th: Ecclesiastes 1:2, 12-14; 2:18-23; Psalm 49:1-12; Colossians 3:1-11; Luke 12:13-21

Sunday, August 11th: Genesis 15:1-6; Psalm 33:12-22; Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16; Luke 12:32-40

Sunday, August 18th: Jeremiah 23:23-29; Psalm 82; Hebrews 11:29--12:2; Luke 12:49-56

Sunday August 25th: Isaiah 58:9b-14; Psalm 103:1-8; Hebrews 12:18-29; Luke 12:22-32

**HOW ST. MARK'S IS INVOLVED
IN THE COMMUNITY...
GET INVOLVED**

August ABCCM Collection:

The Steadfast House Collection for August is going to be money for bus passes. As the ladies are working hard to get their lives back in order, they sometimes need to rely on public transportation, and that isn't free. Please consider a monetary donation this month so we can purchase them A LOT of bus passes and make life a little easier for those who just need a break. God's Work, Our Hands!



Benefit Sale a Success!

On July 20th, St. Mark's was alive with the Holy Spirit at our annual Rummage, Plant and Bake Sale. Over 85 members of the church contributed to the success of the sale that raised over \$5000 for our sisters and brothers in Asheville and Cherokee. Many items were also donated to Habitat for Humanity, ABCCM Crisis Ministry, Brother Wolf, and St Paul's Bear Closet.



Take our hands, work through them.
Take our lips, speak through them.
Take our mind, think through them.
Take our hearts, set them on fire.

Praise God and Thank You from the Christian Action Team

SPOTLIGHT ON ST. MARK'S

Greeters: *Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God.*
Romans 15:7



What is your very first recollection of coming to St. Mark's? Were you welcomed heartily, or were you completely ignored, slipping through without anyone saying a word to you? Do you visit other churches when you go out of town? How are you welcomed there?

The greeters at St. Mark's work hard to make sure we welcome everyone who comes through the doors. When I first started greeting, I thought it would be a great way to learn people's names and that actually worked! Now I just like to be a greeter because it's one of the happier times of my week. I've been to other churches where the greeting is a bit stiff and cold, and I don't want that to happen to folks here at St. Mark's. Do you enjoy laughing and talking with others? Maybe being a Greeter one Sunday a month is your calling! It's fun, it's easy, and it's an awesome way to serve God. How is God calling you to serve?

Love Your Neighbor As Yourself



It's the height of summer and lots of folks are on vacation. But let's not make any assumptions. Please continue to look around your pew neighborhoods and take note of who hasn't been around lately. Even if someone is on vacation, they will most likely appreciate a simple phone call, text, or email that is checking up on them and letting them know they are missed. Haven't seen someone but don't even know their name? Let someone on the Evangelism Team know and they are happy to help identify your pew neighbor. It takes a village!

A MEMBER'S PERSPECTIVE

How do I Evangelize?



Christ & Choice. It has become more and more a theme for me lately. I've been growing more aware of how our choices lead to defining our character over time. This character represents who we are to the world. It is how we model Christ through who we are. How do my choices moment to moment align with what God wants for me and for us as a collective family of His children? Each day we all wake up and start our day and then go about the day with a choice. Do we seek to bring love and kindness into our relationships with others or do we seek something else? What should be our top priority? What should be more important than anything else, when we make our choice to engage one another?

I would like to focus this writing on a very unique type of relationship, our relationship with ourselves, meaning within our own minds. Each of us finds ourselves within these bodies with these minds that God has so blessed us with. Each of us is tasked with the choice to decide how we use our body and our mind to glorify our Father in Heaven. When given the opportunity throughout the day we have a myriad of thoughts that flow within our minds that may or may not assist us with bringing God's love into this world. How can we develop the ability to choose or to stay focused on what brings love into this world, when we have so many possible distractions from it? When given the choice how we act on these thoughts, in our mind, it seems to come down between two different emotional states, that of love versus fear, and two different responses by us, that of agreeing or either letting go. For example, consider this short story. Let's say we find ourselves in an ice cream store standing in line to buy an ice cream cone. While we're standing there in line we notice that for some reason the person in front of us is ordering the same flavor of ice cream as we were hoping to have. Excitement crosses our mind initially because someone else enjoys our favorite flavor of ice cream.

When it comes our turn, we find out that the ice cream flavor that we were going to order has now run out. Initially, this will often create a thought in our mind that we are now disappointed, but most of us will be able to let that thought go rather quickly and find a way to refocus on choosing another flavor to order. Some of us may even remember that perhaps the flavor of the ice cream is not as important as being happy for the person in front of us, that he or she gets to enjoy such a wonderful flavor of ice cream. Also, we may choose to understand the importance of not sharing our initial disappointment with the clerk on the other side of the booth, but rather share a level of true acceptance and joy in the opportunity to engage one of God's fantastic creations, a human being. Who knows, we might even find a flavor we like better, but if not, at least we were able to remember in that moment that love is more important than our taste buds.

~Blake Crownover

SUNDAYS IN AUGUST

August 4th

Pentecost VIII

- 8:30 & 11:00 Holy Communion
 - 9:45 Faith Formation

August 11th

Pentecost IX

- 8:30 & 11:00 Holy Communion
- 9:45 Vicar Matt's Farewell Celebration

August 18th

Pentecost X

- 8:30 & 11:00 Holy Communion
 - 9:45 Faith Formation
 - 12:00 FF Team Mtg

August 25th

Pentecost XI/Rally Day

- 8:30 & 11:00 Holy Communion
 - 9:45 Faith Formation

ST. MARK'S PRAYER LIST
August 2019



MEMBERS

SHUT-INS: Polly Book (Mars Hill Retirement Center), Natalia Gohdes (Mountain Valley), Jean Hackerson (The Baptist Home)

ILL/RECOVERING: Silas Noel; Jack Wilson

GRIEVING: Becky Dyer's family;

SPECIAL REQUESTS: Karin Doss, who had surgery on July 12; Beverly Rauschenberger – health concerns; Pastor Linda – fast recovery; David Schmidt-health concerns. Debbie Layne and her cat recovering from a tree falling on her house. Nancy McKeel chemotherapy for breast cancer.

IN UNDERGRADUATE/GRADUATE SCHOOL: Nicholas Dudde, Julia Rhodes, , Katherine Webb, Jamie Rhodes, Max Schmidt, Wolfie Layne, Laura Van Tassel

JOYS / CELEBRATIONS: Halleluia! Our Prayers Have Been Answered!! Susan Van Tassel is all cleared of her Cancer!!

RELATIVES

Christine Schaubhut, Deacon Katie's Aunt, who has become very ill and weak as she battles cancer.

Harry Bortner, Bev Matter's Nephew, recently diagnosed with bone cancer.

Beth Korb's Uncle, William Bergeron recently passed away

Reinhold, Layne, Kirby family grieving Keith Kirby (Evelyn's son-in-law/Judy's husband) who died suddenly of a heart attack.

Dixon family's Godfather recently passed away

FRIENDS

Silas Singleton, immune system issues

Beth Korb's childhood friend, Ginny Parker, treatment for breast cancer.

Heather Freeman, sister of Erik Smith's caregiver continues to fight cancer.

Mary Lou Hedgepeth, Carol Sturm's friend, battling pancreatic & liver cancer

Gary Foster, Anne Blackwell's friend, needs prayers

Frank, Becky Sachsenmaier's relative, is losing his sight

Bill, Becky Sachsenmaier's relative, is struggling with addiction

Hildie Polasky has requested prayers for Dean (age 15), Dion (age 11), Stephanie (age 9), Stacy (age 7) and Dionne (age 2). All of these siblings lost their mother suddenly and are in the care of Pastor Dr, Stephen Post at the Mission of the Good Shepherd in Belize.

Don Penland, St. Mark's backflow inspector, is facing knee and hip replacement surgery.

Beth Korb's friend, Maureen, who has brain cancer.

Susie Westby, Myrtle Tracy, Ashanti Obrien, Orlando Jackson, Stephanie Logan – these children are orphans at the Mission of the Good Shepherd in Belize who really need God's help.

AUGUST WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

DATE	ACOLYTES, CRUCIFERS, ETC.	LAY READERS	GREETERS	COMMUNION ASSISTANTS & ASSISTING MINISTERS	USHERS	ALTAR GUILD
4	8:30 A: Nick Mueller 11:00 A: Liam Frisella C: Toby Schuetze	8:30 Ray Polasky 11:00 Anne Sites	8:30 Debbie Layne, Becky Knight 11:00 Chuck Kopp, Melissa King	8:30 AM: Amy Zellers CA: Nancy Dodenhoff 11:00 AM: Steve Doane CA: Anne Blackwell	8:30 Wolfe Otto, Marvin Pope 11:00 David Schmidt, Dave Schuetze	8:30 Ken Clark 11:00 Tracy Schmidt, Cindi Fridd, Ali Schuetze
11	8:30 A: Lila Niedenthal 11:00 A: Trey Doss C: Heather Dixon & Erick Smith	8:30 Marvin Pope 11:00 Eileen Gram	8:30 Dan Dудde, JD Slater 11:00 Bob Taylor, Connie Koerner	8:30 AM: Katie Rivers CA: Diane Hughes 11:00 AM: Natalie Haynes CA: Jackie Harron	8:30 Ronnie Shoe 11:00 Anne Blackwell, John Cartwright	8:30 Amy Zellers 11:00 Susan Van Tassel, Karen Puthoff, Stella Pagan
18	8:30 A: Mae Reilly Mueller 11:00 A: Ryan Hutson C: Cord Doss	8:30 Nancy Dodenhoff 11:00 Ann Johnson	8:30 Cathy Totman, Betty Broitzman 11:00 Stella Pagan, Martha Price	8:30 AM: Connie Chaplin CA: Mark Fritch 11:00 AM: Beth Korb CA: Anne Sites	8:30 Ken Clark, Walter Hitch 11:00 Jason Jones, Josh Kersey	8:30 Debbie Layne 11:00 Anne Sites, Anne Blackwell
25	8:30 A: Asher Linton 11:00 A: Katie Rivers C: Zachary Hutson	8:30 Linnea Linton 11:00 Susan Van Tassel	8:30 Vi Allwein, Becky Sachsenmaier 11:00 Bob Mihara, Diane Lawson	8:30 AM: Tim Owen CA: Mary Anne Allwein 11:00 AM: Anne Blackwell CA: Eileen Gram	8:30 Mark Totman, Pat Patton 11:00 Alice Silver,	8:30 Katherine Laveck 11:00 Anne Sites, Jean Castle

AUGUST CALENDAR

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>4 Pentecost VIII 8:30 & 11:00 Worship 9:45 Faith Formation</p>	<p>5 5:30 Executive Team Mtg 6:30 CAT Team</p>	<p>6 9 Quilters 11 Staff Meeting 5:30 Finance Team</p>	<p>7 9 Property Team</p>	<p>1 7 Evangelism Team Mtg</p>	<p>2</p>	<p>3</p>
<p>11 Pentecost IX 8:30 & 11:00 Worship 9:45 Celebration of Vicar Matt</p>	<p>12 6:15 Council</p>	<p>13 9 Quilters 11 Staff Meeting 12 Yarn Angels</p>	<p>14 9 Property Team</p>	<p>15 5:30 Racial Healing Team</p>	<p>16 6 Shelter Meal</p>	<p>17</p>
<p>18 Pentecost X 8:30 & 11:00 Worship 9:45 Faith Formation</p>	<p>19</p>	<p>20 9 Quilters 11 Staff Meeting</p>	<p>21 9 Property Team 12 Healing Service</p>	<p>22</p>	<p>23</p>	<p>24 10 Yarn Angels</p>
<p>25 Pentecost XI Rally Day 8:30 & 11:00 Worship 9:45 Faith Formation</p>	<p>26</p>	<p>27 9 Quilters 11 Staff Meeting</p>	<p>28 9 Property Team</p>	<p>29</p>	<p>30</p>	<p>31</p>

St. Mark's Lutheran Church
PO Box 8608
Asheville, NC 28814



ST. MARK'S LUTHERAN CHURCH
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Website: www.stmarkslutheran.net

STAFF:

Interim Senior Pastor: William B. Trexler
Director of Discipleship & Faith Formation:
Deacon Katie Rivers
Cantor: David Anderson
Parish Administrator: Scottie Miller
Pastor of Caring Ministries:
The Rev. Linda McHenry
Seminary Intern: Vicar Mat Hoffman
Facilities Manager: Eileen Cram
Custodian: Gage Hampton
Ministry Coordinator: Debbie Layne
Nursery Director: Ginger Dixon

Church Office Hours:
Mon—Thurs 9:00—4:30
Fri 9:00—12:30



OUR MISSION:

Making disciples by loving Christ,
growing in faith, serving all people

OUR VISION:

Transforming lives through God's grace as an
inclusive, intergenerational congregation
through Worship, Outreach,
Learning and Fellowship