



ReMARKS, *December 2021*

Our Advent Wait



We love instant gratification. Can't remember that actor's name? Have an argument about the words to a song? With the internet at our fingertips, there's no need to wait! And so we have become accustomed to getting what we want, when we want it. "What? Shipping is going to take how long?" If I can't have it now, I might not even want it anymore. And if you want to see me really frustrated, let's talk about how long I had to wait in line just to turn in an old license plate at the tag and title office. Seriously, you're going to waste my time on that? Who wants to wait when we could be moving on to the next thing?

But all waiting is not the same. If I'm stuck in a waiting room because my dentist is running behind or the plane is delayed, well sure, that's a run out the clock, twiddle the thumbs, play on the phone kind of waiting. But there is another kind of waiting, the active waiting of transformation. This is the wait of the woman who has just found out she is going to be a mother. The baby won't be here for months, but the wait won't be an idle one. Preparations need to be made, and throughout this wait there is vital transformation happening.

This pregnant waiting is the wait of Advent. We start our liturgical year watching and preparing for the new thing that is coming. And yes, one of the things we're anticipating is celebrating the birth of Jesus. But this season is also about preparing for the fulfillment of what God is up to in Jesus Christ. Advent calls us to step back from fast results and glitzy certainty—to turn back to expectant and transforming waiting. We are called, this season especially, to keep awake and alert to the new things that God is doing in our world.

How will you prepare your heart and this world for Christ's coming kingdom this season? If you need a place to start, grab a daily devotional from the commons. Make plans to join us for worship each Sunday and Wednesday evening as we gather around the Word of God. The hope we cling to as the days turn short and cold is that Jesus, the light of the world, is coming. Let every heart prepare him room.

Watching and waiting with you,

Pastor Matt

St. Mark's Upcoming Special Events

St. Mark's Annual Congregational Meeting

December 5th @ 9:45am

During St. Mark's congregational meeting, we will be reviewing the 2022 proposed budget, council nominations, committee appointments and discussing other pertinent information. If you did not receive an electronic copy of the Condensed 2022 Proposed Budget within the previous MiniMarks, copies are available in the commons area or you may request a 2022 Proposed Budget from the church office by emailing Danielle at admin@stmarkslutheran.net. This will be a hybrid meeting via Zoom which can be accessed from the online master church calendar or from the link in December 1st MiniMarks.

Parent's Night Out

Saturday, December 11th 4:00pm-7:00pm

Dinner, Christmas crafts, games, and a movie! This event is for all children of St. Mark's, as an opportunity to have fun at church while parents have a night to shop, have dinner out, or take a well deserved nap. Donations will be accepted to help the Youth Group attend the ELCA Youth Gathering this July. Please sign up on Sign up central bulletin board.

Adult Faith Formation

Sundays from 9:45am-10:45am

Dec. 5th Congregational Meeting (Adults and Confirmed Youth) - Sanctuary Children will have Sunday School as normal in their classrooms.

Dec. 12th Meet and Greet with Danielle James followed by AED Training
A time to get to know our Parish Administrator, Danielle James will be followed by Eric Van Tassel leading a training session on how to operate our Automated External Defibrillator (AED).

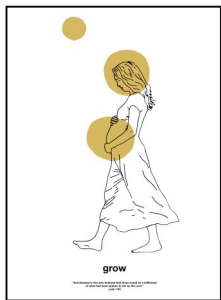
Dec. 19th Childcare update and Blessing of the Christine Avery Learning Center
Kyla Morton and Cici Weston from Christine W. Avery Learning Center will join us to share about the new childcare center opening at St. Mark's. After their presentation, Pastor Matt will lead a blessing of the center.

Dec. 26th No Faith Formation

St. Mark's Advent and Christmas Season

Mid Week Advent Services

Wednesday evenings during Advent beginning @ 7pm



We will be gathering with our Ecumenical Church Partners for our Wednesday Advent Worship, each of them leading a mid-week Advent worship service. We will be worshipping in person at each location, however in lieu of sharing a meal together prior to the service, we will have a time of fellowship after worship where we will share coffee and cookies.

Below are the dates and locations for each mid-week Advent Service:

- December 1st - St. Paul's United Methodist
- December 8th - St. Mary's Episcopal Church
- December 15th - St. Eugene's Catholic Church
- December 22nd - St. Mark's Lutheran Church

Christmas Eve Services

December 24th

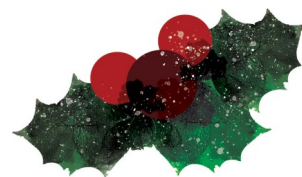


There will be three worship opportunities on Christmas Eve this year. **The 4:00 pm** service will be geared towards families and children. **The 7:00 pm and 10:00 pm service** will be our traditional Christmas Eve services with handbells, choir, and brass quintet. All three services will include communion and candlelight. A Christmas prelude will begin 30 minutes before each service and continue until the service begins.

*May you be blessed this Christmas Season and end the year on a cheerful note, making way for a fresh, bright, and healthy New Year.
Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.*



*Pastor Matt, Deacon Katie,
Cantor David, Pastor Linda
Steve, Danielle*





Council Notes

Greetings from the St Mark's Congregation Council!

Here are some highlights from our November 2021 Zoom meetings:

- We're getting closer to having the fence installed for CW Avery Learning Center.
- **Motion passed:** The Finance Team moves to present the St. Mark's Lutheran Church 2022 operating budget to the congregation for approval.
- Slate of 2022 Council nominees: Bryan Short, Bonnie Morris, Jason Jones, Anne Blackwell, and Jeremy Kemper (filling open position) have agreed to serve on Council. **Motion passed:** The Executive Team moves to present the above slate of Council nominees to the congregation for approval.
- Slate of 2022 Endowment Fund nominees: Eric Van Tassel and Sarah Volk have agreed to serve on the Endowment Fund Board. **Motion passed:** The Executive Team moves to present the above slate of Endowment Fund Board nominees to the congregation for approval.
- Lutheran Services Carolinas has been approved to host an Afghan Placement Assistance Site that will serve as an Employment Placement and Case Management site. LSC has been in conversation with Pastor Matt about using 2 classrooms at St. Mark's. Now that they have approval, things will move quickly and they are planning to be up and running by Christmas. We are not looking to make money off of this, but LSC did offer \$250/month as a donation. We ARE looking to house them long term and live out our faith by welcoming the stranger. Praise God! **Motion passed:** Pr Matt moves to accept the Memorandum of Understanding with Lutheran Services Carolina.
- The annual congregation meeting is scheduled for the first Sunday in December, 12/05, at 9:45 AM. It will be a hybrid meeting.

Thanks for giving us the opportunity to serve.

Amy Zellers,
Council President

Christian Action Team (CAT)

Lunch and Learn

December 5th after the 11:00am service



Confused by the terms "Choice Dollars" and "Action Grants"? What you do need to know is that they are important fund raising tools provided by Thrivent Financial to churches. We at St Marks use them frequently to augment our outreach projects. They stretch our dollars immensely! Join us for a very nice lunch on Sunday, December 5th, after the 11 o'clock Service, and learn about these tools.

Glenn Deal, a Thrivent agent, will explain the why's and how's. This will not be a sales presentation for Thrivent products, although you can set up appointments to meet with Glenn for those. You do not need to be a Thrivent policy holder to attend, and enjoy a delicious lunch in our Fellowship Hall. (Social distancing and masks encouraged!)

Please sign up for this event on the bulletin board at the bottom of the stairs, by the elevator.

Giving Tree



GIVING TREE

Share Christmas this year with a stranger with a gift through St Mark's Giving Tree. The Giving Tree, with gift ornaments, is up in the Commons. We are collecting slippers, clothing and other items for "Our Voice," underwear for the ABCCM Veteran's Quarter, farm animals through ELCA World Hunger, and children's clothing and toys for kids at the Claxton School.

Take an ornament(s) from the tree, and bring back a gift(s). Checks should be made out to "St Marks", with the gift listed on the designation line at the bottom of the check. More information will be available (deadline, wrapping instructions etc) at the Giving Tree.

Crop Hunger Walk - An \$18,000 SUCCESS!

Who would have thought? A record breaking walk event during our present pandemic! Asheville area Churches and groups raised \$18,000 this year, which is \$2,000 more than the 2020 walk. And even more exciting is the generosity of St Marks members, who contributed **\$9,000** of that total! A 2022 Hunger Walk is expected for next year--hopefully without masks. We need new planning members. Is this something that interests you? If so, contact Daniel Dudde (828-683-9064)

Racial Healing Team

Continuing to grow...



We hung an orange banner in the Commons last month to acknowledge and repent the suffering our churches brought upon Native American children and families of Indian Boarding Schools. Now what? Now we continue (or begin) to learn about the history of these schools. We have already shared information about the Carlisle Indian Boarding School, so let's take a look at the man who started this school in the name of Christianity, Captain Richard Henry Pratt. Who was Captain Richard Henry Pratt? And what can we learn about him by reading his own words? The Racial Healing Team hopes you can take the time to learn about this important American history so that we might begin to grow into a more meaningful relationship with our brothers and sisters of Living Waters Lutheran Church in Cherokee.

Nvwadohiyadv (Peace)

Need a Baker?



Need someone to do the baking for you this holiday season? The AVL Cake Lady has you covered!! The Racial Healing Team is always looking for Black-Owned local businesses to support, and we feel like we have hit the jackpot with this awesome bakery owned by Shana McDowell. She has a brick and mortar location at 34 New Leicester Hwy, and there is also an AVL Cake Lady booth at the WNC Farmers Market on Brevard Rd, which is run by her hilarious father, Walter. Stop at either location for a yummy treat for yourself, or ask about sweet treats for your next office or family event ~ (828) 412-3388 ~ facebook.com/avlcakelady/ You can thank us later!

World Relief and Quilters



**LUTHERAN
WORLD RELIEF**

Lutheran World Relief Report for 2021

Many thanks to all the wonderful people of St. Mark's who participated in the Lutheran World Relief drive this fall.

- All those who donated supplies and assembled school kits
- All who donated fabrics and cut, sewed, hemmed, and tied quilts
- The packers, the labelers, the weighers, and recorders
- Everyone who helped load, unload, and re-load the trucks

All in all a great success! This year's shipment yielded

- 100 School Kits
- 344 Quilts
- 85 Boxes
- 1778 pounds



Well done good and faithful servants!

Quilters Need Your HELP!

Tuesday Mornings @ 9am



In order to continue providing warmth and love with our quilt-making we need to collect more cotton fabric. Do you still have a box in a back closet somewhere? How about sheets that no longer match your décor?

We also need more people to help cut squares and sew tops. This can be done with us at church on Tuesday Mornings or can be done at home on your own schedule. Please consider helping and/or joining the quilters on Tuesday mornings. They will resume meeting on January 4th as they are taking a break during the month of December.

News and Updates

Quilters

The Tuesday morning Quilters group will not be meeting during the month of December. They will resume meeting on January 4th at 9am.

Lutheran Men in Mission

December 11th @ 8am

The LMM group will be gathering monthly, in person at Happy Hill from 8am-9:30am on the second Saturday of the month. They are inviting any and all who would like to join! Please contact Chuck Kopp if you are planning on attending or need more information. Chuck's number is 828-595-7606.

Living Lutheran Magazine Subscription

St. Marks notified those receiving the Living Lutheran Subscription at the group rate that they will longer be providing this discount due to the continued budget deficit from unpaid subscription fees. You can sign up for a subscription on your own, for about \$20/yr. However, if a minimum of 25 households decide that they would like to continue receiving the Living Lutheran magazine through St. Marks, you will be charged a rate of only \$10/yr.

Dan Dudde, who enjoys receiving the magazine and keeping abreast of what our Church is all about and learning what it means to be a Lutheran Christian, would like to see how many of St. Mark's members are interested in subscribing to Living Lutheran. If you are interested in gaining access to this discounted price, please contact Dan Dudde with your name and mailing address and he will be add you to the list of those who are interested. Once the list has reached a minimum of 25 individuals, prepayment will be requested for your subscription from the church office. Please **notify Dan by December 17th** if you are interested so that there is not an extended delay in beginning the 2022 editions.

Email: starrdudde@bellsouth.net

Phone: 828.683.9064

Altar Flower Vases

The Altar Guild is in need of wide-mouth vases to put the altar flowers in after services.

If you have any you can donate, please leave them on the counter in the sacristy.

December Cancellations

There will be no healing service this month on December 15th. We encourage you to attend the Advent service that evening at St. Eugene's Catholic Church.

We will not be having the LandMARKS class during the month of December. The next LandMARKS class will be held on January 9th

St. Mark's Newest Members

Received First Communion on November 21, 2021



Jackson Penland



Eleanor Schreck



Neil Short



Claire Niedenthal

Received by baptism on November 21, 2021

Wyatt and Kelly Flanders

Stewardship

Financial Report

Below you will find October's financial report for both the Operating Fund and the Building Fund. Thank you for your continued contributions.

Financial Report Operating Fund

subject to change from treasurer's report

Income budgeted

October	YTD
\$38,913	\$389,130

Gifts received

October	YTD
\$49,649	\$425,122

Expenditures

October	YTD
\$34,727	\$376,066

Surplus/(Deficit)

October	YTD
\$14,922	\$49,056

Financial Report Building Fund

subject to change from treasurer's report

Income budgeted

October	YTD
\$4,667	\$46,670

Gifts received against Pledges

October	YTD
\$4,434	\$36,402

Loan Payments

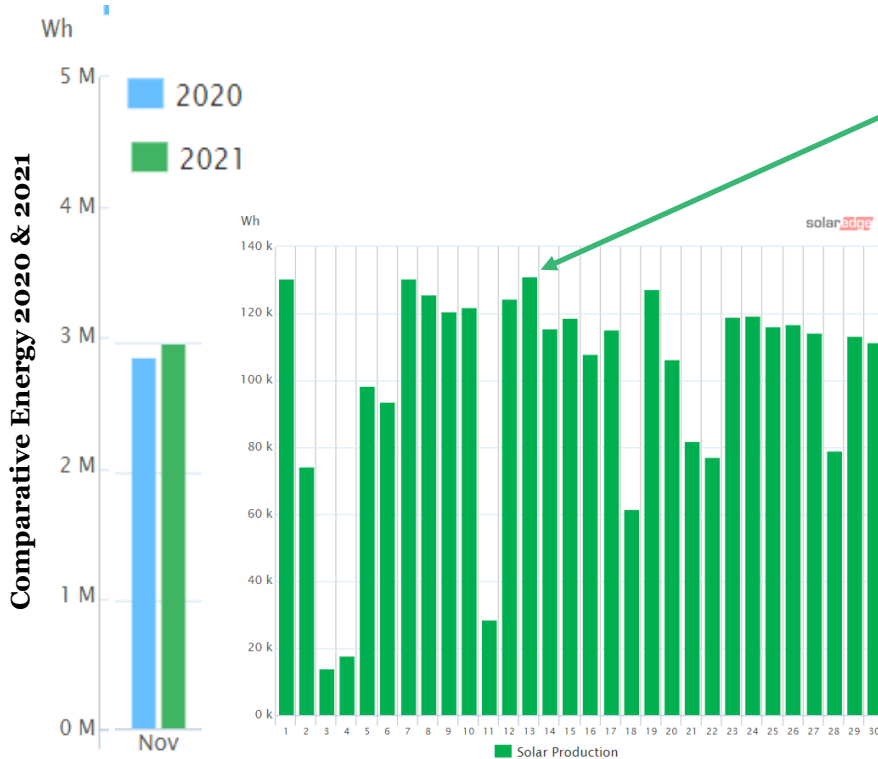
October	YTD
\$5,351	\$53,510

Surplus/(Deficit)

October	YTD
\$(917)	\$(17,108)

Caring for God's Creation

November Solar Report



November 13th was the top producing day this month @130.987 kWh

Environmental Benefits From Install date of July 2020

Environmental Benefits



CO2 Emission Saved
90,132.82 lb



Equivalent Trees Planted
681.03

Sunday Calendar

December 5th - Second Sunday of Advent

Scripture Readings:

Malachi 3:1-4; Luke 1:68-79
Philippians 1:3-11; Luke 3:1-6

8:30am.....Worship
9:45am.....Congregational Meeting
11:00am.....Worship

December 12th - Third Sunday of Advent

Scripture Readings:

Zephaniah 3:14-20; Isaiah 12:2-6
Philippians 4:4-7; Luke 3:7-18

8:30am.....Worship
9:45am...Meet and Greet with Danielle & AED Training
11:00am.....Worship

December 19th - Fourth Sunday of Advent

Scripture Readings:

Micah 5:2-5a; Luke 1:46b-55
Hebrews 10:5-10; Luke 1:39-45

8:30am.....Worship
9:45am.....Meet and Greet with CWA
11:00am.....Worship
4:00pm.....Youth Group Christmas Party

December 24th - Christmas Eve

Music to begin 30 minutes before Service

4:00pm.....Christmas Eve Service
7:00pm.....Christmas Eve Service
10:00pm.....Christmas Eve Service

December 26th - First Sunday of Christmas

Scripture Readings:

1 Samuel 2:18-20, 26; Psalm 148
Colossians 3:12-17; Luke 2:41-52

8:30am.....Worship
9:45am.....No Faith Formation
11:00am.....Worship

Birthdays

Dec 1 Joan Galvin
Dec 3 Brittany Kittel, David Rowe
Dec 6 Brett Davis
Dec 7 David Van Tassel
Dec 8 Bear Davis
Dec 9 Susan Morgan
Dec 10 Sierra Kindley, George
Kroncke, Xayvria Noel
Dec 11 Elaine Pope
Dec 14 Becky Knight
Dec 15 Riley Kelling, Carol Mott
Dec 17 Ray Polasky
Dec 20 Gage Hampton
Dec 22 Rob Hubler, Raven Robinson
Dec 23 McKenna Hunkele
Dec 24 Chris Brown, Paula Whitener,
Natalia Gohdes, Karl Sturm
Dec 25 Susan Van Tassel
Dec 28 Sarah Dawson
Dec 29 Pamela Stein
Dec 31 Kari Warren

Anniversaries

Dec 6 Mark & Gloria Fritch
Dec 16 Albert & Susan Morgan
Dec 20 Warren & Bonnie Wheeler

Worship Assistant Schedule

The Worship Assistant Schedule for November has been published. If you have a conflict, please first try to find your own replacement and then communicate this change with the church office. This way we will be prepared for worship on Sunday mornings. If you are unable to find a substitute, please contact Danielle and she will be happy to help you!

There are still a few positions available (marked TBD). If you are willing to volunteer please let Danielle know and she will update the serving schedule.

Date	Dec. 5th	Dec. 12th	Dec. 19	Dec. 26
Worship Assistant Schedule	8:30am (1) Dan Dudde (2) Mary Dudde 11am (1) TBD (2) TBD	8:30am (1) Henry Ulrichs (2) Barbara Ulrichs 11am (1) TBD (2) Bob Mihara	8:30am (1) J.D. Slater (2) Linda Kinsinger 11am (1) Susan Van Tassel (2) Eric Van Tassel	8:30am (1) Vic Allwein (2) Evelyn Reinhold 11am (1) Tom Stewart (2) Brenda Stewart
	8:30am (1) TBD (2) TBD 11am (1) Scott Baumann (2) Anne Blackwell	8:30am (1) Lila Niedenthal/Isa Slater (2) Ronnie Shoe 11am (1) Scott Baumann (2) Alice Silver	8:30am (1) Julia Volk (2) Amy Zellers 11am (1) Jason Jones (2) Josh Kersey	8:30am (1) Deboarh Lane (2) Ken Lane 11am (1) Alice Silver (2) Katie Rivers
	8:30am Ken Clark 11am Bonnie Morris	8:30am Amy Zellers 11am Paula Lindsay	8:30am Debbie Layne/Gerri Hill 11am Donna Turnbaugh	8:30am Amy Zellers 11am Anne Blackwell
	11am TBD	11am Paula Bradt	11am Eileen Cram & Erick Smith	11am Christian Wikoff
	8:30am Isa Slater 11am Bonnie Richards	8:30am Claire Niedenthal 11am Katie Rivers	8:30am Liza Volk 11am Katie Rivers	8:30am Katie Rivers 11am Anne Blackwell
	8:30am Connie Chaplin 11am Randy Warren	8:30am Katie Rivers 11am Dave Epley	8:30am Connie Chaplin 11am Beth Korb	8:30am Amy Zellers 11am TBD
	8:30am James Aydelotte 11am Steve Doane	8:30am Carl Schreck 11am Al Seale	8:30am Anne Sites 11am Martha Price	8:30am Barbara Ulrichs 11am Donna Turnbaugh
	8:30am Linda Kinsinger 11am Bonnie Richards	8:30am Anne Sites 11am Natalie Haynes	8:30am Diane Hughes/Liza Volk 11am Vickie Hauser	8:30am Mary Anne Allwein 11am Eileen Cram
	11am Bob Mihara	11am Trey Doss	11am Natalie Haynes	11am Cord Doss

St. Mark's Lutheran Church

*10 N. Liberty Street
Asheville, NC 28801*



Staff

Our Vision:

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

Our Mission:

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

Contact Information

Pastor:

Reverend Matthew Smith

Director of Discipleship & Faith Formation:

Deacon Katie Rivers

Cantor:

David Anderson

Parish Administrator:

Danielle James

Pastor of Caring Ministries:

Reverend Linda McHenry

Facilities Manager:

Steve Henry

Physical and Mailing Address:

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admin@stmarkslutheran.net

Website:

www.stmarkslutheran.net

Office Hours:

Monday—Thursday 8:30am-4:30pm

Friday 8:30am-12:30pm