



ReMARKS, *May 2022*

Ihsas Family Update

34Then the king will say to those at his right hand, "Come, you that are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; 35for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, 36I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me." -Matthew 25:34-36



On Friday April 22, the Ihsas family left Buncombe County and moved to Northern Virginia where they have close family friends. This move will put them in a place with a much broader Afghan community where they will have social and relational support from people who speak their language! St. Mark's had walked with them for going on 3 months, so it was with a mixture of disappointment and excitement that we said our goodbyes.



Our journey with them started in earnest when a caravan of cars from St. Mark's met the Ihsas family (all ten of them!) at the Asheville airport in early February to transport them to their temporary housing in Montreat. They were arriving from a military base in New Jersey after five months of sharing a tent with another family. They fled Afghanistan in August of 2021 with the help of the US military.



Because of Abdul's work in Afghanistan with US Special Forces, he and his family were seen as traitors when the US left Afghanistan and the Taliban quickly took control. Shortly after they were evacuated their house was bombed. Abdul's brother, who remains in Afghanistan, lost his medical job because the Taliban now controls the hospital where he worked, and Taliban forces routinely demand that members of Abdul's extended family tell them where he is so that they can kill him. Thank the Lord that the Ihsas family was able to get out and that we were able to help transition them to safety!

Thank you, thank you, thank you, St. Mark's for all the ways you supported them as they begin their new lives in this country! The challenges were many: a dozen volunteer shifts a week made it possible for both parents to attend English classes at AB Tech, you supplied thousands of dollars worth of grocery gift cards (10 people need a lot of food!), and sat for hours in medical waiting rooms as the family received crucial care from the health department and primary care providers. None of this would have been possible without you.

I have been overwhelmed by your generosity and commitment. This has not been easy work, but it has been good. This is the good and holy work of welcome to which our faith calls us, and I have been so proud of the way our congregation has responded to this need! Thanks be to God for the tremendous difference the work of our hands made for this family!

And while the Ihsas family has moved out of the area, others remain in need. Something like 60 Afghans are still making their homes here in Buncombe County with the support of Lutheran Service Carolinas and many volunteers. Details are not yet final, but I've also heard some talk about the real possibility that Ukrainian refugees could be settled in this area later this year. If we get confirmation of those needs and how we might help we will surely let you know. But for today, I'm so grateful for your faithfulness in this ministry of caring for those in need.

God bless you, and God bless our ongoing ministry together as St. Mark's Lutheran Church.

Pastor Matt



"I tell everyone in Afghanistan, I tell everyone here, if it were not for this church helping me, I would be begging on the street. Thank you, thank you. We are so grateful for all you have done for us."

-Abdul Ihsas

St. Mark's Faith Formation and Fellowship

For Questions regarding Faith Formation or Discipleship, Contact Deacon Katie

Faith Formation, Indian Boarding Schools

April 24th - May 22nd



The Racial Healing Team invites you to continue joining the Faith Formation class discussing Indian Boarding Schools.

- What are they?
- Who started them?
- How was the church involved?
- Why should we learn about them now?

It will be a challenge to learn things that directly contradict so much of what you have been taught your entire life to be true. We are hoping you join us with a willingness to be open and open-minded for lively conversations in a safe and loving space, where God (Great Spirit) will be at the center of it all.

"We have come to know and trust the love Creator has for us. The Great Spirit is love. He remains in those who love and keep on loving, and they remain in him."

- 1 John:16 from *First Nations Version:*
An Indigenous Translation of the New Testament

Faith Formation, Luther's Small Catechism

Beginning Sunday, May 29th



Catechism

Join Doug Johnson as he leads us through Martin Luther's Small Catechism. Whether you haven't ever read the catechism, have Luther's explanations memorized, or somewhere in between, come and spend time as we discuss the foundations of our faith together. This class will meet for 6 weeks in the Sanctuary.

Landmarks

May 1st and June 5th from 9:45am-10:45am

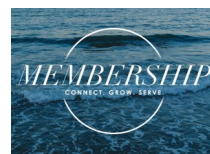


New to St. Mark's? Want to get to know the people here? Interested in getting involved with what God is doing in this place? LandMARKS is a monthly

meeting with Pastor Matt and/or Deacon Katie that helps visitors and new members learn about the ministries of St. Mark's, get to know the staff and members, and ask questions about our community. Meet us at the bottom of the main staircase at 9:45am to join!

New Member Sunday

May 15th



If you are interested in joining St. Mark's we will

be having a New Member Sunday on May 15th. As we know more about what this day will look like, we will share this information.

Habitat for Humanity, Interfaith House Volunteer on June 2nd



Meet the Coffey family! In purchasing a Habitat home, Jesse and Kayla will give their kids space to play and grow, and give themselves the financial freedom to save for their family's future. In their application letter, they stated they like the idea of putting as much work as possible into the home themselves, and feel this in itself would be a source of pride in making their house a home.

Henry Ulrichs is spearheading a volunteer opportunity for St. Mark's to participate in the building of this Interfaith House with Habitat for Humanity and the St. Mark's Staff directly for the Coffey family. Find more information about this family in the upcoming MiniMarks and Sunday bulletin inserts.

On May 12th, St. Mark's staff and a few other volunteers will be participating in building an interfaith house together. **We need 8 more volunteers on June 2nd.** If you are interested in volunteering, please let Danielle or Henry know so that your spot can be reserved. Once you reach out, you will receive additional information about where to find your liability form, what to wear, and a few safety guidelines.

Questions? Contact Henry at henryulrichs66@gmail.com or 910.620.4854.

Ronald McDonald House Collection



The Pop tab by itself does not mean much. However, when collected, pop tabs add up to become a valuable donation to the Ronald McDonald House. This idea of "pulling" together for a charitable cause is the core value of this program.

Join St. Mark's in "pulling together" a collection of pop tabs. There is a glass jar in the welcome center that you can add your collection to. If you have questions, please contact Alice Silver.

Ukraine Relief Efforts



To date the St. Mark's congregation has donated a total of \$10,645 directly to Lutheran Disaster Response's Eastern Europe Crisis Response to support people impacted by the war in Ukraine.

With May having 5 Sundays, the Noisy Bucket offering on May 29th will go towards our total contribution given by the congregation. Thank you for your continued contributions and much needed support.

2022 Synod Gathering

2022 Synod Gathering

When: June 2-4, 2022

Where: Lenoir-Rhyne University - Hickory, NC

You are invited to join other members of the North Carolina Synod for the first ever Synod Gathering! This event will have time for learning, worship, and fellowship with other Lutherans from all over the state.



Be part of the first Synod Gathering, EVER!

Bring a group from your congregation

ALL are welcome to attend. Come for one, two, or all three days!

Learn More at: nclutheran.org/event/2022-synod-gathering/

Register by April 26 and SAVE!



Keynote Speaker,
Dr. Jacqueline
Bussie, author of
*Love without
Limits*

Preaching
Thursday,
ELCA Presiding
Bishop Elizabeth
A. Eaton

Preaching Friday,
the Rev. CeCee
Mills, NC Synod
Asst. to the
Bishop

Preaching
Saturday,
the Rev. Tim
Smith, Bishop,
NC Synod

**50th Anniversary (+2) Celebration of the Ordination of Women
Worship, Fellowship, Learning Opportunities, and More**

Event Location: Lenoir-Rhyne University, Hickory, NC

Two ways to attend:

- 1. Attend with St. Mark's** - Pastor Matt will be driving our newly borrowed 12 passenger van to Hickory to attend the Gathering on Thursday. If you would like to attend that day and travel with Pastor Matt, please email Deacon Katie and she will register you for the event. St. Mark's will cover your meals and day registration.
- 2. Attend on your own** - You are welcome to attend additional days of the Synod Gathering, and stay overnight at LR. For this option, please follow the link in April's editions of MiniMarks to register yourself for the event.

Questions? Want to learn more?

Contact Deacon Katie

Event Schedule

Thursday schedule:

8 AM -
Registration opens
10 AM -
Welcome and opening worship
11:30 AM -
Keynote - Dr. Jacqueline Bussie
12:30 PM -
Lunch/Bible study by groups
2:30 - 5 PM -
Learning opportunities
5 PM - 7 PM -
Dinner on your own
7-9 PM -
Reception to celebrate the 50th Anniversary
(+2) of the Ordination of Women
9:15 PM -
Evening compline

Friday schedule:

9 AM -
Morning prayer
9:30 AM -
Bishop Tim time
10:30 AM -
Keynote - Dr. Jacqueline Bussie
Lunch/Bible study by groups -
Lunch is provided by Lutheran
Services Carolinas - FREE
2-4:30 PM -
Learning opportunities
5 PM -
Worship, Evening fun, food,
games
7:30 PM -
Reception University Commons
8:30 PM -
Evening compline

Saturday schedule:

8:30 AM -
Morning Prayer
9-11:30 AM -
Learning opportunities
Lunch/Bible study
2 PM -
Closing worship

Council Corner



Greetings from the St Mark's Congregation Council!

Here are some highlights from our April 2022 Zoom meeting:

- St. Mark's will adopt a mask-optional policy for worship as soon as conditions allow. We will continue to have the windows open during services and will support all who choose to continue wearing masks.
- Staff at the Christine W. Avery Learning Center is anticipating a mid-June opening of the space at St. Mark's.
- The Treasurer's report shows a positive balance for the year to date.
- The Council voted to allocate funds remaining from the 2020 surplus and the gifts from Eleanor Kittel's and Vi Adams's memorials to fund Lutheridge attendance for children connected to WNC Baptist Fellowship, Living Waters, and CWA Learning Center.

Organ Recital

Organ Recital at St. John in the Wilderness

Tuesday, May 3rd @ 7:30pm



You are cordially invited to attend the Blue Ridge AGO Members' Recital at St. John in the Wilderness, Flat Rock on May 3 at 7:30pm. Cantor David is not playing this time around, but you will get to hear some excellent performers including friend of the congregation Dr. Vance Reese. Additionally, the 3-manual Wicks organ was recently given an extensive refurbishment by Daniel Angerstein, who takes care of the organ at St. Mark's.

This event is free and open to the public! St. John in the Wilderness is located at 1895 Greenville Highway, Flat Rock NC

Holy Week in Review

Good Friday

As part of Holy Week we participated in the Stations of the Cross with our Ecumenical Partners. This was a well attended, moving worship service. Thank you to St. Mary's Episcopal for hosting us at the EW Grove Park.



Easter Breakfast

What a joy it was to be able to fellowship together during this Easter season. Thank you to all that joined and provided a portion of our delicious meal.

Easter Egg Hunt

Although the childcare center is not yet up and running, our St. Mark's children thoroughly enjoyed the opportunity to hunt for their Easter eggs and explore this new space.



Stewardship

Financial Report

Below you will find March'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

<u>March</u>	<u>YTD</u>
\$42,581	\$127,743

Gifts received

<u>March</u>	<u>YTD</u>
\$49,381	\$154,278

Expenditures

<u>March</u>	<u>YTD</u>
\$42,447	\$120,227

Surplus/(Deficit)

<u>March</u>	<u>YTD</u>
\$6,934	\$34,052

Financial Report

Building Fund

subject to change from treasurer's report

Income budgeted

<u>March</u>	<u>YTD</u>
\$4,207	\$12,621

Gifts received against Pledges

<u>March</u>	<u>YTD</u>
\$14,810	\$22,025

Loan Payments

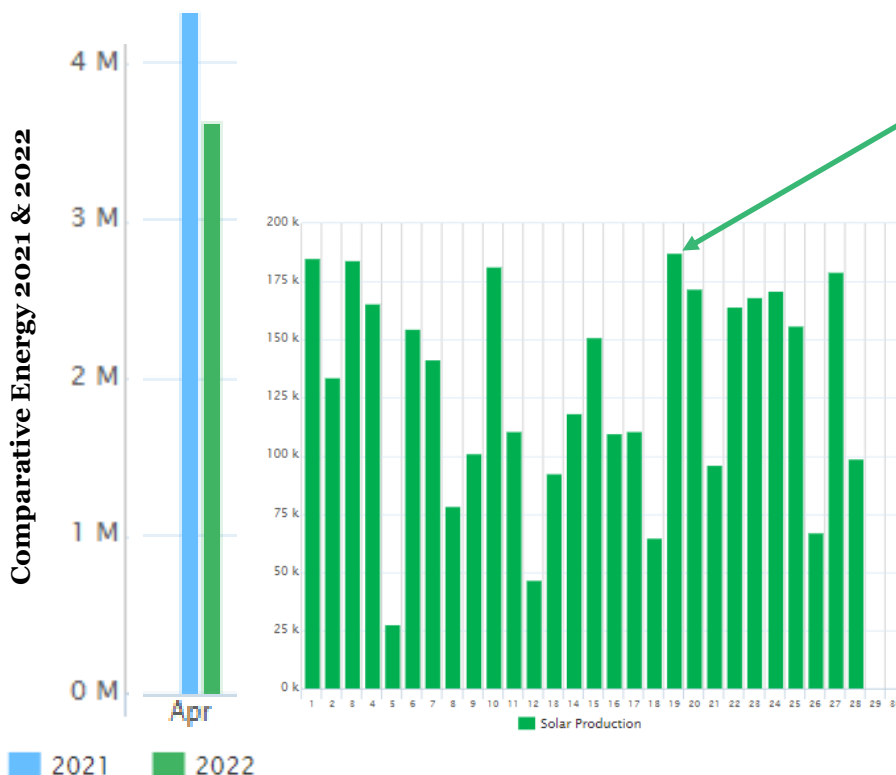
<u>March</u>	<u>YTD</u>
\$5,351	\$16,053

Surplus/(Deficit)

<u>March</u>	<u>YTD</u>
\$9,459	\$5,972

Caring for God's Creation

April Solar Report



April 19 was the top producing day this month @187.236 kWh

Environmental Benefits From Install date of July 2020

Environmental Benefits



CO2 Emission Saved
113,533.38 lb



Equivalent Trees Planted
857.85

Sunday Calendar

May 1st - The Third Sunday of Easter

Scripture Readings:

Acts 9:1-6 (7-20); Psalm 30; Revelation 5:11-14; John 21:1-19

8:30am.....Worship
9:45am.....Faith Formation
9:45am.....Landmarks
11:00am.....Worship
1:00pm.....Youth Group

May 8th - The Fourth Sunday of Easter

Scripture Readings:

Acts 9:36-43; Psalm 23; Revelation 7:9-17; John 10:22-30

8:30am.....Worship
9:45am.....Faith Formation
11:00am.....Worship
12:30pm.....Youth Group

May 15th - The Fifth Sunday of Easter

New Member Sunday

Scripture Readings:

Acts 11:1-18; Psalm 148; Revelation 21:1-6; John 13:31-35

8:30am.....Worship
9:45am.....Faith Formation
11:00am.....Worship

May 22nd - The Sixth Sunday of Easter

Scripture Readings:

Acts 16:9-15; Psalm 67; Rev. 21:10, 22-22:5; John 14:23-29

8:30am.....Worship
9:45am.....Faith Formation
11:00am.....Worship
12:30pm.....Youth Group

May 29th - The Seventh Sunday of Easter

Scripture Readings:

Acts 16:16-34; Psalm 97; Rev. 21:12-14, 16-17, 20-21
John 17:20-26

8:30am.....Worship
9:45am.....Faith Formation
11:00am.....Worship

Mark Your Calendars

Thursday, May 12th

- CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED - St. Mark's staff will be participating in building a Habitat for Humanity house for the Coffey Family

Tuesday, May 17th

- Primary Elections - St. Mark's will be a voting location

Birthdays

May 2	Ann Marie Miller
May 4	Augustus Mott
May 6	Harmony Fox
May 7	Lucy Kopp
May 8	Lisa Apelian
May 9	Jamie Rhodes
May 12	Harry Thompson
	Randy Warren
	Mitch Williams
May 14	Sherrie Hygon
May 15	Hannah Smith
May 16	Carol Sturm
May 17	Lucinda Morin
	Donna Turnbaugh
May 19	Kip Otterness
	Katie Rivers
May 21	Stan Webb
May 23	Al Tenty
May 24	Lila Niedenthal
May 25	Paisley Miller
May 27	Betty Thompson
May 28	Mark Fritch
	Sharon Godfrey
May 30	Christopher Lindsay
May 31	Linda McHenry
	Rob Miller

Anniversaries

May 4	Bill & Sherrie Hygon
May 6	George and Rachel Hahn
May 7	Philip & Naomi Otterness
May 19	David & Adrienne Neighbors
May 25	Carol and John Loncosky
May 27	Matt & Sarah Volk
May 28	Carl & Mary Schreck
May 29	Bob & Becky Sachsenmaier

Worship Assistant Schedule

Please submit your availability for June and July to Danielle by May 15th.

The Worship Assistant Schedule for May 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!

Worship Assistant Schedule	Date	May 1st	May 8th	May 15th	May 22nd	May 29th
	Greeters	8:30am (1) Dan Dudde (2) Mary Dudde 11am (1) Alice Silver (2) Cindy Lauster	8:30am (1) Henry Ulrichs (2) Barbara Ulrichs 11am (1) Cindy Lauster (2) Bob Mihara	8:30am (1) J.D Slater (2) Henry Ulrichs 11am (1) Eric Van Tassel (2) Susan Van Tassel	8:30am (1) Vic Allwein (2) Evelyn Reinhold 11am (1) Cindy Lauster (2) Bob Mihara	8:30am (1) Tom Stewart (2) Brenda Stewart 11am (1) Katie Rivers (2) TBD
	Usher	8:30am (1) Carolyn Bradley (2) Mike Bradley 11am (1) Scott Baumann (2) TBD	8:30am (1) Tom Stewart (2) Brenda Stewart 11am (1) Alice Silver (2) Katie Rivers	8:30am (1) Ken Clark (2) Ronnie Shoe 11am (1) Jason Jones (2) Josh Kersey	8:30am (1) Ken Lane (2) Deborah Lane 11am (1) Scott Baumann (2) Anna Blackwell	8:30am (1) Ken Lane (2) Ronnie Shoe 11am (1) Scott Baumann (2) TBD
	Altar Guild	8:30am Amy Zellers 11am Paula Lindsay	8:30am Amy Zellers 11am Bonnie Richards	8:30am Debbie Layne 11am Donna Turnbaugh	8:30am Ken Clark 11am Cindy Fridd	8:30am Amy Zellers 11am Bonnie Morris
	Crucifer	11am Paula Bradt	11am Christian Wikoff	11am Bonnie Richards	11am Eileen Cram & Erick Smith	11am Christian Wikoff
	Acolyte	8:30am Lila Niedenthal 11am Bonnie Richards	8:30am Liza Volk 11am Eileen Cram	8:30am Isa Slater 11am Anne Blackwell	8:30am Claire Niedenthal 11am Katie Rivers	8:30am Julia Volk 11am TBD
	Assisting Minister	8:30am Amy Zellers 11am Katie Rivers	8:30am Katie Rivers 11am Steve Doane	8:30am Amy Zellers 11am Randy Warren	8:30am Katie Rivers 11am Susan Denne	8:30am Mary Brady 11am Gloria Sainio
	Reader	8:30am Carolyn Bradley 11am Eileen Cram	8:30am Barbara Ulrichs 11am Donna Turnbaugh	8:30am Diane Hughes 11am Steve Doane	8:30am Nancy Dodenhoff 11am Susan Denne	8:30am Tom Stewart 11am Eileen Cram
	Communion Assistant	8:30am Diane Hughes 11am Vickie Hauser	8:30am Connie Chaplin/Liza Volk 11am Anne Blackwell	8:30am Nancy Dodenhoff 11am Susan Van Tassel	8:30am Mary Anne Allwein 11am Natalie Haynes	8:30am Amy Zellers/Isa Slater 11am Bonnie Morris
	Live Stream	11am Bob Mihara	11am Trey Doss	11am Natalie Haynes	11am Cord Doss	11am Bob Mihara

St. Mark's Lutheran Church

*10 N. Liberty Street
Asheville, NC 28801*



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

Staff

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

Contact Information

Physical and Mailing Address:

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828-253-0043

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admin@stmarkslutheran.net

Website:

www.stmarkslutheran.net

Office Hours:

Monday—Thursday 8:30am-4:30pm

Friday 8:30am-12:30pm