



ReMARKS, *August 2022*

Rally Day 2022

Children often ask questions during Children's sermons that throw me a little off my game. Sometimes the questions are hilariously off topic:



"Deacon Katie, who's your favorite super hero?"

"Do you want to know what I ate for breakfast?"

"Why can't fish live outside of water?"

Sometimes, they ask questions that remind me how important those weekly conversations really are: "I don't know how to do that. Can you show me?"

During a Children's Sermon about baptism a few months ago, I told the children that they could remember their baptism every time they dipped their finger in the water and made the sign of the cross on their forehead. One of St. Mark's little Lutherans interjected, and asked me to show her how. After a simple "watch me" and "do it like this," we prayed and the little ones went back to their seats. It was short, simple interaction, but it's a moment that has stuck with me ever since.

When we baptize and welcome a new member into the body of Christ, we (the people of God at St. Mark's) promise to help and support them in their life with Christ. Whether adults or children, we are called to be examples of faithful living, teachers of the Word, and encouragers on their journey. It is important for children to have mentors and supporters in their life in faith. It's important for them to form relationships and get to know members of their church family. While teaching Sunday School, helping with VBS, or giving Children's Sermons are wonderful ways to do that (and please talk to me if you're interested!), there are so many other ways that we all can support children as they learn and grow in faith.

Rally Day is an excellent opportunity to do just that.

Rally Day is one of four Intergenerational Sunday School sessions we have every year. During the Faith Formation hour, children and adults gather together in the Fellowship Hall to learn and grow together. Yes, it's different than our normal adult classes. But it's so incredibly important for us to spend that time together.

Come, sit next to a child at St. Mark's, and get to know a fellow member of the body of Christ. Come, support a little one as they do activities that help them learn something new about who God is. Come, remind them and be reminded of the great love that God has for all in Christ Jesus. And, if that's something you've never done before, don't hesitate to be like our children, interject, and say, "Deacon Katie, I don't know how do that. Can you show me?" I'd be happy to show you how.

Rally Day 2022

Sunday, August 28

9:45 in the Fellowship Hall

Lutheran Services Carolinas Update

Our partnership with Lutheran Services Carolinas (LSC) continues to be fruitful in our ministry work together, although it looks drastically different than just a few months ago. From January through May, St. Mark's and other Circle of Welcome groups worked to support the resettlement and placement of approximately 90 Afghan refugees in their first 90 days as clients of LSC. Working with families during these few months was considered crisis management as housing was found, language classes were set up, basic needs were supplied, and the new Americans began to get accustomed to life in a new culture.

Now that LSC is no longer in the 90-Day Crisis Support with their clients, and not actively receiving new families, what are the current ins and outs of our St. Mark's office mates?

For starters there are a number of new employees that have joined LSC. Hanna Demarcus is the new Area Director overseeing the six employees that work out of the St. Mark's offices. Hanna has a variety of experience centered around refugees from mentoring, to group counseling, to being a case manager. She has recently relocated to the Asheville area and says she feels like she is on a perpetual vacation, especially as she drives home each afternoon and gets to feel gratitude for the mountains she now lives in. Along with Hanna there are family case managers, an outreach coordinator, employment specialists, and now a school impact case manager working together to create self-reliance for their remaining 60-70 clients – this being ultimate goal for LSC.



To reach this independence, each case worker helps their 20-30 clients create achievable goals and make an action plan to see them through. These goals can range from obtaining a valid NC ID to exploring job opportunities until the client feels fulfilled in order to create job sustainability. Sara, the School Impact Case Manager, has been working with families to ensure their children are enrolled in summer camps, childcare, and are ready to start the school year at the end of the month. By working together, the different case managers are able to help the entire family unit, which is showing to be fruitful in LSC's goal of creating self-reliance and independence.

Lutheran Services Carolinas Update cont.

St. Mark's has watched LSC's New American Program in the Asheville location blossom from an idea to a reality, and there is an abundance of impact still to come.



As there continues to be more resources needed to support refugees from around the world, LSC has applied for additional funding for the Resettlement and Placement Program from the US government. If these funds are approved, then LSC will be able to provide new refugees with their initial 90-day Crisis Support in America once again. This will be determined in the fall of 2022. Although LSC cannot fully support new refugees until approval, they are still able to make an impact in the Ukrainian refugee community.

According to Hanna, the primary way that Ukrainians are seeking refuge in America in order to receive Immigration Status is by being sponsored by an American. The sponsor accepts responsibility for supporting their sponsee with their basic needs and any travel accommodations needed to travel to America. This process allows the Ukrainian refugees to stay in American for up to two years. During this time, LSC is able to assist with Employment Services as part of their on-going work with the Refugee Resettlement Program. They also make sure that they are on track to receive government resources such as food stamps and Medicare. Currently, LSC has 20-30 clients that fall into this category that they are assisting on a normal basis. LSC has plans to connect with the Ukrainian population on a broader spectrum to make sure it is known that they are able to provide employment and government support resources and assistance.

How can we continue to help? Maintain open arms to our neighbors downstairs and continue to support LSC both within the community and within the walls of the church. LSC has commented that they are touched by the comradery and the busy ins and outs of the week at St. Mark's. Seeing the quilting group, property team, and bridge groups use the space for fellowship provides them a positive culture to work in and creates a warm environment that is contagious for the LSC staff. It feeds their energy to continue to support the New Americans in need.

St. Mark's Faith Formation and Fellowship

For Questions regarding Faith Formation or Discipleship, Contact Deacon Katie

Vacation Bible School - VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

August 14th-18th from 5:15pm-8:15pm



We are excited that we are able to have VBS again this year, but we need your help in order to make it happen! Crafts, snack, games, and guides - there are lots of different ways for you to support fun faith formation for St. Mark's kids!

Children age 2-Grade 5 are invited to join us for VBS .

Let Deacon Katie know if you are interested in supporting VBS this summer.

LandMARKS

August 7th 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!*

Faith Formation, SOME LETTER!

Continuing in August



The Apostle Paul founded a Christian church in pagan Corinth, Greece. As soon as he left, it started having problems - Imagine! He wrote several letters, the best known being I Corinthians. It's full of good stuff. Adult Faith Formation with James Aydelotte (Sundays, 9:45 am, Library) will discuss whether Paul's advice is still good for today.

Council Corner



Greetings from the St. Mark's Congregation Council!

Here are some highlights from our July 2022 Zoom meeting:

- The Council reviewed the current situation with COVID infections in our community and agreed to continue the mask requirement for worship. We will keep revisiting this issue each month and will move to a “masks strongly encouraged but optional” policy for worship as soon as conditions allow.
- A mailing about plans for the 100th Anniversary Celebration in 2023 recently went out. There will be a special appeal for sponsoring a Habitat for Humanity House and repair of our stained glass windows.
- The Treasurer's report shows a deficit for the past month but still a positive balance for the year to date.

- Linda Kinsinger, Council President

Lending a Helping Hand



Tim Cooper, a St. Mark's member and veteran, is having back surgery in mid September and will need some help getting around in October and November while he recovers.

The biggest need will be getting to the store and getting groceries inside. If you could help with those needs for one or multiple weeks, please let us know in the church office and we can get details to you as we have them.

St. Mark's Handbells & Choir

Rehearsals Resume

September 8, 2022

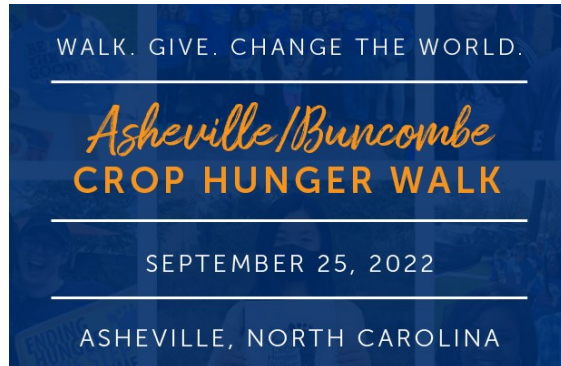


Choir and Handbell rehearsals will resume **September 8, 2022**. Handbells will rehearse at 6pm, and choir will rehearse at 7pm. Both rehearsals will take place in the sanctuary. If you would like to participate, please write your name on the back of a crisp \$20 bill and mail it to Cantor David c/o St. Mark's Lutheran

Christian Action Team

Save the Date: Crop Hunger Walk 2022!

September 25, 2022



Mark your calendars, and be ready!

The 2022 Crop Hunger Walk will be held on Sunday, September 25. This is one of St Mark's major outreach events, and we have been doing it for some 35 (?) years! With your generous support of CROP, you greatly impact the lives of families struggling with hunger, locally and around the world.

Last year you raised \$9,000 -- can we do it again?

We encourage you to start signing up on the CROP website www.crophungerwalk.org/ashevillenc now.

Contact your friends and relatives -- **YES, we can do it again!**

More information will be forthcoming.

If you have any questions, contact Debbie Layne or Dan Dudde.

Rummage Sale is BACK

Finally! Another fabulous rummage sale sponsored by the Christian Action Team.

When: *September 9th & 10th*

Where: *Sachsenmaier Residence*

31 Sumner Place - 10 Minutes from church in North Asheville.

Donations: Donations may be dropped off **starting August 3rd**. We will be giving away free reusable shopping bags, clean stuffed animals, and kids books.

Not Selling: Electronics, TVs, DVDs, or clothing that does not have a new tag on it.



Contact Info: Text Becky Sachsenmaier 828.333.1539

for questions or ways to get involved

Watch for weekly updates and ways to participate in the MiniMARKS and MARKings.

100th Anniversary Appeal

Will you join in celebrating with a gift to our 100K for the 100th special appeal? Funds raised will sponsor a full Habitat for Humanity house build and restoration work in our sanctuary- including our stained glass windows. Gifts can be received anytime until July 15, 2023, but we'd love to hear from you about your intent by August 8th!



Intent Form

Return your intent card or fill out the web form by scanning this QR code to join in the celebration!



Centennial Information

Follow this QR code to find more information about all of the events that will be happening during our centennial celebration!

Feeling the Impact



"You always hear about the physical impact an Asheville Habitat home can have on a family - safe neighborhood, affordable mortgage, lower monthly bills. But I can tell you from my own experience that the impact on someone's mind and heart is so much greater! Knowing that I could provide a safe and loving home for Wolfie and myself took such a load off, that past moments of stress, worry, and frustration had no choice but to turn into present and future moments of laughter, happiness, and joy."

- *Debbie Layne, Habitat Home Owner*

Why do you give?



"Many of us have Thrivent t-shirts that say "Live Generously." (I actually have 3 of them in different colors.) Those words are very meaningful to me. I have been blessed, over the course of my life, to have had sufficient resources to live on. Now I look for opportunities to share what I've been able to save. Luke's gospel cautions us about building bigger barns for our harvest. Rather, being generous, as we are able, seems to be one way to live out God's love for us."

- *Linda Kinsinger, Council President*

Attention Thrivent Members

Supporting Wine to Water

If you are a benefit member of Thrivent Financial (if you have either a Thrivent annuity or life insurance), you can apply for two Thrivent action grants per year.



The Thrivent Member Network/Southeast region is partnering with Wine to Water, a Boone, NC, non-profit which impacts communities around the world through clean water. Once your Thrivent action grant is approved, you will receive 3 water filters to be assembled and returned in the preaddressed stamped packaging that is included. The filters are small, have only eight pieces, and are very easy to assemble.

The impact of this program is huge. Wine to Water has already changed over 1.5 million lives in 50 countries. One water filter can provide 10 people with clean water for 10 years. One billion people in the world do not have access to clean drinking water. Unclean water is the #1 killer of children- every 15 seconds a child dies because of a water crisis. Participating in a Wine to Water filter build means helping families, schools, healthcare facilities, women and children in the hardest to reach places have direct access to clean water in their households.

If you are unfamiliar with the Thrivent grant application process, I would be happy to walk you through the steps or provide you with a brief video that tells you exactly how to answer each question to apply for a Wine to Water grant. If you are unsure about assembling the filters, our CAT team will be happy to do it for you.



You're invited to join Thrivent on August 23 for a virtual filter build experience with Doc Hendley, the Founder and President of Wine To Water. He will share his captivating story of an ordinary bartender who is changing the world through clean water.

If you are interested in applying for a Thrivent grant to participate in the Wine to Water project and need more information, please contact Donna Turnbaugh at thetbaughs@gmail.com or 828-645-2486.

Stewardship

Financial Report

Below you will find June'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

June	YTD
\$42,581	\$255,486

Gifts received

June	YTD
\$30,481	\$284,876

Expenditures

June	YTD
\$39,728	\$242,424

Surplus/(Deficit)

June	YTD
\$(9,247)	\$42,452

Financial Report Building Fund

subject to change from treasurer's report

Income budgeted

June	YTD
\$4,207	\$25,242

Gifts received against Pledges

June	YTD
\$2,045	\$30,310

Loan Payments

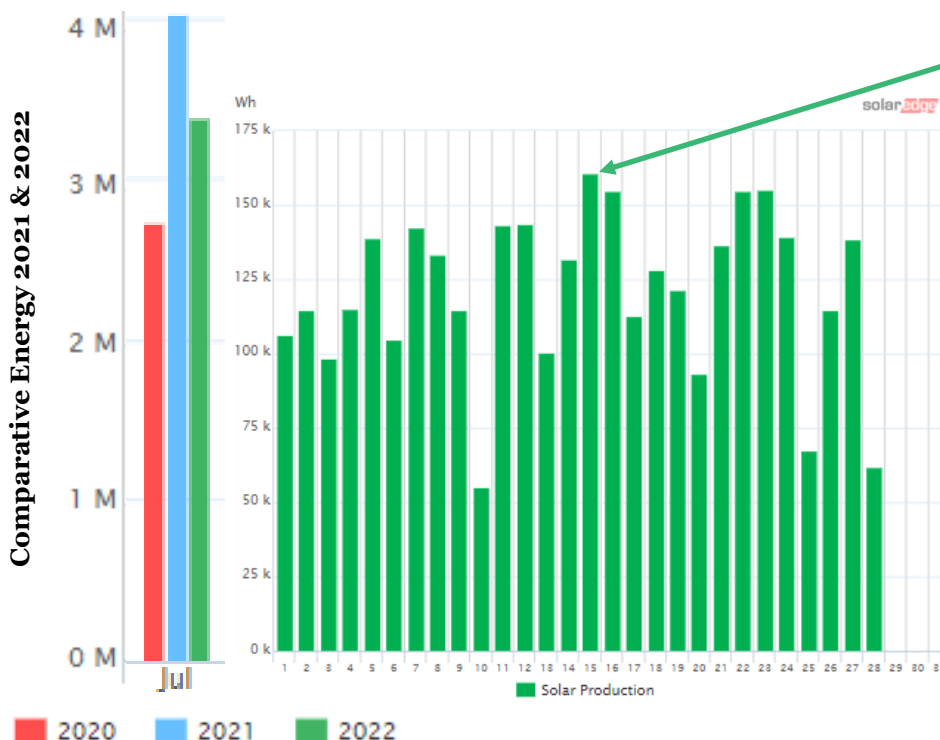
June	YTD
\$5,351	\$32,106

Surplus/(Deficit)

June	YTD
(\$3,306)	(\$1,796)

Caring for God's Creation

July Solar Report



July 15th was the top producing day this month @160.77 kWh

Environmental Benefits
From Install date of July 2020

Environmental Benefits



CO2 Emission Saved
131,447.75 lb



Equivalent Trees Planted
993.21

Sunday Calendar

August 7th - 9th Sunday after Pentecost

Scripture Readings:

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

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

August 14th - 10th Sunday after Pentecost

Vacation Bible School Begins!

Scripture Readings:

Jeremiah 23:23-29; Psalm 82
Hebrews 11: 29--12:2; Luke 12:49-56

8:30am.....Worship
9:45am.....Faith Formation
11:00am.....Worship
5:15pm.....Vacation Bible School

August 21st - 11th Sunday after Pentecost

Scripture Readings:

Isaiah 58:9b-14; Psalm 103:1-8
Hebrews 12;18-29; Luke 13:10-17

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

August 28th - 12th Sunday after Pentecost

Scripture Readings:

Proverbs 25:6-7; Psalm 112
Hebrews 13:1-8, 15-16; Luke 14:1, 7-14

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

Birthdays

August 1 - Jean Castle,
August 2 - Samantha Kirby
Sierra Chick
August 3 - Nate Mueller
August 4 - Nadia Miller
August 6 - Rex Nance
John Herrmann
August 7 - Mason Frisella
August 8 - Laura Van Tassel,
Al Seale
August 10- Spencer Stone
August 12- Naomi Otterness,
Bryan Short
August 14 - Debbie Layne
August 17 - Ryan Hutson,
Sara Niedenthal
August 19 - Bonnie Richards
August 20 - Amy Edwards
August 21 - Trudy Streilein
August 22 - Doug Aanonsen
August 23 - Claire Lewis
August 25 - Bianca Edwards
August 26 - Matthew Roe
August 27 - Grace Schmidt
August 28 - Ed Malkin,
Christian Wikoff
August 31 - Erin Bonawitz,
Aaron Neighbors

Anniversaries

August 3 - Norm & Patricia Bumby
August 5 - Jim & Trudy Streilein
August 6 - Eric & Kristina Lewis

August 7 - Bill & Anne Sites
August 14 - Norm & Bonnie Richards,
Bill & Alice Silver
August 22 - Randy & Kari Warren

Worship Assistant Schedule

The Worship Assistant Schedule for August 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!

Date	August 7th	August 14th	August 21st	August 28th
Greeters	8:30am (1) Dan Dudde (2) Mary Dudde 11am (1) Bob Mihara (2) Katie Rivers	8:30am (1) TBD (2) J.D Slater 11am (1) Eric Van Tassel (2) Susan Van Tassel	8:30am (1) Henry Ulrichs (2) Barbara Ulrichs 11am (1) Cindy Lauster (2) Bob Mihara	8:30am (1) Vic Allwein (2) Becky Sachsenmaier 11am (1) Bob Mihara (2) TBD
Usher	8:30am (1) Lila Niedenthal (2) Ronnie Shoe 11am (1) Scott Baumann (2) Alice Silver	8:30am (1) Tom Stewart (2) Brenda Stewart 11am (1) Scott Baumann (2) Anne Blackwell	8:30am (1) Ken Lane (2) Deborah Lane 11am (1) Jason Jones (2) Josh Kersey	8:30am (1) Mike Bradley (2) Carolyn Bradley 11am (1) Scott Baumann (2) Anne Blackwell
Altar Guild	8:30am Ken Clark 11am Bonnie Morris	8:30am Sharon Herrmann 11am Paula Lindsay	8:30am Debbie Layne 11am Donna Turnbaugh	8:30am Ken Clark 11am Bonnie Morris
Crucifer	11am Christian Wikoff	11am Eileen Cram & Erick Smith	11am Eileen Cram & Erick Smith	11am TBD
Acolyte	8:30am Claire Niedenthal 11am Bonnie Richards	8:30am Isa Slater 11am Katie Rivers	8:30am Eleanor Schreck 11am TBD	8:30am Julia Volk 11am TBD
Assisting Minister	8:30am Mary Brady 11am Beth Korb	8:30am Amy Zellers 11am Gloria Sainio	8:30am Katie Rivers 11am Natalie Haynes	8:30am Mary Brady 11am Dave Epley
Reader	8:30am Dan Dudde 11am Anne Blackwell	8:30am Nancy Dodenhoff 11am Susan Van Tassel	8:30am Carl Schreck 11am Donna Turnbaugh	8:30am Connie Chaplin 11am Al Seale
Communion Assistant	8:30am Diane Hughes 11am Vickie Hauser	8:30am Becky Sachsenmaier 11am Donna Turnbaugh	8:30am Connie Chaplin 11am Bonnie Richards	8:30am Mary Anne Allwein 11am Eileen Cram
Live Stream	11am Trey Doss	11am Bob Mihara	11am Gloria Sainio	11am Natalie Haynes

Worship Assistant Schedule

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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Phone:

828-253-0043

E-mail:

admin@stmarkslutheran.net

Website:

www.stmarkslutheran.net

Office Hours:

Monday—Thursday 8:30am-4:30pm

Friday 8:30am-12:30pm