



ReMARKS, *September 2022*

In August, I attended the ELCA Churchwide Assembly in Columbus, Ohio as a voting member from the North Carolina Synod. It was 5 full days of large business meetings, Robert's Rules, beautiful worship, and about 1000 Lutherans from all around the country enjoying being together in one place. It was a long week, but so incredibly meaningful to me. It was meaningful to see the Church in so many beautiful expressions, and not just how I have gotten used to it in Asheville. It was meaningful to see a Church continue to being open to reforming itself for the sake of the Gospel- making changes and taking steps to more fully embody Jesus. It was meaningful to make connections with people from all over the country doing God's work, and making a few new friends in the process.



Below is a summary written by the ELCA of the key actions taken by the Assembly. If you are interested in learning more, go to elca.org and click on "Churchwide Assembly" on the top banner where you will find videos, worship, and resources from our time in Columbus.

-Deacon Katie

The 2022 ELCA Churchwide Assembly met Aug. 8-12 at the Greater Columbus Convention Center in Columbus, Ohio. Gathering under the theme "Embody the Word," the assembly worshiped together in services of eucharist and lament, experienced a liturgy rooted in Indigenous traditions, and heard a public apology in a nonlegislative session to Iglesia Luterana Santa María Peregrina for harm experienced from actions taken by the Sierra Pacific Synod and the church.

The following key actions were taken by the assembly:

- Elected Imran Siddiqui of the Southeastern Synod as vice president of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA).
- Directed the ELCA Church Council to establish a Commission for a Renewed Lutheran Church to reconsider the statements of purpose for each expression of this church, the principles of organizational structure and our shared commitment to dismantle racism, with findings to be reported to the 2025 Churchwide Assembly in preparation for a possible reconstituting convention. Directed an external audit of the governing documents of the ELCA to consider diversity, equity, inclusion and accessibility, with findings resulting in recommended changes to the governing documents.
- Authorized revisions to the social statement *Human Sexuality: Gift and Trust*; approved exploration of reconsideration of the four stated positions of "bound conscience."

2022 ELCA Church Wide Assembly

- Encouraged members, congregations and synods of this church to educate themselves about Indigenous peoples, calling on the churchwide organization to work with synods and Indigenous partners to identify sources of funding for ministries for Indigenous peoples, and encouraging restorative justice that could include the return of land to the appropriate Native nations.
- Referred a proposed study of pay gaps for rostered ministers to the Church Council.
- Mandated a review process of the roster manual and policies related to specialized ministries, on leave from call status, and protocols for removal from the rosters; encouraged bishops and synod councils to use sparingly the process of removal from the roster for nondisciplinary reasons.
- Approved the budget proposal for the triennium, including a spending authorization of \$68,814,000 for 2023 for the current fund, along with a spending authorization of \$22,869,000 for ELCA World Hunger.
- Affirmed limits on the use of nondisclosure agreements by the churchwide organization; urged synods, congregations and other ministries to apply the same limits.
- Reaffirmed the commitment of the church to the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions, directing the churchwide organization to set a goal of a 50% reduction of net greenhouse gas pollution by 2030, with a long-range goal of achieving net-zero emissions by 2050.
- Called for a review of the nomination and elections processes used by synods and the churchwide organization.
- Responded to memorials on diversity; nuclear weapons; voting rights and Washington, D.C., statehood; strategies for fortifying urban ministries; a Black migrant strategy; the right to boycott; gun violence; LGBTQIA+ welcome; substance abuse; Roe v. Wade; remembrance of Armenian, Assyrian and Greek genocide; parental and medical family leave; a process for pre-identification of nominees for the Office of the Presiding Bishop; revisions to the mission development process; consideration of communion practices related to remote worship; affirmation of the task force created by the Church Council to review the discipline process; and a social message on child abuse and protection.
- Approved or ratified amendments to the Constitutions, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the ELCA, most of which were related to general clarifications and updates; inclusive language; synod-authorized ministry; designation of advisory members by the Church Council; boards of the separately incorporated ministries; and election procedures for officers and the Churchwide Assembly.
- Elected members of the Church Council, Committee on Appeals, Committee on Discipline, Nominating Committee and boards of the separately incorporated ministries.

St. Mark's Faith Formation and Fellowship

For Questions regarding Faith Formation or Discipleship, Contact Deacon Katie

LandMARKS

September 4th from 9:45am-10:45am

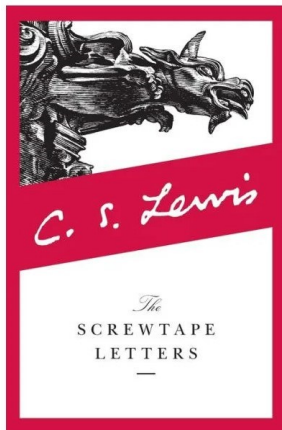


New to St. Mark's? Want to get to know the people here? Interested in getting involved with what God is doing in this place? LandMARKS is a monthly meeting with Pastor Matt and/or Deacon Katie that helps visitors and new members learn about the ministries of St. Mark's, get to know the staff and members, and ask questions about our community.

Meet us at the bottom of the main staircase at 9:45am to join!

Faith Formation, The Screwtape Letters

Beginning on September 4th during Faith Formation hour



Beginning on September 4 in the Library, join us for an adult Faith Formation class six week study on C.S. Lewis' book "The Screwtape Letters," facilitated by member John Herrmann. You might ask "What the devil is with that weird title?" That would be a good choice of words. This insightful book consists of a series of letters written by Screwtape, one of "Our Father Below's" (Satan's) high-level assistants. With these letters, he attempts to instruct Wormwood, his young and inexperienced charge, with the finer points of human temptation, and how to achieve results in their goal of eternal damnation of their souls.

Even if you've read the book, a "refresher" is always helpful in discerning the subtle but effective tactics Satan uses to achieve his devilish objective.

Copies of the book will be available at Rally Day and at the first class.

New Member Sunday



If you are interested in joining St. Mark's we are planning a New Member Sunday for sometime in September or October! As we know more about what this day will look like, we will share this information as we can't wait to welcome our new members

Reach out to Deacon Katie if you have any questions about New Member Sunday or if you are interested in joining St. Mark's.

Vacation Bible School

Successful VBS!

St. Mark's kids and adults had a blast at River of Life VBS this week, as they learned about God's gift of water. They were reminded about how God creates, provides, and claims us, and how water gives us new life in Baptism. A huge thank you to all the volunteers and parents who made this experience possible!



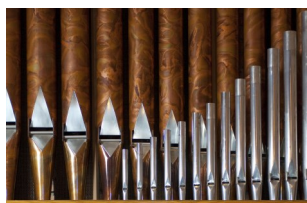
St. Mark's Choir

The **Saint Mark's Choir** will resume rehearsals on **September 8** in the Sanctuary at **7pm!** Whether you're a musical savant or don't know a quarter note from a cadenza, you are heartily encouraged to participate. Choir is an excellent opportunity to lead God's people in worship, and a great way to build relationships with your brothers and sisters in Christ at St. Mark's. Rumor has it that the Cantor may even be inflicting, er, *sharing*, some home-made goodies at the first rehearsal.



Did you know that **everyone can sing**? If you feel that you “don't have a good voice” or “couldn't carry a tune in a bucket,” don't let that stop you from singing your heart out! Think about a child before they learn to be self-conscious: when they call out “Momm-y!” it's invariable a descending interval (usually a major or minor third) – music is hardwired into humans. Many of us are told lies early in our lives that we aren't good at music, or that we should just be quiet and listen. It isn't true. Music is not a talent, it's a skill: the more you do it, the better you get. A great way to learn and practice is joining the choir of course, but whatever you do, remember that music is God's gift to each and every one of us!

Area Music Events



On September 17, join our brothers and sisters at the **Lutheran Church of the Nativity** in Arden for a concert by their organist, **Ryan Singleton** at 5pm. A graduate of UNC Greensboro, Ryan will be playing works by Brahms, Messiaen, Dubois, and more.

Head a little further down the road to **Fletcher United Methodist Church** to hear the **Hendersonville Swing Band** on September 24 at 3pm. Under the direction of trombonist Jerry Zink, the band plays music of the Big Band era of the '30s, '40s and '50s. (Free, \$10 per person suggested donation) Closer to town, **Trinity Episcopal Church** will have special guests **The Reel Sisters** on September 18. The duo will play at the 5:30pm Celtic Eucharist Service, including a fifteen-minute prelude beginning at 5:15pm, and much more music within the service. Rosalind Buda, smallpipes and Kelly Brzozowski, Scottish harp are both accomplished performers who specialize in Celtic music, and have performed throughout the US and Europe.



Finally, for those willing to travel all the way to Hendersonville, **St. James Episcopal** will be presenting a **Choral Evensong and Organ Recital** on October 16 at 5pm. The recital (which takes places after Evensong) is by accomplished organist Dr. Brennan Szafron and will include works by Bach, Gigout, and others. If you haven't had a chance to visit St. James, it is a beautiful church with a fantastic organ; worth fighting your way down I-26!

Council Corner



Greetings from the St. Mark's Congregation Council!

Here are some highlights from our August 2022 Zoom meeting:

- The Council again 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.
- The Special Appeal for the 100th Anniversary Celebration is going very well, with over three-quarters of the target amount already pledged. The stained glass window repair is already done and looks great!
- Children from the Christine W. Avery Learning Center have started filling St. Mark's with their presence, due to a water leak in their main site, leading to an emergency approval for St. Mark's.
- Additional cameras will be installed to provide more security for the building.

- Linda Kinsinger, Council President



100th Anniversary Appeal

Our effort to raise \$100,000 above normal giving in celebration of St. Mark's 100th anniversary is off to a great start, with 63 households pledging over \$89,000 so far! Thank you so much for putting our goal within reach! Meeting our \$100,000 goal will guarantee that we can fully sponsor a Habitat for Humanity house build and cover the cost of the exterior work on our stained glass windows. If you have already made a pledge, thank you for helping us celebrate, and if you haven't had a chance yet, it's not too late. In fact, gifts and pledges can be received anytime until July of 2023.



Intent Form

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



Centennial Information

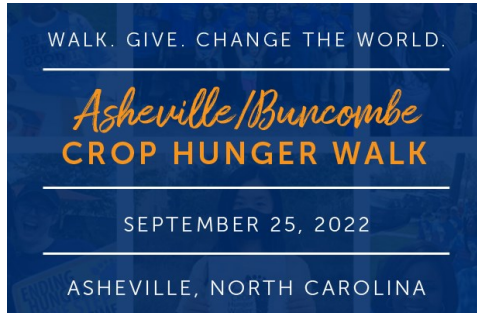
Follow this QR code to find more information about all of the events that will be happening during our centennial celebration!

Christian Action Team

Save the Date: Crop Hunger Walk 2022!

September 25, 2022

Fall is almost upon us and you know what that means ~ the CAT's annual CROP Hunger Walk! Woohooo! Here is your to-do list before the big day:



- Mark your calendar for **SUNDAY, SEPT 25**
- Register to walk on the St. Mark's Team page: <https://events.crophungerwalk.org/2022/team/st-marks-lutheran-church>
- Share the website with all of your friends and family. The CROP Hunger Walk is all about raising money for those with food insecurities.
- Make your own donation.
- If you are not able to join us for the actual walk, please see Dan Dudde for other opportunities to volunteer (hand out t-shirts, collect registration envelopes, put up signs to mark the course, face-painting, help others create signs to carry, something else (?) we have not thought of).
- Then break out your walking shoes, start praying for a meow-velous day with no rain (or snow! Remember that year??), and get excited for the 2022 CROP Hunger Walk!!

As always, most of the money raised will go to those around the world who need it but 25% stays in our very own community and goes to Loving Food Resources, Buncombe County Schools Nutrition Program, and the ABCCM.

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

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

God's Work, Our Hands (and Feet!)

Rummage Sale is BACK

When: September 9th & 10th

Where: Sachsenmaier

Residence

31 Sumner Place, North Asheville.



Contact Info: Becky Sachsenmaier 828.333.1539

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

Community High School

Thank you to all who supported the CAT's fundraiser for the Buncombe Community High School. You have once again exceeded our expectations and we were able to send them \$1500 to support the amazing work they do for the kiddos in our community. And all it took was a little ice cream!! You are PAW-some!

Announcements

Interested in *Serving as a Worship Assistant??*

Each Sunday at St. Mark's is full of worship and fellowship! These things don't happen without the help of people like YOU! Are you interested in serving during the Worship Service to add to your experience at St. Mark's? Contact Danielle, the Parish Administrator, in the church office to learn about how to get involved at either the 8:30am or 11am Worship Service. There is something for everyone of all abilities and ages!

- Greeter
- Usher
- Acolyte
- Crucifer
- Reader
- Assisting Minister
- Altar Guild
- Communion Assistant
- Live Stream

Passing of the Archive Keys

Underneath the Sanctuary at St. Mark's there are a variety of rooms that serve a multitude of purposes. Some grow the educational minds, some serve refugees, and some provide a social setting for fellowship. As these rooms have changed and as St. Mark's has grown in its ministry over a century, there is one more space that has been strategically organized in order to keep the history of St. Mark's well documented for those that come after.



Ken Clark has been managing the abundance of photos, documents, articles, attendance records, special occasion documents, and so much more for the Archives of St. Mark's. After keeping diligent records and creating an organized chaos of history, Ken has decided to retire from his post as the Archives manager/leader. He will be passing his role of keeping the history of St. Mark's on to Eileen Cram.

Managing the Archives is no easy feat and we can not thank Ken enough for his dedication and compassion to this long term project! Ken, we will forever be grateful for your time, expertise, and passion for this project! Blessings on your next adventure!

Thank You Ken!

"How do you get through tough times?"

"Growing up, who were some of your early role models and how did they influence your faith?"

These are some of the questions asked of several members of St. Mark's in a video series titled "Faith Stories" that show up at times in the church's weekly on-line bulletin MiniMARKS.

"This series is a meaningful and quite powerful way to get to know some of our fellow members," remarks Ken Lane, Chairperson of the Evangelism Team that sponsors this program.

James Aydelotte and Susan Denne, interviewed as a couple, and Anne Blackwell are among the most recent persons featured.

In total there are currently 6 videos in this series, all of which are posted on St. Mark's website. They include an interview with James Aydelotte and Susan Denne, Anne Blackwell, an interview session with Pastor Matt and four other staff members, as well as many others answering questions about their faith formation.

To access the entire series on our [website](#) follow the directions below:

1. Go to St. Mark's website @ www.stmarkslutheran.net
2. Click on Ministry News at the top of the home page

[Home](#) [About Us](#) [Contact & Directions](#)
[Calendar of Events](#) [Ministry News](#) [Donate](#)

3. Scroll through the Ministry News and click on Faith Stories 1-6. These will be listed in descending order with Faith Stories 6 being the most current interview.

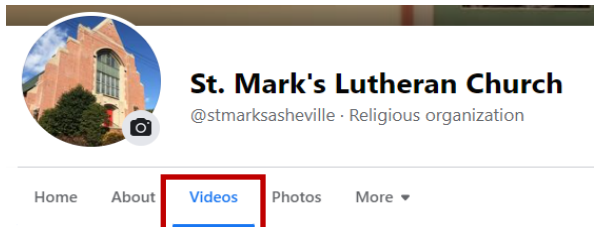
FAITH STORIES 6

The Evangelism Team continues a series of interviews with St. Mark's members called "Sharing our Faith Stories." This week we hear from James and Susan about their early influences, what keeps them going during hard times, and more. Click here to view their stories. Please contact Ken Lane, Evangelism Team's Chairperson, or the church [...]

4. Click [Load More](#) to display more archived Ministry News postings.

To access the entire series on our [Facebook Page](#) follow the directions below:

1. Go to St. Mark's Facebook Page @ www.facebook.com/stmarksasheville
2. Click on Videos below the church name.



3. Scroll through the videos to find the 6 Faith Stories posted individually and titled "The Evangelism Team..."



The Evangelism Team continues a series of interviews with St. Mark's member...



The Evangelism Team continues a series of interviews with St. Mark's...

Stewardship

Financial Report

Below you will find July'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

July	YTD
\$42,581	\$298,067

Gifts received

July	YTD
\$48,823	\$333,699

Expenditures

July	YTD
\$39,168	\$281,593

Surplus/(Deficit)

July	YTD
\$9,654	\$51,106

Financial Report

Building Fund

subject to change from treasurer's report

Income budgeted

July	YTD
\$4,207	\$29,449

Gifts received against Pledges

July	YTD
\$3,589	\$33,899

Loan Payments

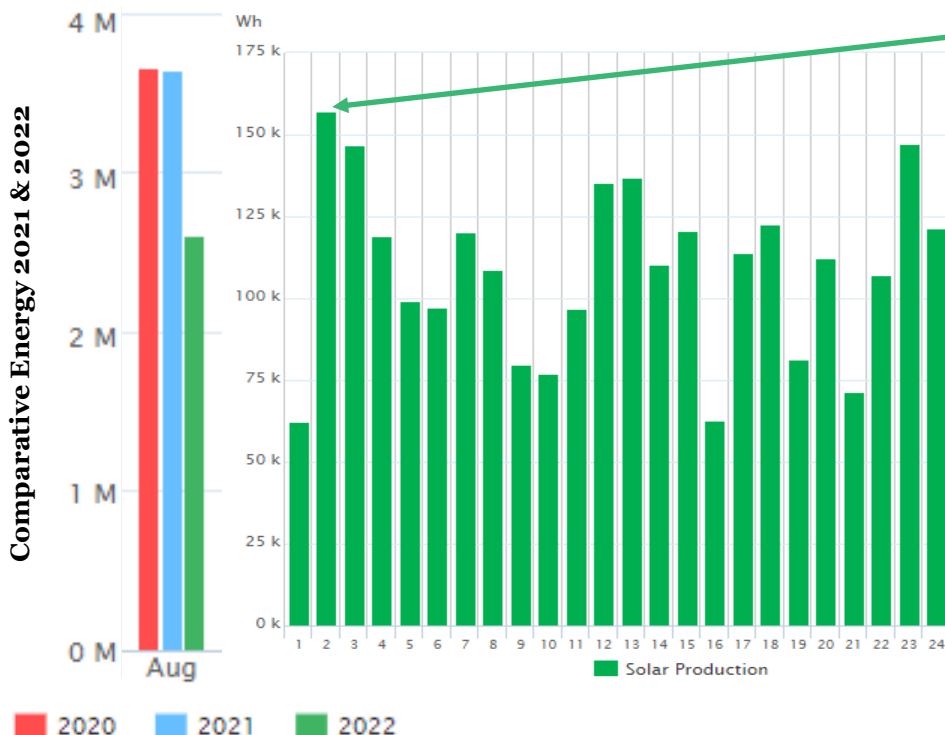
July	YTD
\$5,351	\$37,457

Surplus/(Deficit)

July	YTD
(\$1,762)	(\$3,558)

Caring for God's Creation

August Solar Report (Reported on 8/24/22)



August 2nd was the top producing day this month @157.172 kWh

Environmental Benefits From Install date of July 2020

Environmental Benefits

CO2 Emission Saved
136,088.2 lb

Equivalent Trees Planted
1,028.27

Sunday Calendar

September 4th - 13th Sunday after Pentecost

Scripture Readings:

Deuteronomy 30:15-20; Psalm 1
Philemon 1-21; Luke 14:25-33

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

September 11th - 14th Sunday after Pentecost

Scripture Readings:

Exodus 32:7-14; Psalm 51:1-10
1 Timothy 1:12-17; Luke 15:1-10

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

September 18th - 15th Sunday after Pentecost

Scripture Readings:

Amos 8:4-7; Psalm 113
1 Timothy 2:1-7; Luke 16:1-13

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

September 25th - 16th Sunday after Pentecost

Scripture Readings:

Amos 6:1a, 4-7; Psalm 146
1 Timothy 6:6-19; Luke 16:19-31

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

Additional Calendar Dates

Sept. 5th.....Labor Day, Office CLOSED
Sept. 8th.....Choir and Handbell Rehearsal Resumes
Sept. 9th-10th.....CAT Benefit Yard Sale
Sept. 19th-23rd.....Danielle, Out of Office
Sept. 25th.....CAT Crop Walk

Birthdays

Sept. 1 Heather Dixon, Doug Johnson
Sept. 2 Nathan Doane
Sept. 3 Dottie Eggan, Charissa Gulotta
Sept. 4 Marian Bradley
Sept. 5 Betty Broitzman, Paul Metcalf,
Bob Mihara, Henry Ulrichs
Sept. 6 Julia Nance
Sept. 7 Judy McKay, Eddie Meadows
Sept. 9 Christopher Mott
Sept. 10 Shelby Lamm,
Sharon Herrmann
Sept. 11 Eleanor Schreck, Sarah Volk,
Dana Fitzsimmons
Sept. 12 Asher Linton, Jackson Penland
Bill Chalmers
Sept. 13 Clara Owen
Sept. 18 Nancy Dodenhoff
Sept. 19 Jack McHenry
Sept. 20 Elizabeth Conte
Sept. 23 Matthew Warren, Cat Slater
Sept. 25 Silas Noel, Patti Oppenheim
Sept. 26 Tommy Ransdell
Sept. 27 Vic Allwein, Norman Bumby
Sept. 29 Reagan Colburn, Andrew Davis,
David Neighbors
Sept. 30 Nancy Larson, Tom Mock

Anniversaries

Sept. 6 Bill & Susan Badger,
Sept. 12 Gwen and Philip Messer
Sept. 18 Nate & Tina Mueller
Sept. 24 Tom & Stella Pagan

Worship Assistant Schedule

The Worship Assistant Schedule for September 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	Sept. 4th	Sept. 11th	Sept. 18th	Sept. 25th
Greeters	8:30am (1) Dan Dudde (2) Mary Dudde 11am (1) Bob Mihara (2) Katie Rivers	8:30am (1) TBD (2) Linda Kinsinger 11am (1) TBD (2) TBD	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) Claire Niedenthal (2) Ronnie Shoe 11am (1) Scott Baumann (2) TBD	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 Amy Zellers 11am Paula Lindsay	8:30am Sharon Herrmann 11am Bonnie Morris	8:30am Debbie Layne 11am Donna Turnbaugh	8:30am Amy Zellers 11am Bonnie Morris
Crucifer	11am Christian Wikoff	11am Eileen Cram & Erick Smith	11am Christian Wikoff	11am Christian Wikoff
Acolyte	8:30am Lila Niedenthal 11am Bonnie Richards	8:30am Amy Zellers 11am Katie Rivers	8:30am Liza Volk 11am Eileen Cram	8:30am Eleanor Schreck 11am Katie Rivers
Assisting Minister	8:30am Carolyn Bradley 11am Steve Doane	8:30am Amy Zellers 11am Gloria Sainio	8:30am Mary Brady 11am Natalie Haynes	8:30am Katie Rivers 11am Dave Epley
Reader	8:30am Dan Dudde 11am Beth Korb	8:30am Linda Kinsinger 11am Randy Warren	8:30am Susan Reiser 11am Bonnie Richards	8:30am Carl Schreck 11am Susan Denne
Communion Assistant	8:30am Diane Hughes 11am Vickie Hauser	8:30am Nancy Dodenhoff 11am TBD	8:30am Anne Sites 11am Donna Turnbaugh	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