



# ReMARKS, *December 2022*

## Keep Awake

*Written by Pastor Matt*

It's a magical time of year, when anything seems possible. It's a season when there is always something to look forward to. We're in that zone where "the hopes and fears of all the years" reach their zenith. What's the season I'm talking about? It's the fairytale alignment of basketball season, football season, and this year, world cup season! If you're a team sports nut, on Saturday, December 3 you can watch team USA in the world cup match in the morning, college basketball all afternoon, and spend an evening flipping back and forth between college football games. And then, *even if* the ACC championship game ends up putting you to sleep, you can still wake up on the couch in a stupor to catch a west coast hockey game that starts at- I kid you not- 10:30pm. Even if team sports aren't your thing, with so much going on, surely you can find a team out there in some sport to pull for.

But you know what team sport you won't find on TV this first weekend of December, or any other time for that matter? Team napping. It's just not a thing. I mean, when was the last time you made plans to gather with 8 or 10 of your closest friends to put together some sweet REM cycle combinations? I'm guessing never. And there's a good reason for that, of course. Falling asleep is not something that we normally do in community because it doesn't work very well. Gathering together is what we do when we plan to stay awake.



If you've heard any-preacher-ever talk about Advent, you've probably heard that Advent is a time for watching, waiting, and keeping awake. But the staying awake is not to make sure you catch the (truly ridiculous) late night start of a big, west coast game. Our aim is to watch and wait for the coming of the Messiah to our world. We keep awake so that we do not miss what God

is up to now, and will bring to fulfillment, in Jesus. We look expectantly, not only for the baby in the manger, but also the coming of Christ in glory to make all things new. To understate it, that's not something you want to be asleep for.



# ReMARKS, *November 2022*

And it turns out, keeping awake to the coming of Christ among us shares at least one quality with trying to stay up late- it happens best in community. When people are gathered together, falling asleep is less likely. So while I hope you make it a habit to get good rest when your body needs it, I also hope you will be intentional this Advent about gathering with your faith community to keep awake to what God is up to.



Join us for ecumenical Advent services on Wednesday nights. Take home a devotional and gather daily with your household. Come to worship on Sunday morning as we watch and wait together. Make plans to worship with us on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day (10am Sunday the 25th). Because, sure, on your own you can stay awake for a while. But it's easier together. That's *why* we add in extra opportunities to gather around scripture, to sing, to pray, to watch, and to wait together this season. It just works better as a team effort. So make it a priority to gather with us this season.

Jesus, the Christ, is coming to make all things new! Keep awake!

Pastor Matt

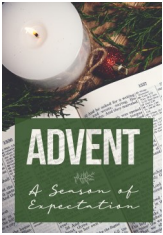
## Advent and Christmas Worship

### Ecumenical Church Mid Week Advent Services

*Wednesday November 30th, December 7th, 14th, & 21st*  
*Soup Dinner @ 6pm with the Service 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 have a time of fellowship before worship where we will share a meal of soup and sandwiches together. Worship, in person, will follow beginning at 7pm.

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



**December 7th** - St. Mary's Episcopal Church

**December 14th** - St. Eugene's Catholic Church

**December 21st** - St. Mark's Lutheran Church

The offering will each week will be divided equally to support Catholic Charities and LSC Refugee Program.

**If you are able to bring soup or sandwiches on December 21st please sign up on the Sign-Up Central board.**

### Christmas Pageant, Potluck breakfast, and Caroling

*Sunday, December 18 @ 10:00am*

Mark your calendars for an important schedule change! On Sunday, December 18 we will have ONE service at 10:00am, which will include our Christmas Pageant. After worship, plan to join your church family for a potluck breakfast in the Fellowship Hall, followed by caroling to members and friends to spread some holiday cheer. Coffee and juice provided. Bring a breakfast casserole, fruit, or baked good to share. Questions? Contact Deacon Katie

### Christmas Eve Services

*December 24th @ 4pm, 7pm, & 10pm*

There will be three worship opportunities on Christmas Eve. **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. Music will begin 30 minutes before each service and continue until the service begins.

### Christmas Day Worship

*Sunday, December 25 @ 10:00am*

Join us as we celebrate the birth of our Savior on Christmas Day, Sunday, December 25 at 10:00am, followed by cinnamon buns, coffee, and carols in the Fellowship Hall.

## Council Corner

### Greetings from the St. Mark's Congregation Council

Here are highlights from the November 2022 in-person/Zoom meeting:

- The Council again reviewed the current situation with COVID infections in our community and decided to make no changes. Windows will remain open during worship services. Those attending worship are encouraged to keep up-to-date with vaccinations for both Covid and flu, as possible.
- The Council voted for nominations for the Endowment Fund Board, for changes to the Endowment Fund Board By-laws, and for the proposed 2023 Operating Fund Budget. These will be presented to the Congregation at the Annual Congregational meeting on Dec. 4, 2022.
- The Council voted in favor of a small change regarding a Personnel request.
- Although income for last month was less than budgeted, finances are still in the black for the year.

- Linda Kinsinger, Council President

## Summer Camp Opportunity

### Faith Based Summer Camp

Deacon Katie and Pastor Matt agree- faith based summer camp is one of the best ways to instill faith in young people, and St. Mark's wants to help your child(ren) attend camp this summer. We are blessed to have Lutheridge, Lutherock, and Camp Agape all right here in NC, and if your child(ren) attends one of these Lutheran camps, St. Mark's will contribute \$250 toward the registration fee (or up to \$500 for family camp). Registration is open now, and prices will go up in March, so register now!

**Want to see some familiar faces at camp? Pastor Matt and his family will be attending family camp at Lutheridge June 11-14. We hope you'll make camp a priority for your family this year!**



#### **Lutheridge Information:**

<https://novusway.org/summer-camps/#>



#### **Agape Kure Beach Information:**

<https://agapekurebeach.org/summer-camp/#>

## Announcements

### Christmas Choir

This year, give yourself the gift of song! Not only do you get prime seating for the Christmas services and a snazzy robe to wear, but also the chance to give back to your congregation by leading them in praise. Bonus: they don't pass the offering plates in the chancel! Four rehearsals begin on Thursday, December 1 at 7:00pm in the sanctuary. If you have any questions, please contact Cantor David.

### Parents Night Out

*Saturday, December 10th 4pm-7pm*

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 and will benefit the St. Mark's Youth Group.

**Sign up central bulletin board or contact Deacon Katie!**

### Yarn Angels - Cancelled

Yarn Angels will be Cancelled during the month of December. They will resume meeting on January 10, 2023. Merry Christmas to All!

### Endowment Board

#### *Did You Know?*

The St Mark's Endowment Fund distributed \$21,710 to our church this year. This will be used for expenses related to our 100th Anniversary celebration.

The purpose of the Endowment is to provide financial support for ministry expenses not included in our church budget. If you are interested in learning more about the Endowment, please contact Eric Van Tassel, Chairperson of the Endowment Board.

### Parish Administrator - Name Change

As many of you know, our parish administrator, Danielle, got married in May. Moving forward, she will be using her new married name of **Danielle Barker** rather than Danielle James. If you see this new name reflected in mail, emails, or other communications please know this is correct. You will have to go into your email contacts and update Danielle's contact information from James to Barker to reflect this change in email communications. If you have any questions please contact the church office and Mrs. Barker will be happy to assist you!

### New Year's Day Worship

*Sunday, January 1st @ 8:30am & 11am*

Regular worship services will resume on Sunday, January 1st 2023.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year



*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.*

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

# MERRY CHRISTMAS

The office will be closed 12/26 through 12/30 as all staff will be using their vacation time.

## 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 items for a variety of organizations including Christine W. Avery.

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.

Please have all donations to church by December 18th.

For questions, or for more information please contact Dan or Mary Dudde.

## 100th Anniversary Updates

### Pledged

as of September 30, 2022

Total:\$101,300

Goal:\$100,000



### Continued Generosity

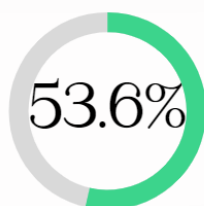
Our effort to raise \$100,000 above normal giving in celebration of St. Mark's 100th anniversary is off to a great start! Thank you for contributing \$53,621 thus far!

### Donated

as of September 30, 2022

Total:\$53,621

Goal:\$100,000



As you begin planning your 2023 giving please reach out to Danielle in the church office if you have any questions about how to set up automatic withdraw or to check on your current giving status.

### Looking Forward

As we approach 2023, we have many exciting things to look forward to. Be on the lookout for the 1st Quarterly Newsletter which will include all things for St. Mark's 100th Anniversary celebration for January, February, and March including...

- Concert Information
- Guest Preacher Details
- Kicking Off and Instructions for the 1923 Acts of Service
- Continued Giving Updates



### Direct Donation

Scan this QR Code to contribute online directly to the 100K for the 100th



### Centennial Information

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

## End of Year Financial Information

### 2022 Contributions

The church office will be working to deposit all contributions made by Sunday, December 25th by the end of 2022. If you have concerns about your contribution rolling over into 2023, please reach out directly to Danielle. 2022 giving statements will be mailed to the address we have on file after all contributions have been accounted for in 2022.

# 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
\$42,581	\$435,596

#### Gifts received

October	YTD
\$41,567	\$434,582

#### Expenditures

October	YTD
\$44,893	\$404,805

#### Surplus/(Deficit)

October	YTD
\$(3,326)	\$29,778

### Financial Report Building Fund

*\*subject to change from treasurer's report\**

#### Income budgeted

October	YTD
\$4,207	\$42,070

#### Gifts received against Pledges

October	YTD
\$5,147	\$44,298

#### Loan Payments

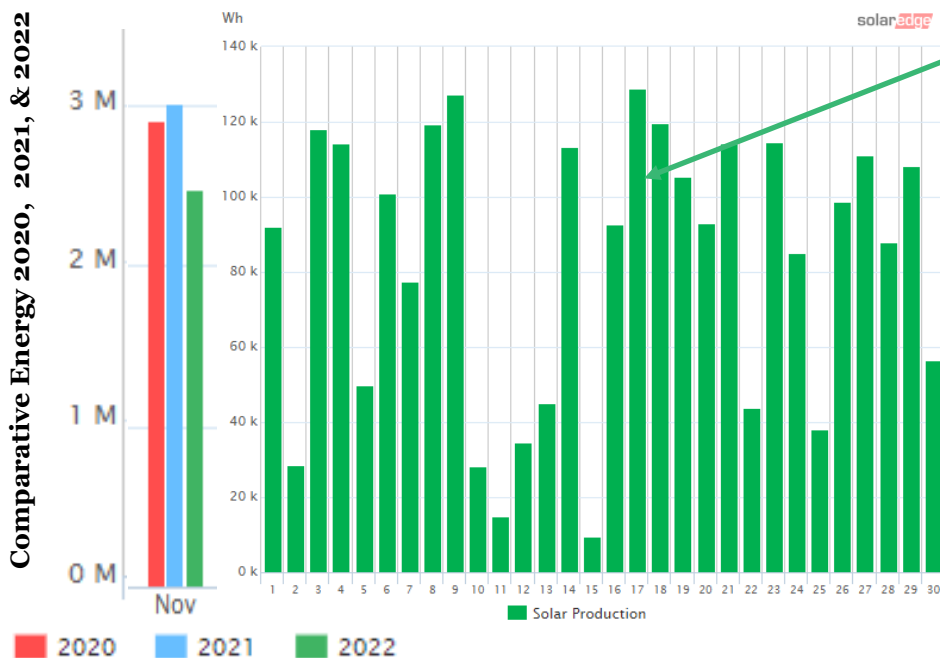
October	YTD
\$5,351	\$53,510

#### Surplus/(Deficit)

October	YTD
(\$205)	(\$9,212)

## Caring for God's Creation

### October Solar Report



Nov. 17th was the top producing day this month @128.768 kWh

**Environmental Benefits**  
From Install date of July 2020

#### Environmental Benefits



CO2 Emission Saved  
**152,041.47 lb**



Equivalent Trees Planted  
**1,148.81**



## Sunday Calendar

### December 4th - The Second Sunday of Advent

#### Scripture Readings:

Isaiah 11:1-10; Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19

Romans 15:4-13; Matthew 3:1-12

8:30am.....Worship

9:45am.....Faith Formation

9:45am.....Congregational Meeting

11:00am.....Worship

### December 11th - The Third Sunday of Advent

#### Scripture Readings:

Isaiah 35:1-10; Psalm 146:5-10

James 5:7-10; Matthew 11:2-11

8:30am.....Worship

9:45am.....Faith Formation

11:00am.....Worship

### December 18th - The Fourth Sunday of Advent

#### Scripture Readings:

Isaiah 7:10-16; Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19

Romans 1:1-7; Matthew 1:18-25

10:00am.....Worship & Christmas Pageant

11:30am.....Potluck Breakfast & Caroling

### 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 25th - Christmas Day

#### Scripture Readings:

Isaiah 62:6-12; Psalm 97

Titus 3:4-7; Luke 2 8-20

10:00am.....Worship

11:00am.....Cinnamon Rolls & Carols

### Additional Calendar Dates

Midweek Advent Services .....12/7, 12/14, 12/21

Dinner @ 6pm, Worship @ 7pm (St. Mark's is hosting on 12/21)

Congregational Meeting.....12/4 @ 9:45am

New Year's Day Worship.....1/1, 8:30am & 11am

## Birthdays

Dec 1 Joan Galvin

Dec 3 Brittany Kittel, David Rowe

Dec 4 Sawyer Miller

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 26 Scott Hendrix

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

Dec 30 Bill Chalmers & Mary Brady

# St. Mark's Lutheran Church

*10 N. Liberty Street  
Asheville, NC 28801*



## *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

### ***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***

### ***Physical and Mailing Address:***

10 N. Liberty Street, Asheville, NC 28801

### ***Phone:***

828-253-0043

### ***E-mail:***

[admin@stmarkslutheran.net](mailto:admin@stmarkslutheran.net)

### ***Website:***

[www.stmarkslutheran.net](http://www.stmarkslutheran.net)

### ***Office Hours:***

*Monday—Thursday 8:30am-4:30pm*

*Friday 8:30am-12:30pm*