



ReMARKS, *February 2023*

25,000 Hours of Service and Counting!



I hope you've heard by now that one of the ways St. Mark's is celebrating our 100th anniversary is to sponsor a full house build through Asheville Area Habitat for Humanity- a \$55,000 dollar effort that you can support with gifts to our St. Mark's 100 special appeal and by marking you calendars to **join us on the job site March 18, April 15, or May 6**. But meeting with Habitat staff recently, I learned something that astounded me.

Over the years, members of St. Mark's have logged **over 25,000 volunteer hours** in support of Habitat's work to build strength, stability, and self-reliance through home ownership. 25,000 hours! That's enough hours to have somebody working around the clock, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week for almost 3 years! For some context, all the volunteers for Asheville Area Habitat in 2021 logged about 37,000 hours. What a tremendous legacy of service and love for our neighbors those 25,000 hours represent! And we're not done yet.

Through the support of this congregation and the work of Habitat, this October when construction finishes, somebody will have a safe place to live. And not just any place, but one that they own. What a tremendous impact this will make for a family in an area so desperately short on affordable housing! So please come celebrate with us as construction kicks off with a wall-raising on February 24. Sign up to work a Saturday at the jobsite. Pray for the family who will be blessed by this new house. We have inherited this tremendous legacy of service through Habitat. And, thanks be to God, we're not done yet! With your support, we are on track to raise the money we need to fund this build- come join us on the dates below as we celebrate and serve!

Pastor Matt

Feb. 24th @ 3pm - Kickoff celebration with wall raising, followed by snacks and a tour

VOLUNTEER DAYS

- March 18
- April 15
- May 6

New Heights Drive (Near Patton Ave DMV)



Want to volunteer?
Contact Henry!

Henry Ulrichs
910.620.4854
henryulrichs66@gmail.com

Lutheran Services Carolinas

If you have spent anytime around St. Mark's during the week you will without a doubt run into employees and clients of Lutheran Service Carolinas as they continue to grow beyond what anyone imagined when planning this part of St. Mark's outreach ministry.

Can you believe...

- LSC continues to support 87 Afghans and an additional 146 Ukrainians - which is a growing number daily?
- there are 9 employees sharing the office space in the education wing of St. Mark's?
- LSC has reserved either the Adult Classroom or the Fellowship Hall 12 times just in the month of January to support their clients?

Unlike the Afghan refugees who came to Asheville as part of the resettlement program, the Ukraine community is primarily finding LSC through their American sponsors as they have traveled independently to America. Although both have found LSC in different ways, each client is assigned a case manager and gets help setting up their needs such as food stamps, child care, and health care.



Pictured left - A group of 100 individuals that came to gain information from Pisgah Legal on their rights as refugees. Pictured right - An event in which included education on American banking and introduced clients to potential employers.

Not only are LSC providing basic needs but each Tuesday evening, the LSC team gives different community organizations the opportunity to reach out to their clients. These meetings range in participation from 30-100 based on the topic. Some topics have included job readiness, American bank information, provided medical interruption, or have provided a space to fellowship and craft together.

Are you interested in helping out or staying connect?

The best way to stay connected to LSC needs is by subscribing to their newsletter at <http://eepurl.com/hRLC-z>. This is LSC primary way of communicating specific volunteer opportunities, needed donated household items, or special events. Looking to get involved more often? There is always a need as well for ESL volunteers to help bridge the gap as well.

Contact Lara Holloway - volunteer coordinator to get involved! - lholloway@lscarolinas.net

Council Corner

Greetings from your Congregational Council! A new year begins and your Council has been busy with new members and new assignments to our various Church Committees. We give thanks for all who served on our Congregational Council last year.

Dave Epley was elected as President of the Council, Jason Jones will be serving as Council Vice-President, Jim Bassler will continue as Council Treasure, and Amy Zellers has agreed to be the Council Secretary.

The following will serve as Council liaisons with the various teams that serve our Congregation:

Worship and Music - Mary Brady

Stewardship- Jason Jones

Faith Formation- Bryan Short

Youth- Jeremy Kemper

Property- Dave Epley

Personnel- Anne Blackwell

Evangelism and Hospitality- Linda Kinsinger

Christian Action- Judy McKay

Racial Healing - Debbie Layne

Long Range Planning- Bonnie Morris

Finance- Jim Bassler

Endowment Fund- Cindy Lauster

Quoting Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr, "All of us can be great because all of us can serve." If you would like to bring your talent or skills to any of the Teams listed above, feel free to contact any of the Council members or Pastor Matt.

St. Mark's Congregation will celebrate our 100th Anniversary this year which will be a time of reflection and a season of planning for new opportunities. We ask for your prayers and your help as your new Council begins their work of serving you.

Our next scheduled Council meeting will be on Monday, February 13, 2023 at 6pm.

Congregation Council Officers:

President

Dave Epley

Vice President

Jason Jones

Treasurer

Jim Bassler

Recording Secretary

Amy Zellers

Congregation Council Members:

Terms Expiring 23

Terms Expiring 24

Terms Expiring 25

Debbie Layne

Anne Blackwell

Cindy Lauster

Dave Epley

Jason Jones

Mary Brady

Linda Kinsinger

Bonnie Morris

Judy McKay

Jim Bassler

Bryan Short

Jeremy Kemper

2023 St. Mark's Council Bios

Elected Council Positions

Dave Epley – President &



Property Liaison

Dave Epley is beginning his third year of his second stint as a member of the St. Mark's Congregational Council. He and his wife Bobbie have been members of St. Mark's since 2009. Dave currently is a director of newscasts at WLOS-TV but will be retiring at the end of March 2023.

Jason Jones–Vice President &



Stewardship Liaison

Jason moved to Asheville from Austin with his husband, Josh, and their terriers in 2010. He is a Financial Center Manager with Bank of America. Down time includes spending time outdoors, relaxing with their pup Felix, and cooking and baking at home.

Jim Bassler – Treasurer &



Finance Liaison

I, along with my wife Barbara, have been members of St. Mark's since 2013. I am retired from a career in finance and accounting, and have served on the St. Mark's Finance Committee and am currently the St. Mark's Treasurer. I enjoy golfing, kayaking and hiking with my wife and two dogs – Gracie and Talisker.



Amy Zellers – Secretary

I'm a cradle Lutheran, hailing from Wisconsin and after a series of adventures, finding my way to Western North Carolina. I visited St. Mark's in 2001 and have been here ever since. I've enjoyed serving on the Worship and Music team, the Altar Guild, the Audit team, the Columbarium team and filling different Worship Assistant roles. In 2013 I was elected to a 3 year term on Council. In 2015 I started a 5 year term as Council Secretary followed by another 3 year term on Council. So now, in 2023, the Council has privileged me with the opportunity to serve again as Secretary.

Council Liaison Positions

Anne Blackwell – Personnel Liaison



I have been involved with St. Mark's since 1967 and enjoy serving during worship. I help often with faith formation and Vacation bible school. I am a retired teacher and medical technologist. I love to cook, garden, read, and work with animals. I presently substitute teach and work at the hardware store in Black Mountain. I have 5 grandchildren and 2 great-grandchildren, 1 dog and 4 chickens.



Mary Brady – Worship & Music Liaison

I am a registered nurse and retired from the Food and Drug Administration. I am a lifelong Lutheran, having been every flavor of Lutheran there is! I am married to Bill Chalmers, also a member of St. Mark's. I have served on many councils and boards in the past, and look forward to serving at St. Mark's.



Cindy Lauster – Endowment Fund Liaison

I moved to Asheville in December of 2020 to be closer to my daughter's family and be in the mountains. I am originally from Indiana. I am a retired science and history teacher and am still substitute teaching. I have 3 children and 9 grandchildren.

2023 St. Mark's Council

Council Liaison Positions Cont.



Debbie Layne – Racial Healing Liaison

Debbie Layne ~ I have been a member of St. Mark's since 2002 and I love all the things we do outside of the walls of our church that shows our community what God's love is. Please join a Christian Action Team (CAT) meeting or Racial Healing Team meeting to see what I'm talking about.



Christian Action – Judy McKay Liaison

St. Mark's has been my church home since Henry and I moved here in 2006. I worked as a peri-natal psychiatrist until 2015 when I retired. My hobbies include traveling, music, camping, and being with family and grandchildren. I look forward to serving on Council.



Bonnie Morris – Long Range Planning Liaison

I am involved with Celebration Handbells and the monthly meal at Transformation Village. I also enjoy the Silver Sisters card ministry and events. I rejoined St. Mark's in 2013 and am glad to be back in NC. My hobbies include weaving, golfing and swimming laps. On Sunday, you can regularly see me volunteering to serve on the Altar Guild.



Jeremy Kemper – Youth Liaison

Hello! My name is Jeremy, and I represent the Youth Group on the Church Council. I moved here from New York when I was 9 and have been a member of St. Marks ever since. I love serving St. Mark's kind and accepting community, and partaking in activities put on by our awesome Youth Group!



Linda Kinsinger – Evangelism & Hospitality Liaison

I'm a lifelong Lutheran, raised on an Iowa farm. My husband, Russ Harris, and I moved to Weaverville 5 years ago, after living in Chapel Hill for many years. I love quilting (at home and at church), crocheting for the Yarn Angels, weaving, hiking and backpacking (especially in the Smokies), cooking/baking, volunteering at MANNA, biking, and doing word puzzles.



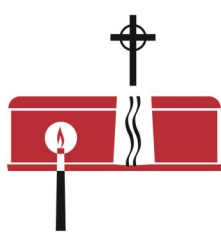
Bryan Short – Faith Formation Liaison

I am part of the Worship and Music team and serve as the secretary for the Faith Formation team. This will be my second year serving on the St. Mark's Council. I have two children - Neil and Liam.

Faith Formation and Lent Information

Adult Faith Formation

February 5th @ 9:45am - What can we say about death? w/ Pastor Matt



What does the Bible say about dying and what comes after? How does the ELCA talk about end of life decisions? Can I be cremated and still be part of the bodily resurrection? Join Pastor Matt for the faith formation hour February 5th through March 5th in the library as we discuss how our Christian faith informs our view of what it means to live and die in Christ. Scripture, sacred music, and poetry will accompany our discussion.

Landmarks

February 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!*

Ash Wednesday Service

Feb 22nd @ 12pm and 7pm

These services mark the beginning of the season of Lent. For over a thousand years Christians have received ashes on this day as a sign of humility, and a remembrance of our mortality and God's unchanging love.

Join us for a brief Ash Wednesday Worship service with imposition of ashes and communion on Feb. 22.

Lenten Holden Evening Prayer

Wednesdays during March

During the season of Lent, we will gather each Wednesday for Holden Evening Prayer. We will share a soup supper together beginning at 6pm with the evening prayer service following, at 7pm.



Lent Devotional Materials

Devotional materials will be available in the commons on February 19th to provide you and your family with an additional resource during the season of Lent.

Lenten Bible Study – Save the Date!

Thursdays in March @ 7pm

Bishop Tim Smith will offer an online Bible study on the book of Galatians during Lent—specifically, the five **Thursdays in March**—from 7 to 8 p.m. via Zoom. Mark your calendars and be on the lookout for the registration link soon. Don't miss this opportunity to study Galatians with other Lutherans across the synod!

Information Updates

Directory Updates

Be on the lookout in the commons for a proof copy of the 2023 St. Mark's Directory. Before new ones are printed, please take the time to confirm that your information is correct by placing a check mark next to your household information or by correcting the errors. The new directory, with edits, should be available by March 1st.

If you are not able to make it to church to check your information, please email or call Danielle in the church office to confirm that your address, phone number, and email address are correct. We **will not** be emailing a full copy of the directory this year as it has been hacked and used in scam emails in the past.

Prayer List

Each Friday St. Mark's sends out a prayer list by email. This list is also available in the commons to pick up on Sunday. Please remember to keep Danielle updated as changes to the prayer needs continue for the individuals on the list. We like to have an update monthly if at all possible.

If you are not receiving the prayer list and would like to, contact Danielle in the church office or email her at admin@stmarkslutheran.net.

Ministry Opportunities

Youth Yarn Workshop

The Yarn Angels would like to invite the youth of St. Mark's to participate in a yarn workshop where you will learn different techniques and walk away with a wonderful activity!

WHEN: February 18th from 10-12

WHO: ALL Ages of youth. (Children 6 and under, please be accompanied by an adult.)

RSVP: by February 12th by reaching out to Barbara Ulrichs or signing up on the bulletin board.

Barbara's Contact Info:

(e) bulrichs8@gmail.com

(p) 910.620.2247

There will be activities for all ages!

Flower Ministry Donation

Each week a household sponsors the sanctuary flowers. Many times that household decides to donate the flowers to brighten someone's day rather than taking them home

Each Tuesday, Connie Chaplin picks the flowers up from church and takes them to someone in a nursing home, rehabilitation facility, or to their personal home after they are recovering from surgery. Connie would like to expand the list of people that she can cheer up with a lovely bouquet of flowers.

If you know someone that would enjoy the flowers, please contact Connie at 828.450.0844 or Danielle in the church office so she can continue carrying out the flower ministry!

Centennial Celebration Announcements

February

24 - Habitat Build Kick-off @ 4pm
25 - Greg Hager Concert
26 - Volunteer Appreciation Lunch

March

5 - Gregor McGee Recital
12 - Time Capsule Creation
18 - Habitat Volunteer Day

1st Quarter Newsletter



February 24th @ 3pm – Kickoff Celebration for Habitat House Build

On Friday, February 24th at 3pm, join us at the Habitat home site that St. Mark's will be sponsoring to celebrate the beginning of the project with a wall raising, snacks, and a tour. This will be the first of 4 visits to the home that we are sponsoring. If you are interested in joining this celebration, please contact **Henry Ulrichs to RSVP** as light refreshments will be provided. **Henry's Contact Information** - 910.620.4854 henryulrichs66@gmail.com

February 26th, after the 11am Worship Service

St. Mark's makes an impact daily to people within and outside of our church walls. This would not happen without the numerous volunteers that dedicate countless hours to our ministry. We would like to invite these volunteers to join us for a time of fellowship so that we can show our gratitude for your service. If you are a volunteer, mark your calendars now and join us for lunch on February 26th after the 11am worship service and be on the lookout for an invitation so that you can RSVP!

Celebrate with a T-shirt

100th Anniversary T-Shirts will be available starting January 1st ! Pick yours up from the clothing rack in the Commons and wear it to 100th Anniversary events, doing Acts of Service, or just to the grocery store. Sizes Youth Medium to Adult 3X available. Shirts are \$10 each, and cash or money can be designated "T-Shirts" and placed in the offering plate or given to Danielle in the church office.

Acts of Service

Recent Shared Acts of Service

- Buying lunch for a student with no lunch
- making sandwiches for ABCCM
- donating items to the SPCA
- playing music at Grandpa's nursing home for him and other residents

During January, the people of God at St. Mark's **reported 165**

Acts of Service

to their neighbors! It's been wonderful to see the cards begin to fill the back wall of the sanctuary as reminders of what God is doing through us in our community. Keep filling out those cards, but more importantly, keep looking for opportunities to share God's love with your neighbors.

Need some ideas of Acts of Service? Check out all of the different opportunities at ABCCM!



Share Online!

Upcoming Concerts

Greg Hager, Country and Western

February 25th @ 4pm

Song-writer and accomplished musician, Greg Hager will be presenting a concert on February 25th at 4pm. Greg offers original songs with a fresh authentic Western flair, from heartwarming to toe-tapping. Ballad-creator and tall-tale originator, Greg presents a musical program that will tickle the ears and inspire the heart. His music and message has a true “western styled” country and gospel focus, and is a delight for all members of the family.

To hear Greg’s style and to read more about him, check out his website @ www.greghager.com.



Greg HAGER
IN CONCERT

Saturday, Feb 25, 2023
4:00 p.m.

~~ FREE-Will Donation ~~

St. Mark's Lutheran Church
10 N Liberty St, Asheville, NC 28801

Greg Hager will sing songs from his newest album, and will take the listener on a musical journey. Songs of life, living, family and faith in an easy-going style. **ALL ARE WELCOME.** Bring a friend! Concert will be live-streamed on the Church Facebook Page for those unable to attend.

- Award Winning North Dakota singer / songwriter / entertainer
- signed to MFG Records, Nashville with 9 albums

GREGHAGER.COM   

Gregor McGee, Organ Recital

March 5th @ 3pm

Join us on March 5th at 3pm for an organ recital by Gregor McGee. Gregor is an organist and vocalist living in Portland, Oregon. Born in North Carolina, Gregor has played piano since the age of 6, harpsichord since the age of 17, and organ since the age of 23, and has been singing in choirs since the age of 19. Playing and singing for such groups as Cantores in Ecclesia, Big Mouth Society, Trinity Episcopal Cathedral, and Reed College Collegium Musicum, Gregor's skill in diverse idioms brings a tasteful and expressive touch to a variety of repertoire. Gregor's other hobbies include cycling, playing video games, and reading. Gregor is a full-time registered nurse working in the intensive care unit at Providence Portland Medical Center.



GREGOR MCGEE ORGAN RECITAL

March 5, 2023

3:00 PM

St. Mark's Lutheran Church
10 N Liberty St, Asheville, NC 28801

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!



Lutheridge Information:

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



Agape Kure Beach Information:

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



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!

Check out the 2023 Summer
Camp Catalog Here!

Questions??? Contact Deacon Katie



Need an Act of Service? ABCCM Needs you!

Does your New Year's resolution call you to serve the Lord? ABCCM certainly wants you to serve the needs of your congregation, but if there is something more that is tugging at your heart, then please consider these opportunities. Would you take a tour to see which one fits you?

Cumberland Crisis Ministry has needs in the reception area several days during the week where volunteers would be able to smile and say, "We're glad you are here." We need folks who can help drive and pick up food donations from our partner businesses.

- Volunteers say **preparing food boxes** is deeply satisfying at the Crisis Ministry.
- **Clothing** others is a fun adventure as we have a need for volunteers in our clothing room, helping a mom find clothes for her kids, or finding the right outfit for a job interview is always important. Sorting clothes to find those hidden gems is also enjoyable.
- **Counselors** are needed to offer guidance in the area of finances, basic home skills or just to lend wisdom to an individual going through tough times.

If you are asking "Lord, when did we feed you, clothe you, visit you in jail, care for the sick and take in the stranger;" then consider ABCCM and **email volunteer@abccm.org**.

WHAT ARE YOU CALLED TO DO?

Volunteer Opportunities

All works

Crisis

Homelessness

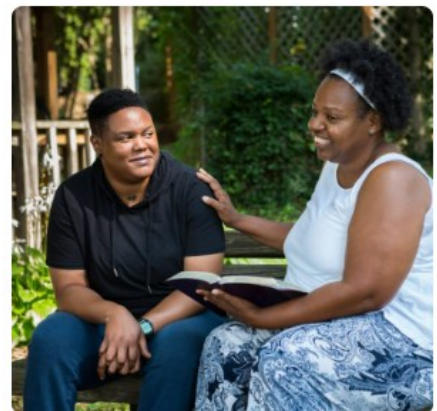
Incarcerated

Medical

Transformation Village

Veterans

VSC



Stewardship

Financial Report

Below you will find December'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>December</u>	<u>YTD</u>
\$42,581	\$510,976

Gifts received

<u>December</u>	<u>YTD</u>
\$63,700	\$532,258

Expenditures

<u>December</u>	<u>YTD</u>
\$49,633	\$495,721

Surplus/(Deficit)

<u>December</u>	<u>YTD</u>
\$14,067	\$36,537

Financial Report

Building Fund

subject to change from treasurer's report

Income budgeted

<u>December</u>	<u>YTD</u>
\$4,207	\$50,484

Gifts received against Pledges

<u>December</u>	<u>YTD</u>
\$2,150	\$48,568

Loan Payments

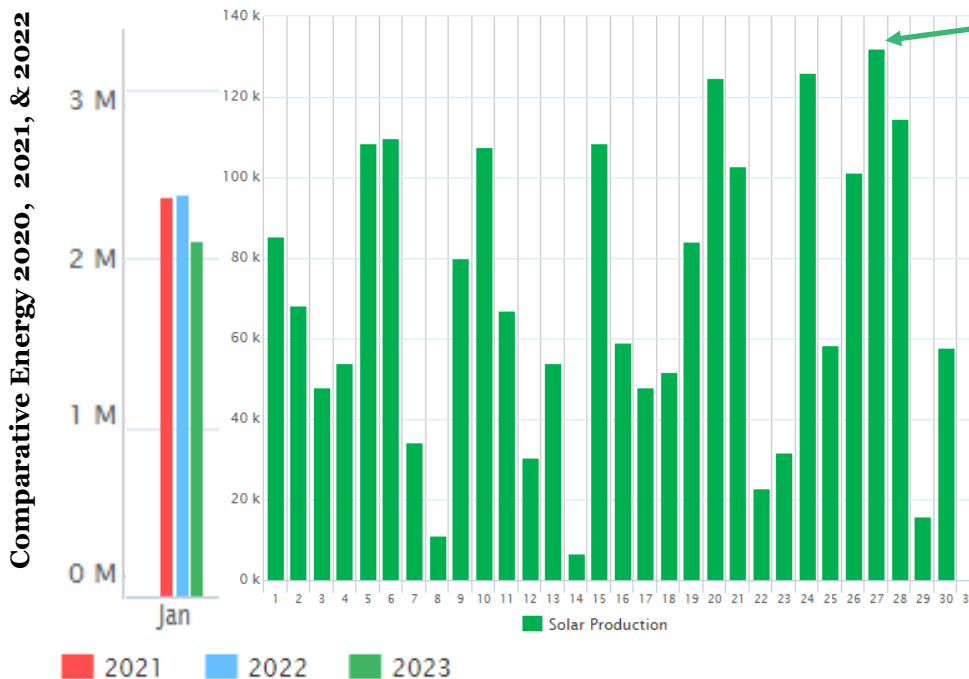
<u>December</u>	<u>YTD</u>
\$5,351	\$64,212

Surplus/(Deficit)

<u>December</u>	<u>YTD</u>
(\$3,120)	(\$15,644)

Caring for God's Creation

January Solar Report



Jan 27 was the top producing day this month @132.029kWh

Environmental Benefits From Install date of 7/2020

Environmental Benefits

CO2 Emission Saved
158,043.17 lb

Equivalent Trees Planted
1,194.16

Sunday Calendar

February 5 - The Fifth Sunday after Epiphany

Scripture Readings:

Isaiah 58:1-9a, [9b-12], Psalm 112:1-9[10]

1 Corinthians 2:1-12[13-16]; Matthew 5:13-20

8:30am.....Worship

9:45am.....Faith Formation

9:45am.....LandMARKS

11:00am.....Worship

February 12 - The Sixth Sunday after Epiphany

Scripture Readings:

Deuteronomy 30:15-20; Psalm 119:1-8

1 Corinthians 3:1-9; Matthew 5:21-37

8:30am.....Worship

9:45am.....Faith Formation

11:00am.....Worship

February 19 - Transfiguration of Our Lord

Scripture Readings:

Exodus 24:12-18; Psalm 2

2 Peter 1:16-21; Matthew 17:1-9

8:30am.....Worship

9:45am.....Faith Formation

11:00am.....Worship

February 26 - The First Sunday in Lent

Scripture Readings:

Genesis 2:15-17;3:1-7; Psalm 32

Romans 5:12-19; Matthew 4:1-11

8:30am.....Worship

9:45am.....Faith Formation

11:00am.....Worship

12:00pm.....Volunteer Appreciation Lunch

Additional Calendar Dates

11 - Lutheran Men in Mission

18 - Youth Yarn Workshop

22 - Ash Wednesday @ 12pm & 7pm

24 - Habitat Kick-Off

25 - Greg Hager Concert

26 - Volunteer Luncheon

Birthdays

Feb 3 Chuck Kopp

Feb 4 Anna Hibbert

Feb 6 Chris Weil

Donley Studlar

Feb 7 Pat Patton

Megan Cram

Feb 8 Foxen Alford

Evan Kelling,

Carolyn Otto

Feb 9 Ken Carlson

Feb 10 Jason Noel

Feb 12 Mary Brady

Feb 14 Philip Otterness

Chris Miller

Feb 16 Jo McIntire

Feb 18 Jeanette Jackson

Feb 19 Connie Chaplin

Bill Hygon

Feb 21 Alexa Hibbert

Feb 22 Nicholas Dudde

Ray Mack

Feb 24 Ella Kopp

Karen Puthoff

Feb 25 Liam Short

Feb 26 Bonnie Morris

Dave Epley

Sheila Ray

Feb 27 Mary Margaret Curley

Gene Makela

Summer Noel

Feb 29 Bob Kaufmann

Mark Fitzsimmons

Anniversaries

Feb 18 Al & Sharon Tenty

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 Barker

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

Website:

www.stmarkslutheran.net

Office Hours:

Monday—Thursday 8:30am-4:30pm

Friday 8:30am-12:30pm