



## ReMARKS, *June 2023*

One of the things I love about St. Mark's is that it takes little to no encouragement to get you singing. I heard this last Sunday when we sang "Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing" without accompaniment in perfect harmony. I heard it the Sunday before, when we sang the refrain "Be not afraid, sing out for joy! Christ is risen, alleluia!" As soon as I finished the introduction, a clear and strong voice sounded from the back of the room – this happened at both services, in both instances it was the strong singing of one of God's younger children. Perfectly on pitch, perfectly in time, and, more importantly, perfectly singing the meaning of the words. Alleluia! Praise God!



"Break forth into joyous song and sing praises!" the psalmist cries. "Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly... singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs," adds Paul. Scripture clearly tells us that every person has a song to sing, and how wonderful it is to hear that song from untrained, uninhibited children. It wouldn't even occur to them to sing softly because "someone might hear" or they "don't have a good enough voice." They sing out for the pure joy and fun of singing. So may it be for all of us!

I was researching some folk music that was collected in our area at the beginning of the 20th century, and came across an interesting quote. Cecil Sharp grew up in England and was a fairly accomplished musician and teacher. He became interested in folk music, and made a trip to the southern Appalachians with Maude Karpeles at a time when this region was still very undeveloped. Here he collected songs that had been passed down from the early settlers, and found that they were remarkably well preserved from their original English forms.

All of that is interesting, but here's the germane quote from his introduction:

Instead of... having to confine my attention to the aged, as in England, where no one under the age of seventy ordinarily possesses the folk-song tradition, I discovered that I could get what I wanted from pretty nearly everyone I met, young and old. In fact, I found myself for the first time in my life in a community in which singing was as common and almost as universal a practice as speaking... The fact has been forgotten [in England] that singing is the one form of artistic expression that can be practiced without any preliminary study or special training; that every human being can sing just as everyone can talk; and that it is, consequently, just as ridiculous to restrict the practice of singing to a chosen few as it would be to limit the art of speaking to orators, professors of elocution, and other specialists." (English Folk Songs from the Southern Appalachians, xxv)



*Cecil Sharp and Maude Karpeles  
used by permission from the English Folk Dance and Song Society*

Mr. Sharp may have had a somewhat romantic notion of rural life, but these words could have just as easily been written by a 21st century Lutheran cantor as an early 20th century song-catcher. The instances of actual tone-deafness (congenital amusia) are vanishingly small; every human being can sing, and it is indeed silly to imagine otherwise. There are plenty of places in our culture that mirror Sharp's England; where music is considered the domain of professionals, and "normal" people are expected to keep quiet and listen.

But children instinctively know a different, more true reality; the first cry of "mom-my" is always a descending minor or major third; they can learn surprisingly difficult music with a little teaching and no ability to read music notation; and with little to no encouragement, they will sing out for joy!

Over the next few weeks, we'll be singing some great old chestnuts during worship. Songs like "Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God Almighty," "Morning Has Broken," "Softly and Tenderly"; these hymns have shaped our faith and bring great comfort. We'll also sing some less familiar hymns, as the church continues to "sing a new song to the Lord." (Psalm 96) Whether you know the words by heart or are seeing them for the first time, I encourage you to emulate the youngest members of the congregation, and sing out for joy to the risen Christ!

American composer Charles Ives recounts a story about his father, who was asked how he could stand to hear the town stonemason singing off-key, wrong notes, in "...that horrible, raucous voice." His father answered, "He is a supreme musician... watch him closely and reverently, look into his face and hear the music of the ages. Don't pay too much attention to the sounds -- for if you do, you may miss the music."

-Cantor David

## Calling all Bakers!

### Let Us Bake Bread Together

Are you a baker? The Worship and Music team recently recommended that we resume using real bread for communion, which means we need your help! We've chosen a simple pita recipe which works well for both intinction and distribution at the communion rail. All you need to do is bake a batch, freeze it, and deliver it to church. Frequency will depend on how many people are interested in participating. Please contact Cantor David or the church office for more information!

## Council Corner

Greetings from your Congregational Council! We have been blessed with many visitors and some having decided to join our congregation. At our April Council meeting, we were happy to welcome to St. Mark's Erin, Joe and Jasper Pawelek, Jean and Glenn Musial, and Susan Whisler. We give thanks for these new members!

In this our 100th Anniversary year, we are expecting more and more visitors as our celebration events get closer. If you can remember to pick up your name tag before the service it would be appreciated. That way our visitors can put a name to the face they are speaking with. Our next meeting will be Monday, June 12, 2023.

## Choir Opportunity



**Anniversary Festival Choir**

July 16, 2023 · open to all · guaranteed excellent seating  
lead the congregation in exciting and inspiring song · wear a snazzy  
robe · no experience required · fun & healthy · two rehearsals only

**Contact Cantor David for more information!**

## Faith Formation Information

### Confirmation Sunday– June 4th

Join us Sunday, June 4th at the 8:30 service as we celebrate the confirmation of Lila Niedenthal and Abby Spencer! Lila, Abby, and their parents have spent the past academic year learning and growing in faith with Pastor Matt and Deacon Katie. We look forward to them affirming their baptism and rejoicing with them at this important milestone in their lives.

### Adult Faith Formation

*June 4 @ 9:45am - Foundations of our Faith with Doug Johnson*

Ever wonder what Lutherans believe? Join Doug Johnson as he leads a class using the Lutheran Confessions to talk about some of the basic teachings and principles of the Lutheran Church. The class meets in the Library at 9:45 AM.

### Landmarks

*June 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!*

### Celebrating our Seniors – June 11

Join us as we celebrate with our youth that are graduating from high school this year: Cord Doss, Toby Schuetze, and Heather Dixon. We will have a special blessing of the graduates and present senior quilts on Sunday, June 11 at the 11:00am service.

### Coffee Hour is back!

Before the pandemic, St. Mark's had the wonderful tradition of enjoying a short time of fellowship and caffeine before Faith Formation each Sunday. For a few years, we set down our mugs in order to protect our neighbors, and stopped having Coffee Hour each Sunday. We need people to help support this ministry of hospitality so that the burden does not fall on a small group of people.

If you would like to help with Coffee Hour, please sign up on Sign Up Central Bulletin Board at the bottom of the stairs. Moving forward, if no one signs up for any given Sunday, we will not have Coffee Hour that week.

### What being a coffee hour host entails:

- Make coffee (regular and decaf) and put in airpots and heat water for tea and put in airpot
- Set out mugs, cream and sugar, and airpots in Welcome Center no later than 9:30am
- Clean up
- Optional: Provide and set out a snack or two to share

**If you haven't helped with Coffee Hour before, or would like a refresher, please contact Deacon Katie.**

## Synod News!

### 2023 Synod Assembly

*June 2-3*



The 2023 NC Synod Assembly is coming! On **Friday and Saturday, June 2-3**, voting members of this synod will gather at the Koury Convention Center in Greensboro to tend to the business at hand, gather around the Word, and hear stories of the ministries we share.

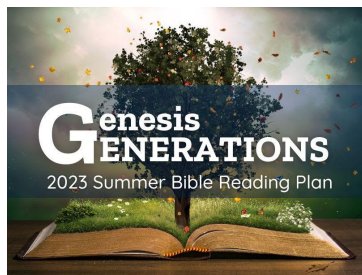
### **THOSE NOT ATTENDING IN GREENSBORO**

Join by Livestream for the Assembly sessions on both days and the Friday night worship. Watch via the synod's Facebook or Youtube.

## 2023 Summer Bible Reading Plan

### Genesis Generations!

*Beginning Sunday, July 2nd*



Join folks all across the synod as we read the Bible together—individuals, congregations, small groups—using the 2023 Summer Bible Reading Plan: *Genesis Generations!* Brought to you by the synod's Engage the Bible Ministry Team, you'll read together a chapter of Genesis, a short devotional writing, a few questions to ponder, and a prayer.

Devotions are written by NC Synod pastors and lay people. The readings begin on **Sunday, July 2**, and continue through Sunday, July 23—through Chapter 25 of Genesis. (This summer will leave us with a cliff-hanger, poised to continue with Genesis Generations II for Summer 2024.) Receive the daily readings via the website or email by signing up at [nclutheran.org/communications/](http://nclutheran.org/communications/).

## Reminders from the Church Office

Thank you for your contributions. Please remember to indicate on your contribution checks and/or envelopes if your contribution is intended for multiple purposes. If at all possible, please write separate checks for each fund you are contributing to as there have been a few funds that have been designated in the wrong location because the memo line is missing. Please reach out to Danielle in the church office if you have any questions.

# Centennial Celebration Announcements

## June

30 - Tourists Baseball Game

## July

15 - Celebration and Banquet

16 - Anniversary Worship

2nd Quarter  
Newsletter



## Asheville Tourists Baseball Game

June 30th @ 6:30pm



Asheville Tourists Baseball Game June 30th @ 6:30pm. Come root for the home team at McCormick field as the Tourists battle the Greenville Drive on Friday, June 30th. The night features both Dollar Hot Dog and Fireworks Night, so mark your calendar now so you're sure to be there! *Suggested Donation for tickets: \$10. Tickets will be available starting Sunday, June 4*

## Anniversary Celebration Banquet & Worship Service

Banquet July 15th @ 5pm

Be sure to join us on Saturday, July 15 at 5pm in the Centennial Room at Pack's Tavern! Dinner, dessert, live music, guest speakers, and special presentations will fill this "roaring 20s" themed event with joy and celebration!

Worship Service - July 16th @ 10am

Mark your calendars now! So that we are able to all worship together, we will have one worship service on July 16 at 10am. The service will include a brass quintet, choir, and guest preacher as we praise and give thanks to God for 100 years of ministry in Asheville.

JOIN US FOR  
**ST. MARK'S  
100TH ANNIVERSARY  
BANQUET**

July 15, 2023 • 5 PM

The Century Room  
at Pack's Tavern

20 South Spruce Street, Asheville, NC

Dinner and Dessert • Live Music  
Cash Bar • Special Guests

Roaring '20's apparel encouraged  
as we celebrate like it's 1923!

Adults - \$20 • Children - \$10

See reverse side for additional information

# Stewardship

## Financial Report

Below you will find April'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>April</u>	<u>YTD</u>
\$41,530	\$166,120

#### Gifts received

<u>April</u>	<u>YTD</u>
\$57,290	\$221,346

#### Expenditures

<u>April</u>	<u>YTD</u>
\$41,375	\$169,317

#### Surplus/(Deficit)

<u>April</u>	<u>YTD</u>
\$15,916	\$52,030

### Financial Report

#### Building Fund

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

#### Income budgeted

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

#### Gifts received against Pledges

<u>April</u>	<u>YTD</u>
\$10,245	\$20,502

#### Loan Payments

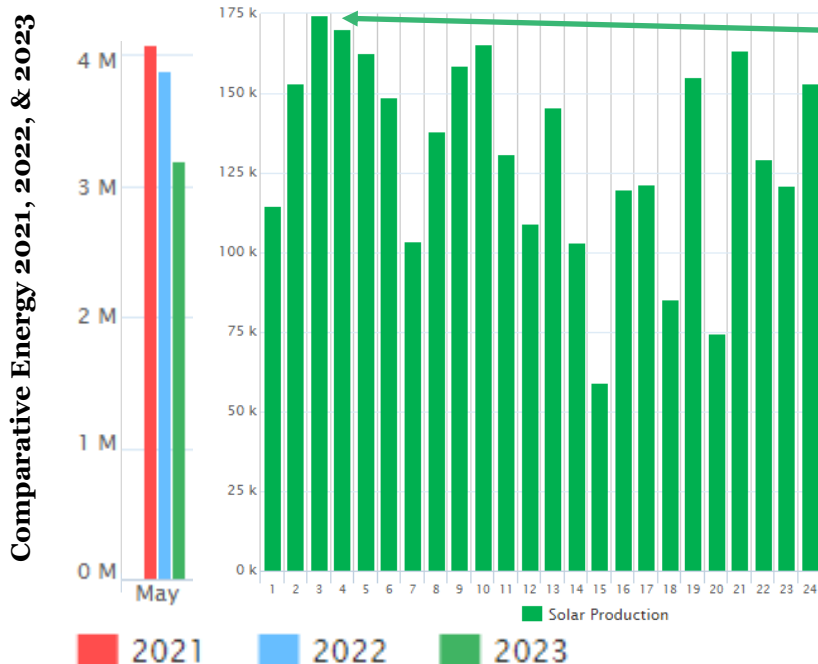
<u>April</u>	<u>YTD</u>
\$5,351	\$21,404

#### Surplus/(Deficit)

<u>April</u>	<u>YTD</u>
6,038	7,881

## Caring for God's Creation

### May Solar Report (as of 5.25.23)



May 3rd was the top producing day this month @174.771kWh

#### Environmental Benefits From Install date of 7/2020

##### Environmental Benefits



CO2 Emission Saved  
**178,043.41 lb**



Equivalent Trees Planted  
**1,345.28**

## With Gratitude

St. Mark's has been making an impact in the community and it has not gone unnoticed. Thank you for continuing the mission of St. Mark's - both near and far.



Pardon, Matt, Deacon Kaites, & the  
Entire St. Mark's Congregation,  
Thank you so much for your donation  
to the Dwelling's shower Ministry.  
This ministry is vital to our unhoused  
neighbors & ensures they always have  
access to a shower hygiene. Your  
donation allows us to impact hundreds  
of our neighbors in winter & beyond!  
Thank you!

THE  
DWELLING  
WHERE GOD AND GOD'S PEOPLE MEET

Michael Schutte

Dear people of St. Marks,

Thank you for your recent gift to our neighbors  
in Turkiye. Your love is providing shelter,  
food, and hope to families who have lost  
everything. I'm so grateful for your partnership  
in this work.

In gratitude,  
Emma Wagner

5-21-23

Dear Friends,

We would like to express  
our gratitude for hosting  
both the primary and general  
elections for H. Asheville.

Regards,  
Sander Abramits  
Dem, Precinct 3.1

## Community High School Fundraiser

### Community High School Fundraiser

Thank you to members of CAT who help  
support the CHS graduates.

- \$880 funds raised
- \$300 donation collected from Lutheran Men in Mission to help purchase gift cards.
- \$100 donation from Cheddar's for gift cards
- \$ 250 Thrivent for their grant

## Additional Impact

- **50** Fresh Change backpacks
- Close to **65** letters written to members of congress about Bread for the World



## Sunday Calendar

### June 4 - The Holy Trinity

*Scripture Readings:*

Genesis 1:1-2:4a; Psalm 8

2 Corinthians 13:11-13; Matthew 28:16-20

8:30am.....Worship

9:45am.....Faith Formation

9:45am.....LandMARKS

11:00am.....Worship

### June 11 - 2nd Sunday after Pentecost

*Scripture Readings:*

Hosea 5:15-6:6; Psalm 50:7-15

Romans 4:13-25; Matthew 9:9-13, 18-26

8:30am.....Worship

9:45am.....Faith Formation

11:00am.....Worship

### June 18 - 3rd Sunday after Pentecost

*Scripture Readings:*

Exodus 19:2-8a; Psalm 100

Romans 5:1-8; Matthew 35-10:8

8:30am.....Worship

9:45am.....Faith Formation

11:00am.....Worship

### June 25 - 4th Sunday after Pentecost

*Scripture Readings:*

Jeremiah 20:7-13; Psalm 69:7-10, 16-18

Romans 6:1b-11; Matthew 10:24-39

8:30am.....Worship

9:45am.....Faith Formation

11:00am.....Worship

## Birthdays

June 2	Jim Streilein, Matthew Smith
June 4	Neil Short
June 6	Marilyn Turner
June 8	Cindi Fridd
June 11	Karin Doss, Sharon Tenty
June 12	Christopher Silver, Jenny Simmons, Suzanne Delap
June 13	Bob Sachsenmaier, Chuck Baer, Gene McIntire
June 14	Walter Hitch, Barrett Stone, Claire Niedenthal, Ruth Smith
June 15	James Aydelotte
June 17	Tim Galvin, Andrew Webb, Nicholas Mueller
June 19	Iona Gilbert
June 20	Judith Taylor
June 23	Karen Longhouser, Meredith McLaughlin, Andrea Colburn, Jennifer Brocious
June 25	Jerry Ray, Patricia Presley, Zachary Baer
June 27	Donna Davis, Patricia Atkins George Hahn
June 30	Robert Taylor

## Anniversaries

June 1	Thomas and Brenda Stewart	June 15	Ray and Hildie Polasky
June 5	Vincent and Melissa Logan	June 17	Bud Rainey and Charissa Gulotta, Jack and Linda McHenry
June 6	Steven and Roseanne Doane, Nathan and Eileen Doane, Henry and Barbara Ulrichs	June 18	Mark and Dana Fitzsimmons
June 9	David and Bobbie Epley	June 21	Jeff and Leslie Lamm, Dutch and Cindi Fridd
June 10	Nicholas and Meredith Davis	June 22	Jim and Elizabeth Korb, Steven and Lisa Burnett
June 11	Tom and Anne Mock	June 24	Doug and Julie Aanonsen
June 12	John and Sharon Herrmann	June 27	Scott and Emilee Hendrix
June 13	Eric and Susan Van Tassel	June 28	Chuck and Stephanie Baer
June 14	Douglas and Ann Johnson, Victor and Mary Anne Allwein		

# 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](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*