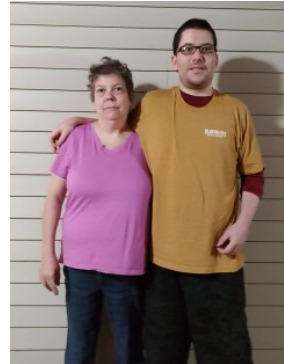


Dedication of the St. Mark's 100 Habitat House

I'm thankful for a safe, comfortable place to live with a silly herd of animals and wonderful roommate. I'm even more thankful that St. Mark's financially and physically helped to provide a safe, comfortable place to live to a family this year through out St. Mark's 100 Habitat House. There is a dedication and key ceremony this month on November 10th, and I can't wait to see the fruits of your labor.



Voices of Peace

I'm thankful that, even as the world rages in war, hatred, and pain, that God provides light and hope. Our upcoming concert, Voices of Peace, a community concert with our Jewish siblings at Congregation Beth haTephila, is one such expression of peace and unity in the midst of the brokenness of our world.

Thanksgiving Dinner

I'm thankful that I'll have two opportunities to gather with loved ones for Thanksgiving Dinner this year- including once with all of you! Please join us on Sunday, November 19th after the 11am service for our annual Thanksgiving dinner. Bring your favorite thanksgiving side or dessert, and spend some time with your Church family.

And lastly – I'm thankful for this perfect Thanksgiving Brussels Sprout Salad that will be on my table this year. It's a wonderful way to add crunch and freshness to your meal, while complimenting all your other turkey day favorites. It comes together fast, and can be made ahead. It's a winner!

Giving thanks for you (yes, you!) this month, and for all that God does through you.

Deacon Katie

Adult Faith Formation

LandMARKS

November 5th from 9:30am-10:15am



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 9:30am to join!

Journey through the New Testament with Dr. Mary Shore

Beginning October 29th @ 9:45 in the Fellowship Hall



Ever had hard questions about the Bible? Curious about Paul's letters, or for whom the Gospel of Luke was written? Our guest faith formation teacher, Rev. Dr. Mary Shore, taught New Testament at Luther Seminary for years, and was most recently the Dean and Rector of Lutheran Southern Seminary. She will join us for 6 weeks to teach an introduction to the books of the New Testament and discuss how they all fit together. You won't want to miss hearing from a true New Testament scholar!

Congregational Meeting

December 3rd @ 9:45am

During the Faith Formation hour on Sunday, December 3rd we will hold our 2024 Annual Meeting in the Fellowship Hall. This meeting will be a hybrid meeting, via Zoom. Please mark your calendars!

A full agenda will be provided at a later date, but here are a few items that will be discussed:

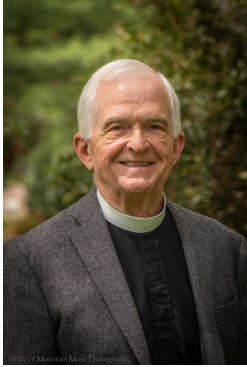
- Elections for Council
- Elections for Endowment Board Elections
- Endowment By-Law Updates
- 2024 Budget Review



100th Anniversary Guest Preacher

Bill Trexler Guest Preacher

November 19th



As we continue to celebrate 100 years of Christ's ministry through St. Mark's, on Sunday November 19th we welcome the Rev. Dr. Bill Trexler as our guest preacher at both services. Pastor Trexler is a former bishop of the FL-Bahamas synod, a son of the congregation, and the 2018-2019 interim pastor at St. Mark's. He grew up in the old church parsonage that sat on the site of our current office wing while his father, Rev. Bernard Trexler was the pastor of St. Mark's from 1949-1959. Plan to join us as we welcome back Pastor Trexler!

Intergenerational Activities

Advent Intergenerational Sunday

November 26th @ 9:45am

Advent is coming! Join us for an intergenerational faith formation event in the Fellowship Hall on Sunday, November 26 as we make Advent wreaths and learn about the season of Advent.

Save the Date – St. Mark's Christmas Pageant

Sunday, December 17th @ 11:00am

Like last year, children and adults will be invited to participate in our Christmas Pageant. Stay tuned for more information on how you can help share the story of Jesus' birth with us on December 17. Questions? Interested in participating? Contact Deacon Katie

St. Mark's Kids

St. Mark's Kids – New Monthly Children's Groups

November 12th @ 3pm



Continuing on November 12th PreK-5th Graders are invited to St. Mark's new Kids group! This group will meet monthly (usually on the second Sunday of the month at 3pm) for games, snacks, crafts, and more! Interested in helping? Contact Deacon Katie

Advent Worship and Christmas Resources

Ecumenical Church Mid Week Advent Services

This year, we will be gathering with our Ecumenical Church Partners for our Wednesday Advent Worship, each of them leading a mid-week Advent worship service focused on a different Saint. We will have a time of fellowship before worship where we will share a meal of soup together, beginning at 6pm. Worship, in person, will follow beginning at 7pm.

THE SAINTS OF ADVENT



Ecumenical Midweek Advent Worship

6:00pm - Soup and Sandwiches

7:00pm - Worship

November 29- St. Eugene Catholic Church
December 6 -St. Paul's United Methodist Church
December 13 - St. Mary's Episcopal Church
December 20 - St. Mark's Lutheran Church

Christmas Poinsettias

Order by December 10th

We will be ordering poinsettias for our Christmas services this year. If you'd like to order a poinsettia in memory or honor of someone, please let Danielle know no later than December 10th by calling the church office or completing a tear and share during worship service. This can be found on the back of your MARKings.

We have pre-ordered 30 Poinsettia plants this year! Each plant will cost \$7. Please make your contributions out to St. Mark's indicating Christmas Poinsettias in the memo line.

Christmas Choir

Rehearsals begin November 30th @ 7pm

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, November 30 at 7:00pm in the sanctuary. No experience necessary; if you have any questions, please contact Cantor

David: cantordavid@stmarkslutheran.net

Fellowship Opportunities



Contemplative Evensong

November 1 @ 7pm

This service led by the choir on All Saints Day features music, poetry, silence, and prayers. Much of the music is chant, or in the style of Taize (with a few familiar songs from Holden Evening Prayer).

Voices of Peace

November 12 @ 4pm

This interfaith community choir concert will be presented by the musicians of St. Mark's and our neighbors at Congregation Beth haTephila! Join us in celebrating our diverse musical traditions and our shared commitment to working for peace and justice. Dr. Vance Reese will also be joining us on the organ.

Voices of Peace

The Choirs of Congregation Beth haTephila
and St. Mark's Lutheran Church, with Dr. Vance Reese



November 12, 4pm · St. Mark's Lutheran · 10 North Liberty St · Asheville

Psalm settings new and old, songs of prayer and praise, and an organ piece based on the *Avinu Malkeinu* by Elsa Barraine, a French Jew who fought in the Resistance. Free and open to the public.

Donations accepted for
Jewish Federations of North America and Lutheran Services Carolinas

Thanksgiving Dinner

November 19th after the 11am Service

Save the date and join your St. Mark's family for our annual Thanksgiving Dinner on November 19th after the 11am service! Plan to bring a side or dessert to share, and stay tuned for more details.

St. Mark's Online Photo Directory

Just as the leaves and time change every fall, this is a good time to review your entry in the St. Mark's online photo directory for any changes you'd like to make. Having an up-to-date directory is important for all of us to stay connected with each other. You can find photos and contact information for many members there.

To get the online directory, go to the St. Mark's Lutheran home page (www.stmarkslutheran.net) and look in the lower righthand corner, under "Connect." Click on "Online Directory". You'll see a log-in page, asking for a user name and password. Your user name is likely your "firstnamelastname" or "FirstnameLastname" (without the quote marks and no spaces or punctuation). If you've forgotten your password, click on "Forgot password?". You'll be taken to a box, asking for your email and user name. Then you'll get an email with directions on resetting your password. If you've forgotten your user name, please contact Linda Kinsinger (lkinsinger@mac.com) and she can help you.

Once you're in to the directory, you can add or change any contact information you'd like. You can also add or change your photo. If you have trouble uploading a picture, please let Linda know and she will try to help. The picture doesn't have to be anything formal – a selfie taken with your phone is fine. Don't forget to click on "Update" to save any changes you've made. Note that there's both a family account and an individual member account.

You may have questions about the security of this site. You can find the privacy policy on the sign-in page, at the bottom of the sign-in box. Your information is encrypted and the company does not sell any personal data to third parties. You won't get ads from having an account. You control how much or little information is displayed. As always, it's a good idea to change your password regularly or if you have any concerns about security.

If you'd like to have access to the directory on your mobile phone or other device, there is an app available for download from the app store you use. Search for "CTRN Online Directory" and use this privacy code: STMARKSLUTHERAN.



Christian Action Team (CAT)

THANKS-GIVING TREE

Saint Mark's Tree of Gifts is waiting for you in the Commons. There are gift tags for kids of the Claxton School and Christine Avery School, tags for "Our Voice", and tags for the ELCA farm animals. Please read carefully the instructions on the tags for the children's gifts, especially regarding the due date.



ELCA
GOOD
GIFTS
CATALOG



If you wish to purchase an ELCA animal, please write your check out to Saint Marks, and put which animal you want on the designation line of the check. Your check can be placed in the offering plate. You may keep the animal tags!

ALMOST A MILLION DOLLARS!

After the 2022 Crop Hunger Walk, the local Asheville/Buncombe Walk, which has been operating since 1979, had raised **\$973,805.00**. Now, after this year's walk, our total is **\$998,000.00---Two thousand short of One Million Dollars!**



This year's Hunger Walk, with your support, raised over \$25,200. **St. Mark's alone raised over \$10,000.** Thank you! Approximately 175 walkers participated in this year's walk. They came from eleven groups (mostly churches). We estimate that 35 of these walkers came from St. Marks. Thanks for your generosity!

We're excited at the thought that after next year's 2024 Walk, the Asheville/Buncombe Walk will have surpassed that Million Dollar mark. We hope you will participate again next year.

Would you like to join the planning team? If so, talk to Daniel Dudde (828-683-9064)

2023 Fall Ingathering Info.

2023 Fall Ingathering for Lutheran World Relief

Mark your Calendars! This year we will be taking our quilts to Grace Lutheran in Hendersonville and we need your help to send these gifts off with love and prayers. *How can you help?*

- **Wednesday, November 1st** - Helpers are needed to pack, weigh, label, tape, and count the boxes from the attic.
- **Tuesday, November 7th** - If you can tie a knot, WE NEED YOU!!! We have many quilts that are almost finished that we would like to send with our donation on 11/8. Please join the quilters on Tuesday, November 7th from 9-11 to put the final touches on a few quilts
- **Wednesday, November 8th** - Helpers are needed to load the boxes for transport. Several helpers are also needed to travel with the truck to Hendersonville to unload the boxes at the drop off site.



Ministry News

Get Ready to SHINE!

November 11 @ 10am

**SHINE
ON!**

In anticipation of Advent (the advent of Advent!), it is time to shine the silver, polish the brass and generally put a sparkle on all the accessories that we use to celebrate during the season. Come enjoy the fellowship. Mark your calendar for Saturday, November 11, at 10 AM. St. Mark's has the supplies, we just need your hands and smiling faces to make short work of the shine and polish. NO EXPERIENCE NECESSARY.

Questions? Contact Amy Zellers (279-1203)

With Gratitude

Thanks, and regards!

From coming to America until now, the financial support of the Members of St. Mark's is something that we will not forget for the rest of our lives. With your recent help, we bought goats for our brothers in our homeland, and they will be able to make some good changes in their lives.

The Taliban expelled my two brothers (Aziz Ihsas and Mohammad) from their jobs under the name that my brother was working for the interests of America in Afghanistan. They are unemployed and their lives are in fear. So, your financial help will help them a lot.

Your help is really for the sake of saving human being. We are very grateful to you. We can't do anything else, but we can say that we will never forget your kindness. Your humanitarian aid is something that truly shows humanity. You are the ones who have more respect for humanity according to the promise.

Sincerely,

Wrote by: Abdul Ihsas the principle of the family.

Translated by: Moheb Rahman Ihsas the oldest son of Abdul.

In February of 2022, St. Mark's partnered with Lutheran Services Carolinas to welcome and support an Afghan family of 10 arriving in the Asheville area. The Ihsas family was part of the nearly 100,000 Afghans who made it to the U.S. after the American withdrawal from Afghanistan and immediate Taliban takeover. Abdul Ihsas, an Afghan television and print journalist, was a target for the Taliban because of his role as a communication conduit between U.S. special forces and the Afghan people. After several months of loving support from St. Mark's, the Ihsas family was able to relocate to Northern Virginia where there is a sizable Afghan community. A member of St. Mark's recently caught up with the family and shared with us about the dire situation Abdul's brother continues to face in Afghanistan as he continues to face persecution from the Taliban because he is Abdul's brother. With some remaining funds that had originally been contributed to support the Ihsas family, St. Mark's was able to send a check to the Ihsas family in Virginia so that they had enough to share some funds to help Abdul's brother in Afghanistan feed his family.

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

Thank you all for the outpouring of love and prayer for my family and me over the past two months. All of us are turning new and hopeful corners. Seven year old Madalyn is back in school and happy. Granddaughter Emma and wife Chrissie are starting up their business on a small scale, pushing through. We are all missing Mike, but he was a giver and a man of faith so we know he is in God's good hands. God bless you for the cards, prayers, donations and care.

-Susan Denne

Stewardship

Financial Report

Below you will find September'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>September</u>	<u>YTD</u>
\$41,530	\$373,773

Gifts received

<u>September</u>	<u>YTD</u>
\$27,613	\$399,677

Expenditures

<u>September</u>	<u>YTD</u>
\$42,888	\$382,870

Surplus/(Deficit)

<u>September</u>	<u>YTD</u>
\$(15,275)	\$16,808

Financial Report

Building Fund

subject to change from treasurer's report

Income budgeted

<u>September</u>	<u>YTD</u>
\$4,207	\$33,656

Gifts received against Pledges

<u>September</u>	<u>YTD</u>
\$2,229	\$38,306

Loan Payments

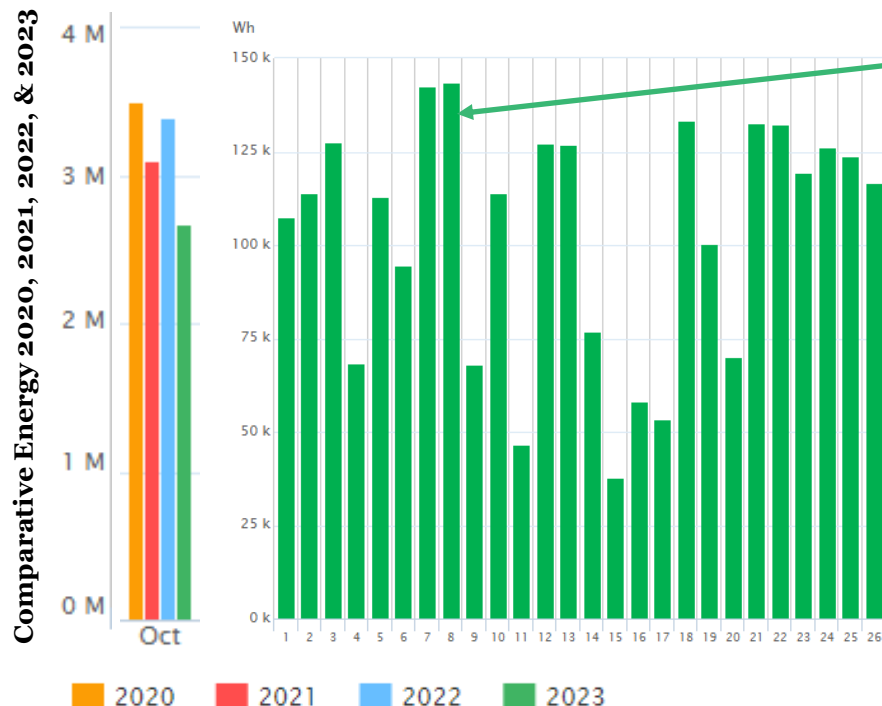
<u>September</u>	<u>YTD</u>
\$5,351	\$47,660

Surplus/(Deficit)

<u>September</u>	<u>YTD</u>
\$(3,122)	\$(9,354)

Caring for God's Creation

October Solar Report (as of 10.26.23)



October 8th was the top producing day this month @143..407kWh

Environmental Benefits
From Install date of 7/2020

Environmental Benefits



CO2 Emission Saved
205,820.42 lb



Equivalent Trees Planted
1,555.16

October and November Worship Assistant Schedule

8:30am Worship Schedule

8:30 AM	Greeter 1	Greeter 2	Usher 1	Usher 2	Altar Guild	Acolyte	Assisting Minister	Reader	Communion Assistant	Live Steam Operator
November 5	Dan Dudde	Mary Dudde	Ken Lane	Deborah Lane	Ken Clark	Julia Volk	Amy Zellers	Connie Chaplin	Diane Hughes	George Hahn
November 12	JD Slater	Catalina Slater	Mike Bradley	Wolfie Otto	Amy Zellers	Isa Slater	Katie Rivers	Liza Volk	Linda Kinsinger	TBD
November 19	Henry Ulrichs	Barbara Ulrichs	Walter Hitch	Ken Clark	Debbie Layne	Claire Niedenthal	Mary Brady	Diane Hughes	Anne Sites	Brant Niedenthal
November 26	Vic Allwein	Mary Anne Allwein	Tom Stewart	Brenda Stewart	Sharon Herrmann	Hannah Smith	Amy Zellers	Linda Kinsinger	Mary Anne Allwein	Debbie Layne

11am Worship Schedule

11:00 AM	Greeter 1	Greeter 2	Usher 1	Usher 2	Altar Guild	Acolyte	Crucifer	Assisting Minister	Reader	Communion Assistant
November 5	Deanna Jordan	Bob Mihara	Dave Schuetze	Ali Schuetze	Paula Lindsay	Katie Rivers	-	Randy Warren	Eileen Cram	Vickie Hauser
November 12	Evelyn Wikoff	Bob Mihara	Scott Baumann	Dave Epley	Susan Van Tassel	Eileen Cram	Christian Wikoff	Katie Rivers	Susan Denne	Susan Van Tassel
November 19	Eric Van Tassel	Susan Van Tassel	Anne Blackwell	Cindy Lauster	Bonnie Morris	TBD	Erick Smith	Bonnie Richards	Anne Blackwell	Bonnie Morris
November 26	Anne Blackwell	TBD	Deanna Jordan	TBD	Donna Turnbaugh	Katie Rivers	-	Dave Epley	Natalie Haynes	Eileen Cram

Updated Church Office Hours

Monday-Friday 8:30am-2:30pm

The current office hours at St. Mark's are Monday-Thursday 8:30am-4:30pm and Fridays 8:30am-12:30pm. Moving forward, the church office hours will be Monday-Friday 8:30-2:30pm. During this time, you will be able to reach Danielle or access the building using the call button. Outside of these hours, please call before you visit Pastor Matt, Deacon Katie, Cantor David, or Steve as they may or may not be in the building based off of their schedules.

NEW OFFICE HOURS

8:30AM-2:30PM

Monday-Friday

Sunday Calendar

November 5th - All Saints Sunday

Scripture Readings:

Revelation 7:9-17; Psalm 34:1-10, 22
1 John 3:1-3; Matthew 5:1-12

All Saints Sunday

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

November 12th - 24th Sunday after Pentecost

Scripture Readings:

Amos 5:18-24; Psalm 70

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18; Matthew 25:1-13

8:30am.....Worship
9:45am.....Faith Formation
11:00am.....Worship
3:00pm.....St. Mark's Kids
4:00pm.....Choir Concert
@ Beth ha Taphila

November 19th - 25th Sunday after Pentecost

Scripture Readings:

Zephaniah 1:7, 12-18; Psalm 90:1-8 [9-11]12
1 Thessalonians 5:1-11; Matthew 25:14-30

Guest Preacher - Bill Trexler

8:30am.....Worship
9:45am.....Faith Formation
11:00am.....Worship
12:15pm.....Chili Cook-Off

November 26th - Christ the King Sunday

Scripture Readings:

Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24; Psalm 95:1-7a
Ephesians 1:15-23; Matthew 25:31-46

Christ the King Sunday

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

Additional Calendar Dates

Midweek Advent Services11/29, 12/6, 12/13, 12/20
Thanksgiving Fellowship Meal11/19
Congregational Meeting.....12/3
Christmas Pageant.....12/17

Birthdays

Nov 1 David Roe
Nov 2 Martha Price
Mikka Yoos
Nov 3 Adam Lewis
Meaghan Schreck
Nov 4 Susan Reiser
Heather Smithson
Julia Volk
Liza Volk
Nov 7 Barbara Ulrichs
Nov 8 Jackie Harron
Tina Mueller
Rachel Brown
Nov 10 Kristina Lewis
Nov 13 Ann Johnson
Nov 15 Ryland Colburn
Nov 18 Torin Linton,
Adrienne Neighbors
Nov 19 Cord Doss
Nov 20 Anne Sites
Nov 21 Steven Burnett
Nov 23 Isabella Fontaine
Vickie Hauser
Nov 24 Jennifer Key
Wolfie Layne

Anniversaries

Nov 4 Stan & Shanna Webb
Nov 9 Heather & Rex Nance
Nov 23 Jerry & Sheila Ray
Nov 28 Wolfie & Carolyn Otto

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