



A time for rest and rejuvenation: Deacon Katie's Sabbatical

Dear siblings in Christ,

It's hard to believe that I have been serving alongside you for nearly 10 years. When I came to St. Mark's, I had never served in a congregational setting, lived in the South, or been a member of the ELCA. Since then, I've served with four pastors, become an ordained minister, and learned so much from all of you about how to live as God's faithful people together as the body of Christ. It's been a wild, beautiful ride, and one that I'm excited to continue.

Back in November, the congregation council voted to grant me a 3-month sabbatical beginning in August. Guidelines for rostered ministers in the ELCA allow and encourage congregations to give Pastors and Deacons a sabbatical after 7 years of ministry, and every 5 years after that. Sabbaticals are meant to be times of rest, spiritual renewal, and personal development.

I am thankful and excited about the opportunity to step back for a few months to care for myself, spend time with family, and work on a few ministry projects that wouldn't get the time or attention otherwise. As we get closer to August, I'll share additional information about my plans and what things will look like here with me gone.

For now, here are some Q&A's of what I do know about my sabbatical.

1. When are you leaving?

My last Sunday before sabbatical will be July 28. I'll spend a few more days in the office before starting sabbatical on August 1. I'll be back in the office on November 1, with my first Sunday back being November 3.

2. What will you be doing on Sabbatical?

I am planning to spend time in New York and Texas for extended visits with my father, siblings, and 10 wonderful nieces and nephews. In September, Wally (my beloved basset hound) and I will be staying on the coast of Maine for three weeks as a writing retreat to work on curricula for small group ministry. (I'll do the writing, Wally will supervise.)

3. Who will cover your responsibilities while you're gone?

Some responsibilities will be covered by the ministry teams that I work alongside, and other staff will pick up some tasks. We do have a need for help with children's and youth ministry. If you have those gifts, please reach out to me or Pastor Matt

Thank you for all of your love and support that you have given me throughout the years, and for making this sabbatical possible. As much as I will miss you, I know that this time will strengthen me for the work God has in store for me yet at St. Mark's.

Deacon Katie

Welcome New St. Mark's Members



The Atkins

Bruce and Cheryl Atkins were active members at St Mark's in the 1990s and early 2000s. They were married here by Pastor David Martin in 1993, and are happy to be part of St Mark's congregation again. They live in Weaverville with their dog Cooley.



The Dobsons

The Dobsons moved from Hickory NC to Asheville in August of 2023. Maddie and David are enjoying exploring who they are and redefining their key interests at the Franklin School of Innovation, given the opportunities that their new community provides. Maddie has started a school newspaper club, is exploring combining her entrepreneurial instincts with her love of making new creations in the kitchen, and thinks she is a thespian for life. David has a passion for exploratory and creative play and sees himself as a well-connected trader of Pokémon cards and strange stretchy toys at school. Laura, sandwich generation parent, and her husband Barry have set aside most hobbies (and unpacking their house) for the joys of raising twin middle schoolers in the digital age, while supporting aging parents and working full-time. You'll greet Barry in the Weaverville Publix produce section; he's great for a what are you making for dinner conversation. Laura works at UNCA in international education (a career that was fueled early on by serving as an ELCA missionary in Nigeria.)



The Masters

Mike and Helen Masters came from Beaufort, South Carolina, a little town on the coast about six weeks ago and now live in Weaverville. We both love to sing and work in the garden. We are happy to call St. Marks our new home, and to escape the heat and the no seams.



The Zelmas

Hannah, Zach, and Zelma were brought to the Asheville Area for a new job opportunity and to be closer to family. Hannah enjoys sewing, reading, and spending time with her family. Zach runs with a varying consistency, plays in an old man soccer league, and records a weekly podcast. Zelma enjoys singing, playing ukelele, ballet, and has just joined a soccer team!

Faith Formation

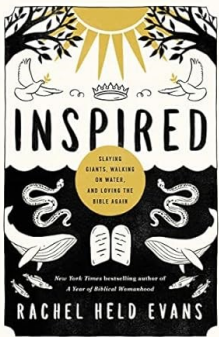
The Wired Word

April 7th & 14th

This class looks at current news headlines, and discusses how we can respond to events around the world as people of Faith.

Inspired - Slaying Giants, Walking on Water, and loving the Bible again

Beginning April 21st



If the Bible isn't a science book, instruction manual, or position paper, then what is it? New York times bestselling author Rachel Held Evans invites readers on a journey of rediscovery as she explores the magic of the Bible, engaging the old, familiar stories in new ways that honor the past and enlighten the present. Join Ken Lane as he leads the class through the book in the Library beginning April 21.

Books will be available in Commons beginning April 7.

Announcements



Welcome Olena Derkach

Olena Derkach will be joining the St. Mark's staff as a Weekend Custodian. Olena will be shadowing Steve on 3/28, 3/30, and 4/6 before working on Saturdays by herself. Olena has very limited English skills but is looking forward to maintaining a clean building for the congregation! We are excited to have Olena joining our team.

Lutheran Men in Mission

Saturday, April 13th @ 8:30am

Lutheran Men in Mission is moving to Fellowship Hall. Breakfast will be provided, however you may bring your own if you prefer. Come join for breakfast, fellowship, bible study and to discuss opportunities for mission. Questions - contact Bryan Short

With Gratitude

As many of you know Pastor Linda, St. Mark's Pastor of Caring Ministries, has been on a journey towards recovery and renewed health. Both Linda and Jack would like to send their deepest gratitude to the whole congregation as they have felt St. Mark's support as they have received letters, cards, and prayers. They continue to feel blessed and this is providing Linda daily strength.

Soli Deo Gloria

Bach as Theologian and Preacher

Music is theology's *alter ego*, or perhaps its better half: cold theological statements spring to life through music. This is certainly the case with Johann Sebastian Bach. This lecture will peel away the various levels of theological demonstration in his works, beginning with the *St Matthew Passion*, continuing with settings of the Lord's Prayer, the Creed, and the Ten Commandments, and concluding with the theological underpinnings of the *Passacaglia and Fugue in c minor*. Bach wrote that 'the aim and final end of all music should be none other than the glory of God and the refreshment of the soul,' and his intention to praise God, preach God's Word, and encourage his hearers is present in his music.

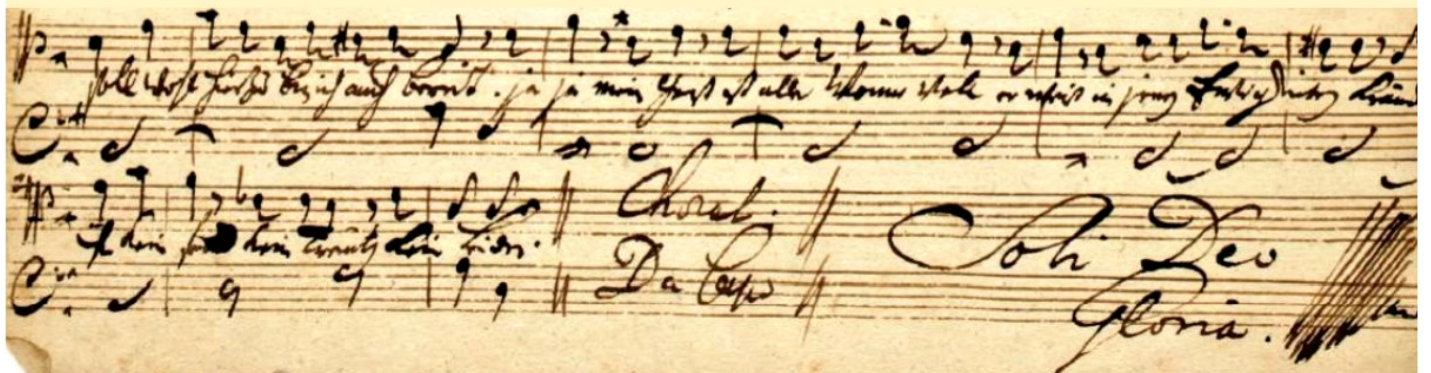


Free and open to the public

The Rev. Dr. W. Becket Soule OP is Emeritus Professor of Canon Law at Saint Paul University in Ottawa, Ontario, and has taught Classical Languages, Mediaeval History, and Law at the Pontifical College Josephinum (Columbus, Ohio), the Dominican House of Studies (Washington, D.C.), and Oxford University. Fr. Soule is a member of the Eastern [U.S.] Province of the Order of Preachers (Dominicans), and has served Anglican and Catholic parishes in New Hampshire, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, Texas, and England. Since 2020 he has been pastor of Saint Margaret of Scotland Catholic Church in Maggie Valley, North Carolina, and has been a member of the AGO since 1976.

April 14, 3pm · St. Barnabas Catholic Church, Arden

Sponsored by the Blue Ridge Chapter American Guild of Organists



ABCCM and Christian Action Team (CAT)

FILLING OUR SANDWICHES, FILLING THEIR STOMACHS

Several St. Marks members have been faithfully making sandwiches and chili for lunch bags that are given to needy people. We have been doing this twice a week since the start of Covid. An estimated 60,000 plus sandwiches have been made so far.

If you would like to participate in this project, but cannot actually make the sandwiches and chili every week, maybe you can donate what goes into the sandwiches! For example, we have one family who sends us regularly canned tuna or chicken via Amazon. Another family used its Thrivent Action Grant to give us \$250 worth of canned tuna and chicken.

If you want to do something like this, please contact me. We can use your help!

Daniel Dudde, CAT chair

Volunteers reflect the heart of God!
You can also be a reflection
in three easy steps.

Step 1. Listen

Where is God calling you to serve?

Step 2. Contact

Reach out to the Volunteer Coordinator listed in the ministry of your choice. No experience needed; training will be provided.
For questions email Caleb Bradshaw: volunteer@abccm.org

Step 3. Serve


As followers/disciples of Christ, you will be putting your faith into action!

Can you smile?
Then you're qualified to be a receptionist.

Are you compassionate?
Then you're qualified to be a counselor.

Do you like to teach?
Then you'd be a great Bible study leader, life skills class, tutor or teacher of a curriculum-based course.

Can you cook?
Then you'd be perfect on a cook team or serving in our food pantry.



ABCCM Volunteer Opportunities

Crisis Ministry

Crisis Ministry has four locations, serving individuals and families with emergency assistance such as food, clothing, furniture and financial assistance for heat, utilities and rent/mortgage.

Crisis Ministry volunteer shifts:
M - F 8:30 - 12:30
M - F 12:30 - 4:30

ALL CRISIS MINISTRIES NEED:
Receptionists Data entry
Counselors
Food pantry
Clothing Room
Prepare and serve lunch at Sonrise

Donation Warehouse need:
Receptionist/Greeters & sorters


Main Crisis Ministry
Vince Brown
828-259-5300
vince.brown@abccm.org

ABCCM Hominy Valley
John Mendenhall
828-259-5301
john.mendenhall@abccm.org

ABCCM North Samaritan
Sheryl Olsen
828-259-5303
sheryl.olsen@abccm.org

ABCCM South Crisis
Allen Pounders
828-259-5302
allen.pounders@abccm.org

Donations Warehouse
Reggie Glenn
828-259-5322
reggie.glenn@abccm.org



Contact

Medical Ministry

The Medical Ministry provides essential healthcare services including telehealth and pharmacy services.

Clinic volunteer shifts:
M,T,W,TH 9-12
CLINIC NEEDS:


Receptionists
Clerical / Data entry
Intake
Providers (MDs, DOs, NPs, PAs)
Nurses (RNs, LPNs, CNAs, EMTs)
Pharmacists
Pharmacy technicians & support
Outdoor work teams
Medical equipment/supplies

Contact
Medical Clinic
Daniel Frayne, MD
828-259-5339

Kevin Ray
kevin.ray@abccm.org
828-398-6690

Contact
Vanessa James, Chaplain
vanessa.james@abccm.org

Don Johnson
don.johnson@abccm.org



Homeless Ministry


The Veterans Restoration Quarters (VRQ) has 250 beds for men, Recovery Living Ministries (RLM) has 50 beds for men and Transformation Village offers 100 beds for homeless women, veterans and moms with kids. We provide stabilization, life skills education, and employment training which leads to career level jobs and permanent homes.

VRQ and RLM volunteer shift times:
M - F 9 - 12
M - F 1 - 5
M - F 7 - 9

VRQ and RLM NEEDS
Receptionists
Barbers
Chaplains
Cook teams
Outdoor work teams
Teachers/study leaders

Contact
VRQ Volunteer Coordinator
Megan Kimsey 828-398-6615
megan.kimsey@abccm.org

RLM Volunteer Coordinator
Susan Ragsdale 828-398-6595
susan.ragsdale@abccm.org



Jail Ministry

Jail Ministry is a program of compassion through Bible studies & library services.

JAIL NEEDS:
Bible study leaders
Library assistants

Contact
Vanessa James, Chaplain
vanessa.james@abccm.org

Don Johnson
don.johnson@abccm.org

Transformation Village

volunteer shift times:
M - F 9 - 12
M - F 1 - 5
M - F 7 - 9

Needs:
Receptionists Beauticians
Chaplains Cook teams
Outdoor work teams
Teachers/Tutors
Structured play /child enrichment

Contact
Transformation Village
Volunteer Coordinator
Shannon Paris 828-398-6985
shannon.paris@abccm.org

Stewardship

Financial Report

Below you will find February 2024 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>February</u>	<u>YTD</u>
\$45,240	\$90,480

Gifts received

<u>February</u>	<u>YTD</u>
\$47,164	\$118,727

Expenditures

<u>February</u>	<u>YTD</u>
\$42,587	\$81,938

Surplus/(Deficit)

<u>February</u>	<u>YTD</u>
\$4,577	\$36,789

Financial Report

Building Fund

subject to change from treasurer's report

Income budgeted

<u>February</u>	<u>YTD</u>
\$4,207	\$8,414

Gifts received against Pledges

<u>February</u>	<u>YTD</u>
\$3,335	\$7,505

Loan Payments

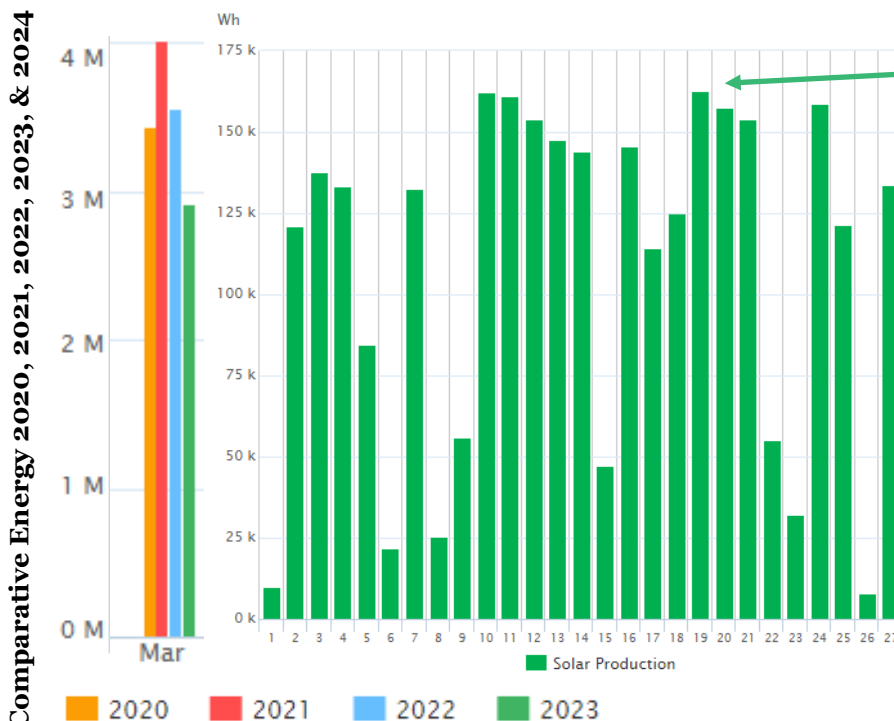
<u>February</u>	<u>YTD</u>
\$5,351	\$10,702

Surplus/(Deficit)

<u>February</u>	<u>YTD</u>
(\$2,016)	(\$3,197)

Caring for God's Creation

March Solar Report (as March 27)



March 18th was the top producing day this month @162.794kWh

Environmental Benefits
From Install date of 7/2020

Environmental Benefits



CO2 Emission Saved
225,503.64 lb



Equivalent Trees Planted
1,703.88

Sunday Calendar

April 7 - Second Sunday of Easter

Scripture Readings:

Acts 4: 32-35; Psalm 133

1 John 1:1--2:2; John 20: 19-31

8:30am.....Worship

9:45am.....Faith Formation

9:45am.....LandMARKS

11:00am.....Worship

April 14 - Third Sunday of Easter

Scripture Readings:

Acts 3: 12-19; Psalm 4

1 John 3: 1-7; Luke 24: 36b-48

8:30am.....Worship

9:45am.....Faith Formation

11:00am.....Worship

April 21 - Fourth Sunday of Easter

Scripture Readings:

Act 4: 5-12; Psalm 23

1 John 3: 16-24; John 10: 11-18

8:30am.....Worship

9:45am.....Faith Formation

11:00am.....Worship

April 28 - Fifth Sunday of Easter

Scripture Readings:

Acts 8: 26-40; Psalm 22: 25-31

1 John 4: 7-21; John15: 1-8

8:30am.....Worship

9:45am.....Faith Formation

11:00am.....Worship

April Birthdays

April 1 Nancy Engelhardt

April 2 Brant Niedenthal,
Robert Taylor

April 3 Henry Dixon

April 5 Mary Anne Allwein,
Debbie Otto

April 6 Eric Lewis,
Rachel Hahn

April 8 Gloria Fritch

April 10 David Anderson,
Steve Henry

April 14 Emily Van Tassel

April 15 David Penland

April 16 Briella Baer

April 17 Mike Bradley

April 20 Toby Schuetze

April 21 Jan Hronek

April 23 Shanna Webb

April 25 Sara Yoos

April 27 Beryl Mack

April 28 Kenley Miller

April Anniversaries

April 3 James Aydelotte &
Susan Denne

April 5 David & Devika Penland

April 9 Mike & Sarah Dawson

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 Barker

Pastor of Caring Ministries:

Reverend Linda McHenry

Facilities Manager:

Steve Henry

Contact Information

Physical and Mailing Address:

10 N. Liberty Street, Asheville, NC 28801

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828-253-0043

E-mail:

admin@stmarkslutheran.net

Website:

www.stmarkslutheran.net

Office Hours:

Monday—Friday 8:30am-2:30pm