

Synod Gathering Experience *written by Barbara Ulrichs*

As I think about my day at the North Carolina Synod Gathering held last month, there are so many “firsts”, unexpected surprises, and moments of pure joy! I would like to share some of those memories with you.

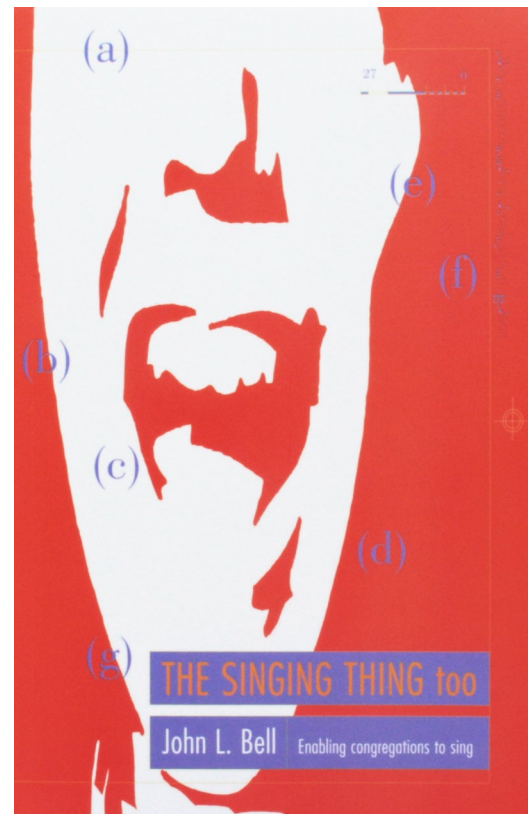
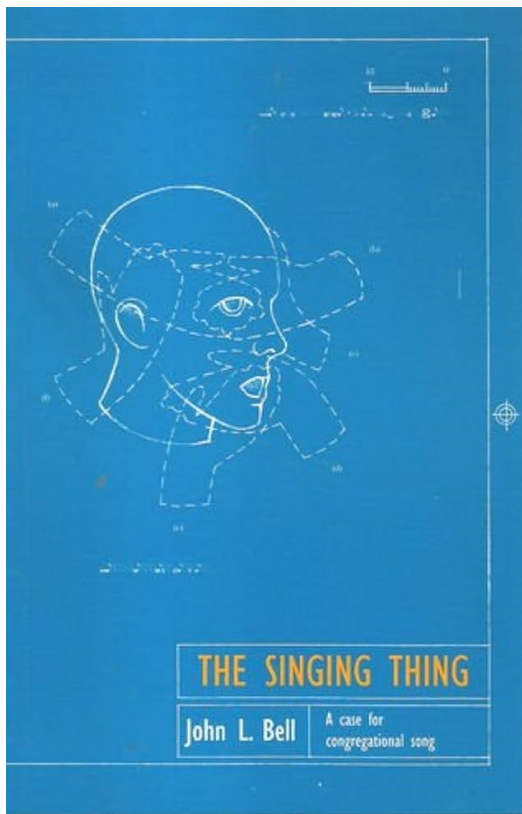
1. The 3 of us, Pastor Matt, Cantor David, & I, were headed to the building to register, when right in front of it, we encountered a huge message on the lawn: HAPPY BIRTHDAY LUTHERIDGE—a feeling of personal welcome as Asheville was indeed included. It was the recognition of Lutheridge’s 75th year of existence.
2. After being warmly welcomed, we all headed to the auditorium stage where we met the choir director & others who planned to sing for the afternoon service. Instead of “hiding” among 25 or so Sopranos, I was one of 4. Oh Lord, do you really want this weakened, tired voice praising You in front of congregational hundreds? I had to let go of my own fears, accepting the comfort and warmth of the other singers, and instead fill my heart with joy and praise! What a wonderful experience, our choir of 8, as we joined the hundreds giving God our song.
3. Bishop Tim’s message was amazing, including some personal stories (with added drama), which we at St. Mark’s had the privilege of hearing the following Sunday. He told me there would be a few changes—yes there were, but hearing him again was just as wonderful. I left this service with my heart feeling so close to God, thanking Him that He “directed” me to be at this place.
4. My choice for the afternoon workshop, was the musical one being held in the beautiful chapel. The theme centered around why people sing or don’t sing in community. As the leader had our group sing simple songs, sometimes only 3 or 4 notes, you could sense the joy and heartfelt praising growing. My Lord did it again; I’ve always preferred 4-part singing, but in order to get more involved, simple was better! I now look at that music with a different attitude, knowing that it may mean more & more are joining through song.



The theme of the weekend--“We Are More” filled me in so many ways and I am so grateful to the St. Mark’s staff who took me under their care with registration (Deacon Katie) and transportation (Pastor Matt & Cantor David). I pray that many of you may consider attending the next gathering—God may have plenty of surprises for you! Praise God!!!

Synod Workshop Experience *written by Cantor David*

Empowering the Church's song was an excellent singing workshop, led by Dr. Ryan Luhrs, and was based in large part on "The Singing Thing" by John L. Bell. This book and its sequel, "The Singing Thing Too," explore what singing means for congregations and communities, reasons why people do and do not sing, and what can be done to invigorate communal music making. These slim volumes are full of anecdotes and insights from Bell's long career as song leader; written with "both tact and irreverence," they are very entertaining and engaging. Cantor David has copies in his office and would be happy to loan them to you!



In the first volume of *The Singing Thing* John Bell explored the reasons why people sing. In the long-awaited second volume his concerns are learning and teaching. How do people pick up new music? How do you encourage a congregation to learn a new song? How can you breathe new life into quality hymnody that has gone stale? With both tact and irreverence, John Bell shares insights culled from over 20 years in which he and his colleagues in the Wild Goose Resource and Worship Group have taught new songs in venues as diverse as homes for the elderly with half a dozen hearing-impaired people to the Greenbelt Festival with over 10,000 gathered for worship. *The Singing Thing Too* is a great resource for pastoral musicians interested in improving the participation of their congregations.

Faith Formation

Weekly Bible Study w/ Pastor Matt

Mondays @ 10 am on Zoom

Did you know a faithful group gathers with Pastor Matt by Zoom most Monday mornings to read and discuss the Bible passages for the upcoming Sunday? Whether you're brand new to this or have been reading the Bible for years, join us at 10:00 on Mondays for conversation, questions, and reflection as we ask what scripture tells us about who God is and who we are called to be. You can always access the Zoom session from the St. Mark's Calendar.

LandMARKs

Sunday, July 7th @ 9:45am

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!

Reading Scripture from the (Socio-Economic) Margins

Continuing through July 14th

Join RJ Hronick as he leads the class "Reading Scripture from the (Socio-economic) Margins". This class will look at the importance of social location in scriptural interpretation, and why giving priority to the views of the socially marginalized in our understanding of the Bible is important. This class will meet for 6 weeks in the Library.

Special Summer Faith Formation for kids!

Continuing through July 28 @ 9:45am

This summer Cantor David and Deacon Katie will be leading a special kids music program during Sunday School! June 23-July 28 from 9:45-10:45, we will have opportunities to learn, play, and prepare some music to share in worship. Between Boomwhackers (pitched tubes), hand bells/chimes, and singing, there will be lots of fun activities for kids of all ages.

Coffee Hour

Coffee Hour is taking a break!

July 7th-July 28th

In order to give our faithful volunteers a little break, there will be no coffee hour in the month of July. Please consider signing up for a slot in August or September so we can continue this beloved tradition with more help! Questions or concerns? Would like to learn how to do coffee hour? Contact Deacon Katie

Community Performance Opportunities

Seasons of Grace Public Worship Services

Lutheridge Music Week, with the 2024 theme, “Seasons of Grace,” offers two worship services open to the public.



Our Hymnfest, led by Catherine Rodland from St. Olaf College and Zeb Highben from Duke University, will be held on Thursday, **July 11, at 8:00 p.m.** at St. James Episcopal Church, 766 N Main St, Hendersonville, NC. The hymnfest’s theme is “Our Heritage of Hymns.” Come, experience the rich history and variety of Christian hymnody in this creative celebration.

Then, on Friday morning, **July 12, at 11:30 a.m.** our conference Adult Choir and two Adult Handbell Ensembles will offer music during the closing worship in Whisnant Chapel on the Lutheridge Campus at 2511 Hendersonville Rd, Arden, NC. Join in celebrating Easter Day and Holy Communion. Chaplain Amanda Highben from Durham will preach and preside. Music will be led by Zeb Highben (Adult Choral), Catherine Rodland (Organ), and Michael Helman (Handbells).

Taking a Chance on Love - Southern Appalachian Repertory Theater

July 19th - July 28th

Will Cupid’s arrow miss it’s mark if it’s aiming at St. Mark’s member, Nate Mueller, who will be on the stage for this fun play? There is a group of St. Mark’s members that regular attend plays and will be attending the matinee show of *Taking a Chance on Love* on Sunday, July 21st @ 2pm and they are inviting you to join!

To find out if Cupid’s arrow will indeed miss it’s mark - contact the box off for tickets!



Southern Appalachian Repertory Theatre

44 College Street, Mars Hill, NC 28754

828.689.1232

www.sartplays.com

A Message from your Facilities Manager



Welcome to Property Day

Wednesdays from 9-12:30

It continues to be an honor to be a part of the team that provides a beautiful, safe place to worship and make the world a better place. While there are things that need to be done, the building and property is in good shape. The property team has been instrumental in helping me keep it this way. The property team as well as the rest of the parish has consistently shown me how good and kind people can be. Thank you all for setting the bar on how people should act.

We have been painting, planting, mowing, dusting, cleaning, putting up banners and taking down banners, cooking and honing our skills in tomfoolery; along with many other things. Looking forward we will be working on giving the parking lot a much needed tuneup to keep it in good shape for another 20 years.

I invite you / your family to be a part of our Property Team. We gather on Wednesday mornings at 9:00 and work at various tasks until 12:30 when we share a potluck lunch together. We have fun while doing God's work. If you can only make it once a month that's fine. We have a to do list for all skill levels. Not to mention the incredible lunch together!

Have questions or would you like more information about Property Team?
Contact Steve Henry at facilities@stmarkslutheran.net



Donation and Volunteer Opportunities

LWR School Supply Kits - July-August

The CAT team, with help from a Thrivent Action Grant, is planning to collect supplies to assemble school kits for Lutheran World Relief in July and August. We purposely chose this time because that is when school supplies are greatly reduced. Please watch for further information in June. LWR is very definite that all kits contain the same supplies, so please do not vary from the specific list that we will provide. There is also an opportunity for those who like to sew to make school bags in which we will place the requested supplies.

We will provide you with instructions, or you may talk with Janet Hanson, who has already started making school bags. There will be lists of needed supplies on the volunteer bulletin board and a plastic crate below it in which to deposit your donations, beginning the first Sunday in July. If you prefer making a donation of money rather than shopping, that will also be greatly appreciated.



Sandwich Makers Needed for the Summer

As we head into the summer, and St. Marks members do some well earned vacationing, we need some help with our Sandwich Ministry for the homeless. If you have a little extra time, can you make some sandwiches at home? Every Tuesday and Wednesday mornings, between 8:40am and 9am we collect them at St. Mark's for delivery. We can even provide you with compostable sandwich bags! Need more information?

Call or Email Dan Dudde or Christian Wikoff. (e) starrdudde@bellsouth.net

Food Drive for ABCCM Beginning July 28

This summer we will hear a string of Gospel readings in the lectionary focused on Jesus as the Bread of Life. We will be reminded of God's abundant, sustaining, and life-giving love for all people. As we are fed spiritually by God's word and Christ's body through this "season of Bread," we thought it would be a great opportunity to feed our neighbors in need.

We invite you to share God's gifts with God's children in Asheville by bringing in donations of non-perishable food for ABCCM's Crisis ministry. Help us see God's abundance as loaves and fishes (well, maybe in this case, rice and canned tuna) are multiplied to feed thousands in our community.



ABCCM Food Pantry Needs

- vegetable oil
- sugar
- oatmeal
- self-rising flour
- rice
- peanut butter
- jelly
- cereal
- canned vegetables
- hearty soups
- chicken/tuna (canned)
- fruits (canned, low sugar)
- beans (dried)
- pasta sauce
- pasta

Please place donations in the wooden bins near the playground doors from **July 28-August 25**. Monetary donations welcome! Be sure to designate cash/check for ABCCM Food Drive.

Racial Healing Team

After a bit of a hiatus the St. Mark's Racial Healing Team (RHT) is back up and running! We are excited for YOU to keep an eye on what we are doing and to participate when you can.

Learning about racial injustice is a heavy subject, but a necessary learning process for all of us - especially because the Church has been part of the problem (justifying slavery with Bible verses and church-sponsored Indian Boarding Schools to name two right off the bat). Educating ourselves is ongoing, so even if you have been steeped in a racial justice journey we hope you find some of what we will be doing worth your time.

The heart of our RHT is really about relationships. One of our goals is to build friendships with folks who don't look like us or worship like us.

What can you do?

When someone asks you to a storytelling breakfast...

When someone invites you on a Hood Huggers Tour...

When someone invites you to a fundraiser with another church/synagogue...

When someone invites you to a service or special event at WNCBF...

SAY YES! (You can tell our planning meetings are fun, right?!)

We are coming up with some lofty goals, but our hopes are high that you will find something that will peak your interest a couple of times a year. You will notice that the St. Mark's RHT is pretty fluid and that we will throw new ideas at you as WE learn more. For instance, at our team's June meeting we learned that for children aged 1-14, drowning is the second-leading cause of unintentional injury-related deaths. These drowning risks vary by skin color and household income, so be on the lookout this summer of how you might support families who would benefit from swim lessons. Remember...say YES!

Please contact Debbie Layne or Judy McKay with any questions.

God's Heart, Our Work ♥

Stewardship

Financial Report

Below you will find May 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>May</u>	<u>YTD</u>
\$45,240	\$266,199

Gifts received

<u>May</u>	<u>YTD</u>
\$50,285	\$273,517

Expenditures

<u>May</u>	<u>YTD</u>
\$40,146	\$220,191

Surplus/(Deficit)

<u>May</u>	<u>YTD</u>
\$10,139	\$53,326

Financial Report

Building Fund

subject to change from treasurer's report

Income budgeted

<u>May</u>	<u>YTD</u>
\$4,207	\$21,035

Gifts received against Pledges

<u>May</u>	<u>YTD</u>
\$2,401	\$22,552

Loan Payments

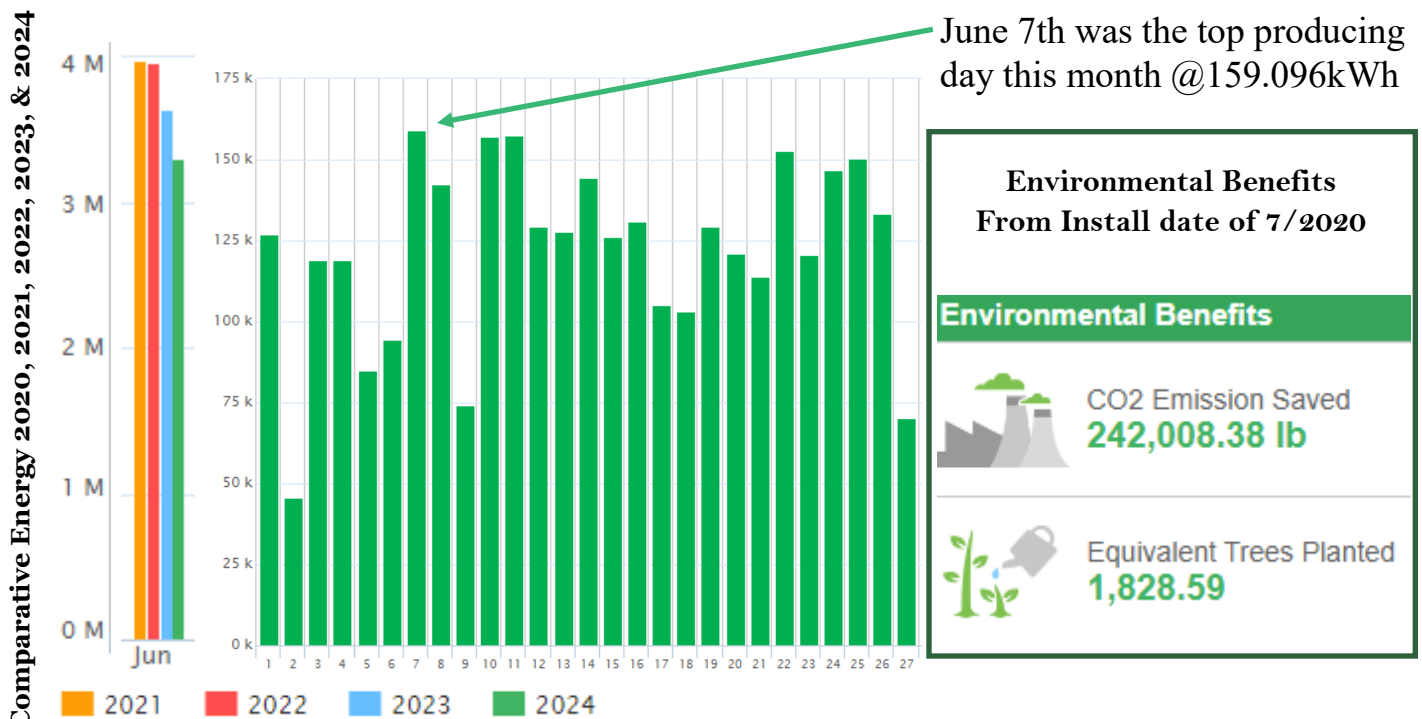
<u>May</u>	<u>YTD</u>
\$5,351	\$26,755

Surplus/(Deficit)

<u>May</u>	<u>YTD</u>
\$5,235	\$(4,203)

Caring for God's Creation

June Solar Report (as June 27)



Sunday Calendar

July 7th - 7th Sunday after Pentecost

Scripture Readings:

Ezekiel 2:1-5; Psalm 123

2 Corinthians 12:2-10; Mark 6:1-13

8:30am.....Worship

9:45am.....Faith Formation

9:45am.....LandMARKs

11:00am.....Worship

July 14th - 8th Sunday after Pentecost

Scripture Readings:

Amos 7:7-15; Psalm 85:8-13

Ephesians 1:3-14; Mark 6:14-29

8:30am.....Worship

9:45am.....Faith Formation

11:00am.....Worship

July 21st - 9th Sunday after Pentecost

Scripture Readings:

Jeremiah 23:1-6; Psalm 23

Ephesians 2:11-22; Mark 6:30-34, 53-56

8:30am.....Worship

9:45am.....Faith Formation

11:00am.....Worship

July 28th - 10th Sunday after Pentecost

Scripture Readings:

2 Kings 4:42-44; Psalm 145:10-18

Ephesians 3:14-21; John 6:1-21

8:30am.....Worship

9:45am.....Faith Formation

11:00am.....Worship

**St. Mark's will be Celebrating its
101st Birthday on July 15th!**

July Birthdays

July 1	Carl Hughes
July 3	Lucie Hartmann Noah Schreck Stephanie Baer
July 4	Max Hartmann Deanna Jordan
July 6	Pat Patton III
July 8	Joshua Kersey Marcus Ransdell Theodore Ransdell
July 9	Mae Mueller Mary Schreck
July 10	Tom Pagan Katherine Laveck Ken Lane
July 12	Bobbie Epley Ari Stone
July 13	Chuck Johnson Claire Maloney
July 15	Shelby Montgomery Annette Pal
July 16	Marcus Smith
July 17	Bryan Noel
July 18	Kelly Davis
July 21	Nathan Crownover Alicia Richard Kendra Miller
July 23	Anne Mock Annalise Roe
July 24	Gloria Sainio Emilee Hendrix
July 26	Bill Badger Eric Van Tassel
July 27	Carl Schreck Theresa Reboulet Gaston Miller
July 29	Samantha Hunkele Steve Linton Jill Hutson Lori Kemper
July 31	Maximilian Schmidt Sadie David

July Anniversaries

July 4	Robert and Judith Taylor	July 18	Christopher P. and Taylor Lindsay
July 7	Ken and Deborah Lane	July 21	Kevin and Michele Kopp
July 8	Rob and Ann Marie Miller	July 31	Robert and Patricia Kaufmann

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