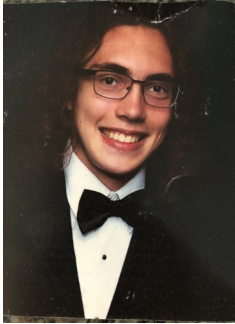


### 2024 Senior Graduates



**J**eremy Kemper is graduating from Asheville High School. During high school, Jeremy has enjoyed baking, running, and listening to and making music. His favorite memory of St. Mark's is from the first Christmas Eve service that Jeremy and his family attended at St. Mark's. He was in 4<sup>th</sup> grade, and had just moved to North Carolina. "I felt so at home despite being new to Asheville, providing comfort to me as I acclimated to the area. It showed me how extensive and accepting the St. Mark's community is, a community I've been happy and proud to be a part of for over 8 years." Jeremy will attend UNC Chapel Hill and work towards obtaining a degree in Biology.



**M**ae Reilly Mueller is graduating from Asheville High School. She loves sewing, hanging out with friends, and youth group activities. She is no stranger to St. Mark's craft closet, and has loved exploring it while helping with children's ministry at church. She also has wonderful memories of sitting with Connie during church and helping with youth shows. In the Fall, Mae Reilly will attend NC State to study fashion and textile design.



**E**rick Smith is graduating with a certificate of attendance from T.C. Roberson's Progressive Education Program. His favorite subjects were science, baking, and speech, using his eye-gaze communication device. His favorite things about St. Mark's are the music, the beautiful-colorful windows, and the smiles and love from all the people. Erick is planning to find many local opportunities to continue being with friends, learning new things, and enjoying music.



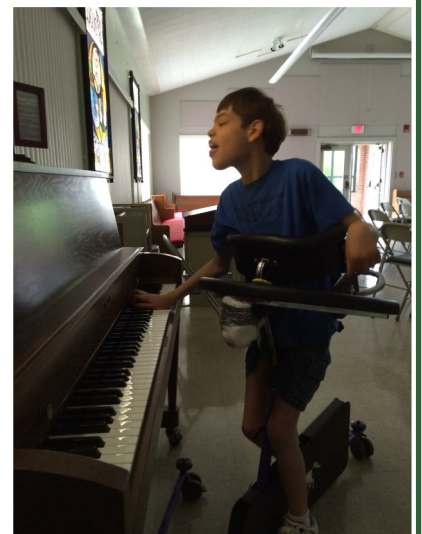
**J**ames Swaringen is graduating from Asheville High School. Some of his favorite activities have been Student Government, volunteering for National Honors Society, and running Ttrack. His fondest memory of growing up at St. Mark's is helping with Vacation Bible School with his friend, Jeremy. James plans on attending the University of North Carolina Charlotte where he will study political science in preparation for Law School.



**M**attie Warren is graduating from the Franklin School of Innovation. Throughout high school, Mattie has enjoyed making and creating things, specifically stories. Mattie has enjoyed spending time with St. Mark's Youth Group while growing up at St. Mark's, and has great memories of playing Spoons. Next year, Mattie will take a gap year to figure out what the next chapter of life will be.



# Grads over the Years





# Future Kindergarteners

Christine W. Avery Learning Center has reached another milestone at their St. Mark's Location! The Movers class of 2023-2024 has graduated and are on the way to their next adventure. Thank you Ms Juanita and Ms Corie for growing the minds of these future Kindergarten students and thank you St. Mark's for making this happen!



*every day is a new Adventure*

THE CHRISTINE AVERY LEARNING CENTER - St. Mark's

MOVERS  
MITCHNER

2023 - 2024



# One Loan Lost!

*Ask, and it will be given you; search, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened for you. For everyone who asks receives, and everyone who searches finds, and for everyone who knocks, the door will be opened. -Matthew 7:7-8*

With a nearly \$50,000 loan coming due in June of 2024, and interest rates still high, early this year we asked, and through your generosity, we received. Because of the extra gifts you designated, in May we accomplished our goal of paying off that loan- Praise the Lord! Thank you so much to all who were able to go above and beyond their regular giving to make this happen! For those of you who like to see the details:

Amount Pledged for Lose the Loan:	\$52,650.00
Amount received as of 5/29/24:	\$53,956.88
Final loan payoff payment (May 2024):	<u>\$48,124.25</u>
Balance to pay down on remaining debt:	\$5,831.75



Thank you for helping us to be good stewards by avoiding renewing this loan at nearly double the previous interest rate!

## FAQs

### **Does losing this loan eliminate all St. Mark's debt?**

No, St. Mark's still has two remaining loans totaling about \$345,000 (soon to be \$340,000 when we apply remaining Lose the Loan Funds!).

### **What happens to Lose the Loan Funds received in excess of the payoff amount?**

All additional funds designated to "Lose the Loan" will go to pay down the principal on the remaining loan with the highest interest rate. If you haven't given yet or want to make additional gifts, a gift with "Lose the Loan" on the memo line will continue to be applied to pay down the principal on remaining loans.

### **Where did our debt come from?**

Our congregation has used responsible debt, along with raising funds, as an effective tool for various capital expenses over the years. The Welcome Center build, major roof repairs, tuck pointing and capstone flashing to waterproof all our exterior brick walls, and the 2020 renovation were all projects that loans helped us complete in a timely manner so that our congregations' ministries could thrive.

### **Monthly loan payments aren't in the budget, are they?**

The majority of our monthly loan payments come from annual gifts to the "Building Fund." Because loan payments have exceeded gifts to the Building Fund in recent years, our general congregation budget now includes a line item (\$7,000 in 2024) to cover shortfalls in the Building Fund.

## Faith Formation

### **TEACHERS NEEDED - Children's Faith Formation**

*2024-2025 School Year*

Looking for a new way to live out your baptism? Want to help share God's love with a younger generation?

We are in need of Sunday School teachers for next year! Each week you would use a provided curriculum to share a bible story and activity with our St. Mark's kids, starting at 9:45. It's a joyful, life-giving opportunity to get to grow in faith alongside our youngest St. Mark's members. Classes begin early September.

Questions? Interested in teaching? Contact Deacon Katie

**\*With Deacon Katie's Sabbatical starting in August, we are preparing now so that things are in place before she leaves.**

### **LandMARKs**

*Sunday, June 2nd @ 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**

*New Adult Faith Formation Class starting June 9*

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.

## Celebrating our Grads

### **Senior Sunday, June 2nd**

Come celebrate with them as we have a reception during the Faith formation hour (9:45-10:45), followed by a Blessing of the Graduates and Senior Quilt presentation during the 11am worship service.

This year we have 5 students who will graduate from High School -  
**Jeremy Kemper, Mae Reilly Mueller, Erick Smith, James Swaringen, & Mattie Warren**  
Congratulations, grads! We are so proud of you!

## Special Musical Opportunities

GRAMMY AWARD - WINNING



the  
**Atlanta Boy Choir**  
*They Sing and the World Listens*

**2024 Spring Tour**

**Tuesday, June 4 at 6:30 PM**  
St. Mark's Lutheran Church  
10 N Liberty St  
Asheville, NC 28801  
Admission is Free (donation suggested)



DR. ROBERT HENRY, director  
Huu Mai, assistant director

ATLANTABOYCHOIR.ORG

### The Atlanta Boy Choir

June 4h @ 6:30pm

The Atlanta Boy Choir is presenting a concert on June 4 at 6:30pm with violin, cello, flute, oboe, and organ as part of their Spring 2024 tour. Hosted by St. Mark's Lutheran Church in Asheville, this program is free and open to the public. Please invite your communities to hear this excellent group!

### Guest Musicians

*Sunday, June 16th during Worship*

Mark your calendars for Sunday, June 16! We will be joined by Hans Peterson and Nelson Morlock who will lead the music at both services. Hans is a Lutheran pastor and songleader/songwriter who ventures out solo and with the Dakota Road band, playing piano and acoustic guitar. In all that he does, Hans prays and works for a world where all creation is seen as sacred. Nelson is a versatile musician who draws an audience in with his dynamic musicianship. His music dances with energy & longing, playfulness & panache, tenderness & joy.





## Endowment Fund

### Did You Know???

The St. Mark's Endowment Fund distributed \$96,134.23 to our church during 2019 - 2023. This money was used to support the following ministry expenses:

- Replenishing the church Emergency Maintenance Fund
- Helping with Pastor Matt's moving expenses
- A new copier for the church office.
- Equipment and furnishings for newly completed areas of the church
- National Youth Gathering
- Sanctuary Improvements  
(paraments, painting, pews, upholstery, communion chalices, baptismal bowl, microphones)
- 100th Anniversary Celebrations
- New Website Development
- Refurbishment of Sanctuary floor and pews
- Replacement of trees in church parking lot



The purpose of the Endowment Fund is to provide financial support for ministry expense not included in our church budget.

If you are interested in contributing, or if you were interested in learning more about the Endowment Fund, please contact Eric Van Tassel - Chair Person of the Endowment Board.

## Technology Help Needed



The St. Mark's library team works diligently to keep the library organized, up to date, and available for all members!

Much of their resources are cataloged on an older computer that is in need of an update. If you are someone gifted with technology, and willing to help the library team update and back up their computer - please contact Eileen Cram!

# Christian Action Team

## 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.



## 2023 CROP Walk Update

St. Mark's received a new certificate that indicated we were **47th in the nation!** There are approx. 5,000 churches in the nation who participate. So, this is quite an accomplishment for our Church! Looking forward to our 2024 goals!

**BUILDING** *global* **RESILIENCE**

## 2024 Crop Walk

*September 29th @ St. Mark's*  
Save the date and join us for the **2024 CROP Walk** on Sunday, **September 29th!** We'll have more information coming soon! If you are interested in joining, contact Dan Dudde!



Church World Service

*Certificate of Appreciation*  
to

**St Mark's Lutheran Church**

*A national 2023 Cream of the CROP top fundraising team with the Asheville/Buncombe CROP Hunger Walk to end hunger and poverty around the world.*



## Refugee Circle of Welcome Update



Our Circle of Welcome for refugee family at St. Mark's is taking shape. We have fifteen volunteers who are part of this group. Many of these people have completed the necessary background checks and completed the LSC (Lutheran Services Carolina) training.

Currently we are waiting to see who our family will be. There are several refugee families in the queue for arrival in Asheville. These families are waiting for final approval before being released to LSC. We anticipate a June/July arrival.

Before the family arrives, we will be sent a family profile to review. The purpose of the profile will be to see if we think the family would be a good "fit" with our group. Once that has happened, some members from the Circle of Welcome will go with two LSC staff members (an interpreter and a caseworker) to meet the family at the airport and transport the family to their temporary living quarters. Then our work will begin in earnest.

## Noisy Bucket Sunday

### Sunday, June 30th

When a month has a fifth Sunday, we take an additional special offering called Noisy Buckets. The Noisy Bucket collection this month will be used to support **Woman's Day for the refugee families who arrive in Asheville**. Woman's Day will be an opportunity for the refugees to learn more about health, hygiene, and domestic abuse. Bring your loose change and those folded bills, and let's fill those buckets for those in need!

### With Gratitude

The Lenten Offering was collected to support Literacy for Lent which was created in 1986 as a merger of two leading adult literacy organizations – Altrusa of Asheville and the Asheville. With the weekly collection and with Thrivent Choice Dollars, St. Mark's was able to send 1,000 to this power organization and they have expressed their deepest gratitude.

To the People and Leadership of  
St. Mark's Lutheran Church,

Thank you for making us a part of your Lenten offering. It means a lot to us to have support from the community - especially the church community. Spiritual support is essential to meet the challenges we face in this work. Please keep us in your prayers. We are so grateful for your generous donations.

Sincerely,  
Becky Stone  
Board Chair

# Stewardship

## Financial Report

Below you will find April 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>April</u>	<u>YTD</u>
\$45,240	\$180,959

#### Gifts received

<u>April</u>	<u>YTD</u>
\$59,438	\$223,232

#### Expenditures

<u>April</u>	<u>YTD</u>
\$46,193	\$180,045

#### Surplus/(Deficit)

<u>April</u>	<u>YTD</u>
\$13,245	\$43,187

### Financial Report

#### Building Fund

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

#### Income budgeted

<u>April</u>	<u>YTD</u>
\$4,207	\$16,828

#### Gifts received against Pledges

<u>April</u>	<u>YTD</u>
\$10,586	\$20,152

#### Loan Payments

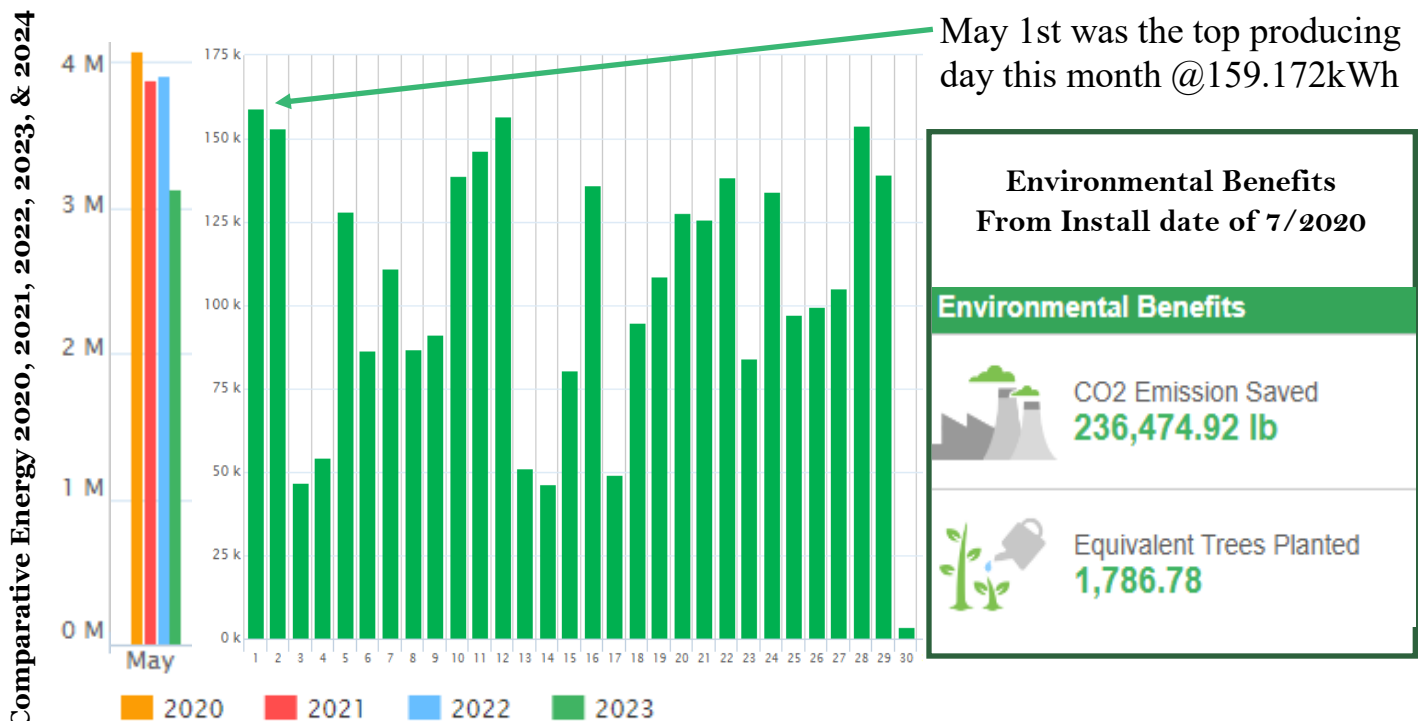
<u>April</u>	<u>YTD</u>
\$5,351	\$21,404

#### Surplus/(Deficit)

<u>April</u>	<u>YTD</u>
\$5,235	\$1,252

## Caring for God's Creation

### May Solar Report (as May 29)





## Sunday Calendar

### June 2 - 2nd Sunday after Pentecost

*Scripture Readings:* Deuteronomy 5:12-15; Psalm 81:1-10  
2 Corinthians 4:5-12; Mark 2:23-3:6

8:30am.....Worship  
8:30am.....Hahn Baptism  
9:45am.....Graduation Celebration  
9:45am.....LandMARKs  
11:00am.....Worship

### June 9 - 3rd Sunday after Pentecost

*Scripture Readings:* Genesis 3:8-15; Psalm 130  
2 Corinthians 4:13-5:1; Mark 3:20-35

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

### June 16 - 4th Sunday after Pentecost

*Scripture Readings:* Ezekiel 17:22-24; Psalm 92:1-4, 12-15  
2 Corinthians 5:6-10, 14-17; Mark 4:26-34

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

### June 23 - 5th Sunday after Pentecost

*Scripture Readings:* Job 38:1-11; Psalm 107:1-3, 23-32  
2 Corinthians 6:1-13; Mark 4:35-41

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

### June 30 - 6th Sunday after Pentecost

*Scripture Readings:* Lamentations 3:22-33; Psalm 30;  
2 Corinthians 8:7-15; Mark 5:21-43

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

## June Birthdays

June 2 Jim Streilein,  
Matthew Smith  
June 4 Neil Short  
June 6 Jasper Pawelek  
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  
Gina Linton  
June 17 Tim Galvin,  
Nicholas Mueller  
June 19 Iona Gilbert  
June 20 Judith Taylor  
June 23 Karen Longhouser,  
Meredith McLaughlin,  
Andrea Colburn,  
Jennifer Brocius  
June 25 Jerry Ray,  
Patricia Presley,  
Zachary Baer  
June 27 Donna Davis,  
Patricia Atkins  
June 30 Robert Taylor

## June 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,
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, Vic and Mary Anne Allwein		

# 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

### ***Phone:***

828-253-0043

### ***E-mail:***

[admin@stmarkslutheran.net](mailto:admin@stmarkslutheran.net)

### ***Website:***

[www.stmarkslutheran.net](http://www.stmarkslutheran.net)

### ***Office Hours:***

*Monday—Friday 8:30am-2:30pm*