

### Living out our Vision Together *written by Pastor Matt*

One of our Vision 2027 goal areas is “Intentional Welcome to Diverse People,” and we’ve got two wonderful opportunities this month to help us move the needle on that welcome.

The first is a Racial Justice Workshop for St. Mark’s (i.e. for *you*) on May 17 at 10:00am in the fellowship hall. This time together is about giving us some shared understanding and shared language around racism, what it is, and how it shows up in our everyday lives.

These conversations are not about placing blame for the past, but about acknowledging present realities so that our congregation isn’t contributing to the problem. If we don’t have that shared understanding, any effort to engage with diverse people on a congregational level is likely to struggle. And remember, diverse people are God’s people—God’s people to whom we’re called to preach, with whom we’re called to serve, and for whom Jesus died and was raised. So this is central to our calling as followers of Jesus, whose command was to make disciples of *all* nations.

So plan to join us on May 17, and please let the church office know that you do. Our goal is for at least 100 people to have completed this training by the time we get to 2027. For those with conflicts on May 17, watch for word about another date for this workshop in the fall.

The second opportunity to work toward welcome of diverse people is during the faith formation hour on June 1, when we will host Wake Forest Divinity School Associate Professor of New Testament, the Rev. Dr. Katherine Shaner. Rev. Dr. Shaner will speak about Biblical authority and interpretation as it relates to human sexuality. This talk is part of our larger conversation around becoming a “Reconciling in Christ” congregation, a way of recognizing a public commitment to welcoming LGBT+ people. Again, we are called to this welcome of diverse people—including people of diverse sexual identities—because all God’s diverse people are fellow members of the body of Christ, children of the same heavenly Father, and workers with us in the kingdom of God. So mark June 1<sup>st</sup> on the calendar and plan to be with us that Sunday for worship to hear from Rev. Dr. Shaner.

Our implementation of Vision 2027 is in full swing, and these two above events are some of the nearest, but please also note the other upcoming opportunities we have to live into our Vision 2027 goals in the coming months.

Walking with you,

Pastor Matt

Living out our Vision Together – *Calendar of Events*



**May 4**

ABCCM food collection bags distributed in worship



**May 17, 10:00am**

Racial Justice Workshop (please RSVP to church office)



**June 1, 9:45am**

Rev. Dr. Katherine Shaner on Human Sexuality and Biblical Interpretation



**June 7, 6:05pm**

Asheville Tourists game with WNC Baptist friends (tickets available from church office)

**ReconcilingWorks**  
LUTHERANS FOR FULL PARTICIPATION



**A Sunday, Late June**

Congregational Welcoming Workshop during the faith formation hour

## THE REDress Project (and collection)

*Displayed in the Commons*



In the United States May 5th is the National Day of Awareness for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women (MMIW) and Girls. In observance, St. Mark's Racial Healing Team is replicating an impactful visual art installation, the REDress project, created by Métis artist Jaime Black in 2010. The red dresses stand empty, symbolizing the absence of women who are no longer

present. The color red was chosen for its visibility and its connection to life and its spiritual significance in many Indigenous cultures. Look for the installation in the Commons on Sunday, May 4, as we raise awareness of the MMIW crisis on the Qualla Boundary in Cherokee, where there are 35 known cases of MMIW.

## Racial Justice Workshop – 5/17 @10am

*May 17th @ 10am @ St. Mark's Lutheran*



In pursuit of our Vision 2027 goal of "Intentional Welcome to Diverse People," plan to join us at St. Mark's for a Racial Justice Workshop facilitated by the YWCA on May 17th, at 10am in our fellowship hall. The workshop is 90 minutes long with a 20 minute Q&A session. The goal is to become familiar with some of the shared language and concepts related to racial justice, develop an understanding of how racism shows up in our everyday lives, and explore the history of racial (in)justice in Asheville and beyond.

**Please email the church office to let us know you plan to be there.**

## Asheville Tourist Baseball Game

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*June 7th @ 6:05pm*



The Racial healing team with WNCBF will be attending the Asheville Tourists Baseball Game on June 7th @ 6:05pm! Come root for the home team at McCormick field as the Tourists battle the Winston-Salem Dash on Saturday, June 7th.

**Sign up to reserve your tickets on the bulletin board at the bottom of the stairs. Tickets will be available in the commons beginning May 25th.**

*Suggested Donation for tickets: \$13*

# Christian Action Team

## Food Ingathering, ABCCM Pantries

May 4th & May 11th



Sunday, May 4th you will find bags in the pews with items listed in the greatest need for the food pantry at ABCCM. As part of St. Mark's Vision 2027 goals, the CAT team will be providing bags the with a food list food the first Sunday of May, August, November, and February and collecting the bags the following Sunday. Please bring these bags back next Sunday and place them near the brown

## Outreach Donations

Saint Mark's shared the following special donations through your generosity:

- \$775 was collected with the March Noisy Buckets, and sent for disaster fire relief in California.
- \$782 was given to the Christine Avery school, which meets at St Mark's, using Thrivent Choice Dollars.
- \$500 was given to facilitate the shipping of medical supplies to establish a hospital in Tanzania. Choice Dollars.
- \$1000 was given to Lutheran Disaster Relief (and Mennonite Disaster Relief) to aid in the cooperative rebuilding of bridges in our area after Helene. Choice Dollars.
- \$1000 was sent to American Near East Refugee Aid (ANERA) for relief of the Palestinian people suffering in the war there. Choice Dollars.

## LWR Personal Care Kits

This year, the St. Mark's CAT team has decided to make personal care kits for Lutheran World Relief. This is a very easy kit containing only five items- **a bath towel, toothbrush, soap, nail clipper, and comb**. LWR is very specific about each of the items. Next to the bulletin board at the bottom of the steps, you will find the instruction sheets.



All items must be new and you cannot add any additional items. This year we request that you either donate a complete kit or make a cash donation designated to LWR Kits to purchase items. This will prevent us from receiving more of some items than others. Thank you in advance for your generosity. St. Mark's always comes through when donations are requested, which is greatly appreciated by the CAT team, but most importantly by recipients of our kits.

## Faith Formation

### **Acts of the Apostles- with James Aydelotte**

*May 4th @ 9:45am*

The Acts of the Apostles is one of the most exciting and challenging books in the Bible. It traces the Church's dramatic growth from sacred Jerusalem to imperial Rome. If possible, read the whole story; it can be done in over an hour. But concentrate especially on Chapters 2, 10, 15 & 26. The class will meet at 9:45 on May 4, 11 & 18 in the Library. Come and learn from Peter and Paul!

### **Partners and Pastries with Homeward Bound**

*Sunday, May 18, 9:45 in the Fellowship Hall*

Join us as we hear about the mission and work of Homeward Bound from Jessie Figueroa, Director of Resource Development. Homeward Bound's mission is to prevent and end homelessness throughout Buncombe County through permanent housing and support. Since adopting the Housing First model in 2006, Homeward Bound has housed over 2650 individuals and families. Come enjoy a sweet treat, and hear from our partners!

### **Bread for the World Offering of Letters**

*Sunday, May 25*

On Sunday, May 25, during the Adult Faith Formation time, you are invited to join other St. Mark's members in writing letters to our members of Congress, urging them to protect, restore, and support nutrition programs for children in this country and around the world. Being an advocate for those in need is an essential part of our Christian faith. These letters have a real impact on our legislators and have led to increased support for programs to end hunger. Information about this year's policy requests, sample letters, paper, and pens will be provided. Join us and take a few minutes to speak up for hungry people everywhere. Questions? Contact Linda Kinsinger.

### **Save the Date! Confirmation**

*June 8, 2025*

This year, we will celebrate with four young women as they affirm their baptism, and are confirmed.

**Liza Volk, Julia Volk, Claire Niedenthal, Isa Slater**

Throughout the year, these confirmation students and their parents have met regularly with Pastor Matt and Deacon Katie, learning more about the Bible, faith, and God's love for them and all creation.

Join us for Confirmation on Pentecost, June 8, and live out your baptismal promises by supporting these young people as they make public affirmation of their faith. Confirmation will occur during the 8:30 service, followed by a reception in the Fellowship Hall. The Confirmands will also be acknowledged at the beginning of the 11am service.

## Opportunities through St. Mark's

### Young Artist Organ Recital

3:00pm, May 3 @ St. Mark's Lutheran Church, Asheville NC

Get ready to be inspired by the next generation of musicians! Students from the Hayes School of Music at Appalachian State University along with their professor Dr. Joby Bell will present an organ recital at St. Mark's Lutheran Church at 3pm on May 3.



They are playing works by Bach, Gerre Hancock, Franck, Joseph Bonnet, and more. The instrument, Opus 85 built by Martin Ott, is the largest mechanical action organ in Asheville with over 1,300 pipes made from a variety of materials (tin, oak, lead, cherry, and pine), two keyboards, and a full pedalboard. Don't miss your chance to hear these accomplished young musicians make her sing! Free admission -- donations will be split between the church music program and the university scholarship fund.

### Explore Nature! Helene through a natural lens w/ Jamie Rhodes



#### **Session 1 - May 4th**

12:00-1:30 in the St. Mark's Fellowship Hall

(Lunch provided)

#### **Session 2 - May 17th**

11:00-2:00 @ UNCA Botanical Gardens

(Carpool available and bag lunch provided)

Why did hurricane Helene cause so much destruction? Is our ecosystem ok? Will it bounce back? Explore these questions and more in a two-part program with Jamie Rhodes, an environmental educator and longtime church member who is working to complete their North Carolina Environmental Education certification. The first session of the program will be a seated interactive discussion and the second session will be an outdoor exploration of the changes to Reed Creek following Helene. Anyone is welcome to attend either one or both of the sessions. You won't want to miss a fun and interesting look at nature in our own backyard!

\*So we are able to prepare for lunch, please sign up on Sign-Up Central bulletin board at the bottom of the stairs.

## Sunday Calendar

### May 4th - Third Sunday of Easter

Acts 9:1-6, Psalm 30

Revelation 5:11-14; John 21:1-19

8:30am.....Worship

9:45am.....LandMARKs

9:45am.....Faith Formation

11:00am.....Worship

### May 11th - Fourth Sunday of Easter

Acts 9:36-43, Psalm 23

Revelation 7:9-17; John 10:22-30

8:30am.....Worship

9:45am.....Faith Formation

11:00am.....Worship

### May 18th - Fifth Sunday of Easter

Acts 1-18, Psalm 148

Revelation 21:1-6; John 13:31-35

8:30am.....Worship

9:45am.....Faith Formation

11:00am.....Worship

### May 25th - Sixth Sunday of Easter

Acts 16:9-15, Psalm 67

Revelation 21:10, 22-22:5; John 14:23-29

8:30am.....Worship

9:45am.....Faith Formation

11:00am.....Worship

## May Birthdays

May 2 Ann Marie Miller

May 3 Mary Wilkins

May 4 Augustus Mott

May 6 Harmony Fox

Jo Hammer-Clarey

May 7 Lucy Kopp

May 8 Lisa Apelian

May 9 Jamie Rhodes

May 12 Randy Warren

Mitch Williams

May 14 Sherrie Hygon

May 15 Hannah Smith

May 16 Carol Sturm

May 17 Lucinda Morin

Donna Turnbaugh

May 19 Kip Otterness

Katie Rivers

May 21 Stan Webb

May 23 Al Tenty

May 24 Lila Niedenthal

May 25 Paisley Miller

May 27 Betty Thompson

May 28 Mark Fritch

Sharon Godfrey

May 30 Christopher Lindsay

May 31 Linda McHenry

Rob Miller

## May Anniversaries

May 4 Bill & Sherrie Hygon

Joseph & Erin Pawelek

May 6 George and Rachel Hahn

May 7 Philip & Naomi Otterness

May 19 David & Adrienne Neighbors

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May 27 Matt & Sarah Volk

May 28 Carl & Mary Schreck

May 29 Bob & Becky Sachsenmaier

The Polasky family wishes to send their warmest gratitude for the love and support that their St. Mark's community has given them after Ray's passing.

# 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*