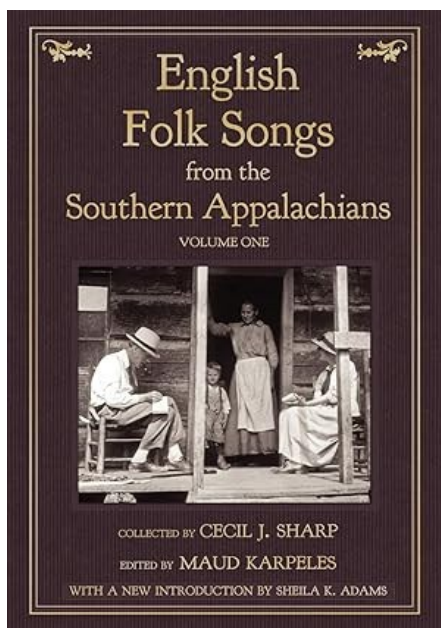


Where does music live? *written by Cantor David*

Last night I finally got to hear Rhiannon Giddens in person. Giddens is a multitalented Grammy-winning singer, fiddler, banjo player, and composer from Greensboro NC. Along with a cast of talented musicians she is touring her “Old Time Revue,” across the US and internationally. The evening flew by as a sold-out crowd stood transfixed by her music – that is, when we weren’t dancing! One song that particularly struck me was “Swannanoa Tunnel,” a folk song from our area that has its origin in the construction of the railroad tunnels by convict labor in the 1870s.



I first came across this song while flipping through “English Folk Songs from the Southern Appalachians,” a volume by the folksong collectors Cecil Sharp and Maude Karpeles. You’ve likely heard me speak of this book before, the source of countless excellent tunes they collected in our area in the late 1910s. This particular song, given in two versions as sung by Sarah Buckner in Black Mountain and Julie Borne in Micaville, caught my attention for its local reference (printed as “Swannanoa Town O,” but certainly the same song). But try as I might, I could never get it to sing – that is, the rhythms and notes just didn’t work out. A few years later I came across another version in a local banjo player’s book which was better, but still missed the mark.

Contemporary musicians are trained to respect written musical notation. We learn the fundamentals of pitch (how high or low), duration (how long or short), dynamics (how loud or soft), articulation (how to play/sing), and more. We learn to quickly identify meter (how many beats in how much space) and rhythm (repeated patterns of beats/notes). It was part of my training to pay critical attention to all of these element and more, and to be a precise as possible in executing them – a dotted sixteenth note lasting no more and no less than one sixteenth plus one half of the duration of a measure of 4/4 time. Sometimes I think this is a malady peculiar to organists!

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This precise approach to notation has many benefits, but it does not necessarily translate to a better performance. I could sing “Swannanoa Tunnel” exactly as it was printed in my book, but it always remained out of reach, mere notes and words and not music. After more than a decade I finally heard it come alive last night through Rhiannon Giddens’s voice and a spare fiddle line. A slow stomp on beat three was the only rhythmic accompaniment, and the crowd picked up that rhythm with absolutely no preparation or instruction on her part. While the words and notes were similar to the printed notation, the music was completely different. She brought to life a work song, music made by poor men unjustly forced to labor for the benefit of rich people.

So where does music live? There’s a room at St. Mark’s that contains a treasure-trove of volumes of printed notation for a wide variety of instruments – but music doesn’t live in that room. Likewise, we are enriched by our hymnals that contain words and notation for songs spanning the last two thousand years – but music doesn’t live between those cranberry covers.

Music lives in and around us. It lives wherever we are singing, or playing, or participating through active listening. It lives in the library when a Sunday school class ends by singing together. It lives in the fellowship hall when children belt out the Holden Evening Prayer psalm from memory. It lives in our homes when we sing the doxology alone or with family, and it lives in the sanctuary when we join with a boisterous Easter Sunday crowd (and with all creation!) to sing “Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of heaven and earth”



The Apostle Paul knew that music didn’t live on a sheet of papyrus. He instructed us to “Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly... **singing** psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God.” (Colossians 3:15)

So don’t worry so much about all those little black dots. Let the music live in you!

Asheville Tourists Baseball Game

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.

Suggested Donation for tickets: \$13

Welcome Workshop

Sunday, June 22 @ 9:45am

Do you remember the first time you worshiped at St. Mark's? Did someone welcome you? Did someone answer a question you had or show you around the building?

We believe that our congregation is a friendly, welcoming place, and want to continue to grow in our hospitality of new comers. We also believe that this is not just a task of a certain group of volunteers, but the call of the whole congregation to welcome visitors.

Join the Evangelism and Hospitality Team for a Welcome Workshop during the Faith Formation hour on Sunday, June 22 in the Sanctuary. Come practice and share your skills of welcome and hospitality, as we seek to share the love of Christ with all walk through our doors.

Reconciling Works
LUTHERANS FOR FULL PARTICIPATION



Noisy Buckets

Noisy Bucket Sunday - Swannanoa Communities Together

Sunday June 29th during worship

Our next Noisy Bucket Sunday will be June 29. Recommendations from members of the St. Mark's Christian Action Team were used to select this month's recipient. Your gifts from June's Noisy Bucket will be donated to *Swannanoa Communities Together* (SCT).

SCT was born out of the aftermath of Hurricane Helene. During the disaster, neighbors in the Swannanoa area came together across differences to support, feed and shelter others in the community. Building on that experience, SCT seeks to continue to strengthen the community, while advocating and organizing for Swannanoa's future. SCT provides rental assistance, eviction prevention, and rental tracking services.

March Noisy Bucket Recap

In March, St. Mark's Noisy Buckets collection was collected to support those directly effected by the California Wildfires. After connecting with Pastor Matt - we were able to send \$775.10 to Christ the Shepherd Altadena. Please read their gratitude below.



To St. Mark's friends -
From all of us here at Christ the Shepherd Altadena, thank you for your contribution to our congregation's fire recovery fund. As many of us are now tackling the first steps of debris removal, we are all very aware that this disaster is going to impact lives for years to come. Therefore, we are also so grateful that you are keeping us in our prayers in this ongoing struggle.
May the peace & love of Christ be with you always! - CTS

Christian Action Team

ABCCM Needs



The CAT Team collects needed items for the ABCCM Shelter. Currently they are in need of men's clothing - particularly jeans, socks, and underwear. If you can donate, please place the donated items in the brown bins outside of the kitchen. Questions - contact Sharon Godfrey or Dan Dudde

Thrivent Action Grants (TAGs) Needed for outreach programs

Are you either a benefit or associate member of Thrivent financial? If you are unsure: clients who have a Thrivent life, health, or annuity product are benefit members and are eligible to lead two Thrivent Action Teams each year. You may apply for a \$250 grant to be used for a fundraiser, educational event, or service activity. The application process is very quick and easy, and you will receive a prepaid Visa worth \$250 (or less if you request it).

Thrivent clients without a life, health, or annuity product are associate members and eligible to lead one Thrivent Action Team per year. Associate members have an annual fee of \$19.95, waived in certain circumstances, including holding an account with Thrivent Credit Union.

The St. Mark's Christian Action Team (CAT) does many outreach projects each year, often assisted by a \$250 TAG grant. We have a feeling that many St. Mark's members are Thrivent members who never use their available TAG grants. We are very interested in helping those people access their Thrivent grants to assist the CAT team in serving more people with needs. If you need help coming up with an idea for an event or fundraiser, the Thrivent website has many suggestions. St. Mark's CAT team can also help by letting you know what projects we are planning, but need additional funding.

Thrivent has made the application process even simpler than previously by adding prefilled templates on their website. To apply, please follow these steps:

- . Go to thrivent.com and log in
- . Check prefilled templates
- . Enter date to begin
- . Check 1 or 2 of the causes listed
- . Check your roles in the project
- . Enter number of volunteers
- . Enter St. Mark's as partner church
- . Enter recipient organization (optional)- such as Lutheran World Relief
- . Choose physical card
- . Enter phone number and email, if not already given
- . Enter whether or not you want Thrivent t-shirts and how many
- . Enter whether or not you want extra materials
- . Click submit

It has been our experience that you will be notified of approval within a few days. It is in Thrivent's interest to approve as many TAG grants as possible in order to maintain their non-profit status. Please seriously consider using your TAG grants this year. Any of the CAT team members would be more than happy to help you with the application, if you need it.

Acts of the Apostles- with James Aydelotte

June 8th & 15th @ 9:45

James Aydelotte will pick up his teaching on The Acts of the Apostles on June 8th and will conclude on June 15th! The class will meet at 9:45 in the Library.

Bread for the World Offering of Letters



If you missed participating in the Offering of Letters on Sunday, May 25, there's still time to write letters at home. The focus this year is on nutrition programs for children in the US and around the world. The two specific requests are: a) to protect, restore and secure robust funding for global nutrition programs that will reach millions of children around the world, and 2) to fully fund and strengthen the Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) program so that more eligible families in the US are able to enroll and stay enrolled.

Here's what you can do to live out your faith in supporting these programs:

Read more about this year's Offering of Letters at www.bread.org/ol.

- Write a short letter to each of our members of Congress: Representative Chuck Edwards, Senator Thom Tillis, and Senator Ted Budd. If you can write them by hand, that gets their attention (they don't get many handwritten letters) but if not, feel free to type or word-process them or send emails. Phone calls are also helpful.
- In your letter, indicate that you are writing with a specific request for funding of these programs ("Specifically, I ask that you..."). List the two programs mentioned above (global nutrition programs and WIC) and then add a sentence or two about why funding these is important to you.

Please leave your letters in Danielle's box outside her office no later than June 8. Do not seal them in an envelop. Linda Kinsinger and her husband, Russ Harris, will be attending Bread for the World's Advocacy Summit in Washington, DC on June 10-11 and they will deliver the letters to members' offices in person. If you'd prefer, you may also mail them yourself. If you do, please let Linda know, so she can submit a report on the total number of letters sent from St. Mark's.

Thanks very much! Members of Congress report that getting these letters really does make a difference. Every voice counts.

Growing in Faith

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.

Congratulations Graduates



Asher Linton will graduate from TC Roberson High School. During high school, Asher was a member of the Beta Club, the National Honor Society, the National Science Honor Society, the Junior Classical League, and Mu Alpha Theta. He won several awards for sculpture and was honored as a Buncombe County Schools Top Scholar. Asher was active with the Boy Scouts and rowed crew all four years with the Asheville Youth Rowing Association. He was team captain during his senior year and his boat will be competing in Nationals this June. In the fall, Asher will attend Clemson University to study architecture.



Trey Doss will graduate from Asheville High School. During his time there, he was a member of the Marching Band, and was on the EA Sports Team. This fall, Trey will be attending UNCC to study International Business.



Jaya Penland will be graduate from IC Imagine Public Charter School.

2024 Living Waters Report

Living Waters Food Pantry/ Resource Center 2024 Year End Report

Households Served	16,800
Individuals Served	67,200
Kid Packs Distributed	25,480.00 pds
Donated Foods Distributed	38,243.56 pds
Salvaged Foods Distributed	32,122.00 pds
Non-Food Items Distributed	36,248.00 pds
MANNA Received items Distributed	241,980.00 pds
TEFAP Distributed	115,200.00 pds
Retail Salvage Distributed	14,124.25 pds
Total Pounds Distributed	503,387.81 pds
Purchased from MANNA	\$26,328.79
Purchased from other sources	\$25,672.58
Total purchased for pantry supplies	\$52,001.37
Maintenance	\$3,276.00
Christmas Store	\$6,244.42 (designated donations)
Total Expense	\$9,520.42
Donations Received	\$59,786.79
Expenses	\$61,521.79
Difference	- \$1,735.00

We served 164 families through the Christmas Store at a cost of \$6,244.42 for supplies. This averaged out to a cost of approx.. \$38.10 per family served. Each family received about \$500.00 worth of items.

We have calculated a food box given at distribution if purchased would cost approx.. \$650-\$750.00. Each household receives non-perishable foods, frozen food/meats, fresh produce, refrigerated items, bread/bakery, hygiene, and could also include diapers, depends, cat of dog food. We also offer clothing and household items to those who come seeking relief.

We have taken the expense of \$52,001.37 for food and pantry items and turned it into \$22,800,890.50 worth of food and pantry items that were given to households in our community.

We served 16,00 households through the pantry and resource center at a cost to us of \$3.15 per household.

Sunday Calendar

June 1st - Seventh Sunday of Easter

Acts 16:16-34, Psalm 97

Revelation 22:12-14; 16-17, 20-21 John 17, 20-21

8:30am.....Worship

9:45am.....Faith Formation

11:00am.....Worship

June 8th - Pentecost

Acts 2:1-21, Psalm 104:24-34, 35b

Romans 8:14-17; John 14:8-17

8:30am.....Worship

9:45am.....Faith Formation

11:00am.....Worship

June 15th - The Holy Trinity

Proverbs 8:1-4, 22-31; Psalm 8

Romans 5:1-5; John 16:12-15

8:30am.....Worship

9:45am.....Faith Formation

11:00am.....Worship

June 22nd - 2nd Sunday after Pentecost

Isaiah 65:1-9; Psalm 22:19-28

Galatians 3: 23-29; Luke 8:26-39

8:30am.....Worship

9:45am.....Faith Formation

11:00am.....Worship

June 29th - 3rd Sunday after Pentecost

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

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,
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 Brocious
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 17	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 12	John and Sharon Herrmann	June 22	Jim and Beth Korb,
June 13	Eric and Susan Van Tassel	June 24	Doug and Julie Aanonsen
June 14	Douglas and Ann Johnson, Vic and Mary Anne Allwein	June 27	Scott and Emilee Hendrix
		June 28	Chuck and Stephanie Baer

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

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Website:

www.stmarkslutheran.net

Office Hours:

Monday—Friday 8:30am-2:30pm