St. Mark's Lutheran
ASHEVILLE, NC
Love • Grow • Serve

ReMARK'S
May 2026

Notes on the way out the door! *by Pastor Matt*

4 Sabbatical notes

As I try not to let the door hit me on the way out to begin sabbatical, I want you to hear three things:

1. I'm so grateful to the congregation for this opportunity for renewal and a season away. In some congregations, a rostered leader has to beg, barter, or berate to get a sabbatical approved. But this congregation has been so supportive throughout the process. Thank you!
2. You are in good hands while I'm away. You already know this, probably, but I have all the confidence in the world in St. Mark's staff and lay leaders.
3. The good work of ministry continues while I am gone. This means we still need you to be a regular part of it! Come to worship. Invite folks to come with you. Serve within the congregation and outside our walls. Give. And your bonus assignment for the summer is to take a moment each day to reflect on how you have experienced God at work that day. You might even want to write them down, because Deacon Katie is going to want to hear about it (watch for details on that in the coming weeks).
4. If there are things you would usually communicate with Pastor Matt about, please direct them to Deacon Katie, Pastor Tim Canniff-Kuhn, or council president Diane Hughes.

Lose Another Loan

As of April 15, over $29,000 has been pledged toward our Lose Another Loan appeal, and we have already received $24,930 against those pledges! This generosity means that our highest interest rate loan will be paid off in the next couple of weeks! Once that happens, our total debt will be down about 70% from where it was in August of 2020 (when it was about $600K). That's great news because it means there won't be any other debts to contend with when our last remaining loan comes up for renewal at the end of 2026. This should make it easier for us to find better rates and pay off that final loan faster. Thanks be to God for the faithful giving that has made this possible! And if you haven't made a gift to Lose Another Loan yet, it's not too late. Any additional funds will be applied to reduce the balance on that final loan. Thank you for helping us Lose Another Loan in 2026!

St. Mark's Debt (as of 3/31)

1. $24,536.28 Loan Maturity Date: 2/17/2033, Interest Rate - 6.3% (will be paid off in May)
2. $174,840.45 Loan Maturity Date: 12/30/2026, Interest Rate - 3.7%

I'm grateful to be in this ministry with you! ~Pastor Matt

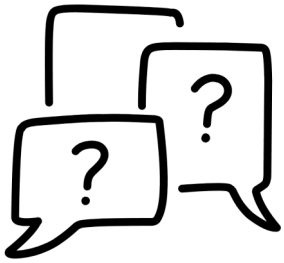
Adult Faith Formation - Sunday's @ 9:45am

Hard Faith Questions: Everything You Wanted To Know But Were Afraid To Ask.

The hope is that we are joined in our conversation by the Holy Spirit and we discover how it is our fears, not our doubts, that are the opposite of faith. *Join Ken Lane in the Library*

Examples:

1. Why does prayer not seem to work for me?
2. Why do bad things happen to good people?
3. Is Christianity the only path to salvation



YOU Are Invited to the Synod Gathering!

May 28-30 at Lenoir-Rhyne University

The Synod Gathering is an opportunity to meet and fellowship with people from across the synod—AND it's not just for pastors! **Church members and visitors, deacons, pastors, and church professionals** will gather to learn, play, worship, and grow together.

A group of St. Mark's members attended the last Synod Gathering, and were inspired by what they learned, and met people from all over the state!

May 28-30 at Lenoir-Rhyne University in Hickory

For more information and to register for the Gathering, scan the code below.

Registration

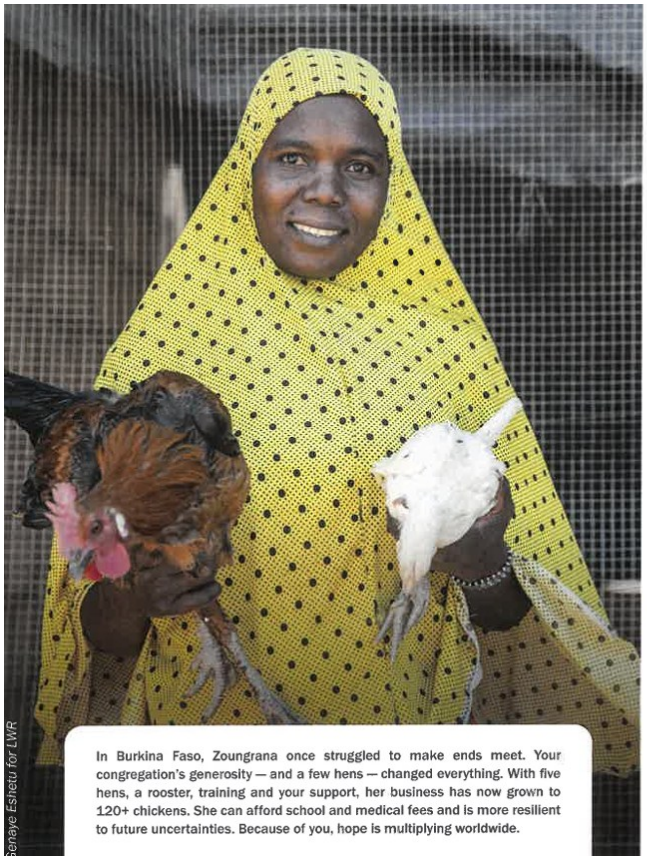
General Info

**We will be coordinating a group from St. Mark's to carpool on Friday.

Noisy Buckets - May 31st

Thank you for your April Noisy Bucket contribution. A donation of $600 was sent to "Bread for the World" on your behalf, in support of this organization's work to encourage programs to reduce hunger locally and world-wide. If you would like more information on "Bread for the World", St Mark's member Linda Kissinger can answer your questions.

May's Noisy Bucket will be to support our friends at **Cherokee's Living Waters Lutheran Church**. This church has a program to support the needs of this indigent population. Their needs are great--please be generous!



THANK YOU

Dear People of St. Marks Lutheran Church,
Thank you for your longstanding commitment to loving our neighbors around the world. We are deeply grateful for your partnership. In Gratitude, Rev. Cathy Pacharsh

LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF

Then Sings My Soul

St. Mark's 2026 Concert Series

Little Hedgehog Puppet Show by Anastasiia Alatartseva

A puppet show about the importance of kind speech, inclusion, and friendship. Each child will receive a small gift. All in attendance can enter to win a large hedgehog stuffed animal. Donations will be accepted for the Lutheran Services Carolinas New Americans Program

May 16 · 10am

WomanSong Community Choir Concert

WomanSong has been singing together for joy, social justice, and community since 1987! Donations will be accepted for the New Start Fund (NSF), which provides a hand up to women in Western North Carolina who are starting on a new path to self-sufficiency and a brighter future.

June 27 · 3pm

Josh Goforth and Bryan McDowell

Storyteller and acoustic musician Josh Goforth has performed in all 50 US states, all over Europe, Asia, and Australia. In 2009 he was nominated for a Grammy for his album with David Holt entitled "Cutting Loose". He currently is on faculty at the Academy for the Arts in Asheville and performs all over the world. Bryan McDowell hails from western North Carolina, where he gained his skills as a fiddle player by studying under the wing of Arvil Freeman. Over the years, he has picked up fiddle awards and performed with artists including Molly Tuttle, Sierra Hull, and John McEuen.

August 28 · 4pm

Tom Keesecker Piano Concert with Poetry and Hymns

Tom Keesecker's studies at the Berklee College of Music in Boston and the Catholic University School of Music in Washington, D.C. prepared him for a career in which he has mixed classical technique and jazz improvisation. In his retirement he travels the country sharing his piano collections in informal recitals which incorporate hymn singing, readings, and poetry.

November 14 · 4pm

All Programs Free and Open to the Public

Donations will be accepted at each performance to support our community partners. Please visit our website for details and the most up to date information!

www.stmarkslutheran.net

PUPPET SHOW

PERFORMED BY:
ANASTASIIA ALATARTSEVA

KIND SPEECH
INCLUSION
FRIENDSHIP

FEATURING LITTLE HEDGEHOG

MAY 16TH @ 10AM

@ ST. MARK'S LUTHERAN CHURCH
10 N. LIBERTY ST. ASHEVILLE, NC 28801

FREE & OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

OFFERING WILL BENEFIT LUTHERAN SERVICES CAROLINAS NEW AMERICAN PROGRAM

@HAPPY_EMOTIONS_WORLD

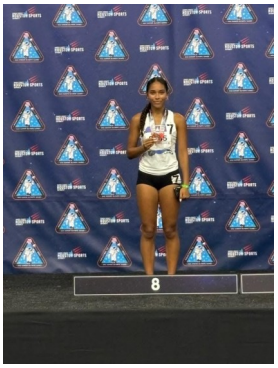
EACH GUEST WILL RECIEVE A SMALL GIFT AND BE ENTERED INTO A RAFFLE TO WIN THEIR OWN LITTLE HEDGEHOG!

2026 My Daddy Taught Me That Fundraiser

St. Mark's Racial Healing Team and WNC Baptist Fellowship Church will be sponsoring a fundraiser for the MDTMT Track Team of Super-Duper Stars! MDTMT is a local non-profit that mentors young people in our community. Their track team goes to the national competition every year, and we love to support these kids and the hard work they always put forth. We are looking for donations of themed raffle baskets and volunteers for the day of the event. Can you help us raise even more money than last year?

Other Opportunities to get involved:

- volunteers for the day of the event
- gung-ho greeters
- bouncy house bird dogs
- game running gurus
- keepers of the kitchen
- raffle basket ringleaders
- bingo betty or bob
- a mighty clean-up crew
- help us spread the word about the event
- hang up flyers
- invite your family and friends
- **Donate! Donate! Donate!**



ST. MARK'S & WNC BAPTIST FELLOWSHIP

BENEFITTING: MY DADDY TAUGHT ME THAT

FAMILY-FRIENDLY FUNDRAISER

SATURDAY - MAY 30 11 AM - 3 PM

MDTMT EST 2020 TRACK & FIELD

VOLUNTEERS & DONATIONS NEEDED!

BOUNCY HOUSE

GAMES
BINGO
FOOD

RAFFLE BASKETS

[AT] ST. MARK'S LUTHERAN CHURCH
10 N. LIBERTY ST ASHEVILLE, NC 28801

March Financial Report

Below you will find March 2026 financial report for the Operating Fund.

Thank you for your continued contributions.

General Fund					
	March 2026			**Year To Date** (as of 3.31.26)	
	Actual	**Budget**		**Actual**	**Budget**
Giving	51,060	48,700		172,338	584,398
Expenditures	48,628	48,700		142,410	584,398
Surplus (Loss)	2,432			29,928	

Caring for God's Creation: March Solar Report *(as of 4.29.26)*

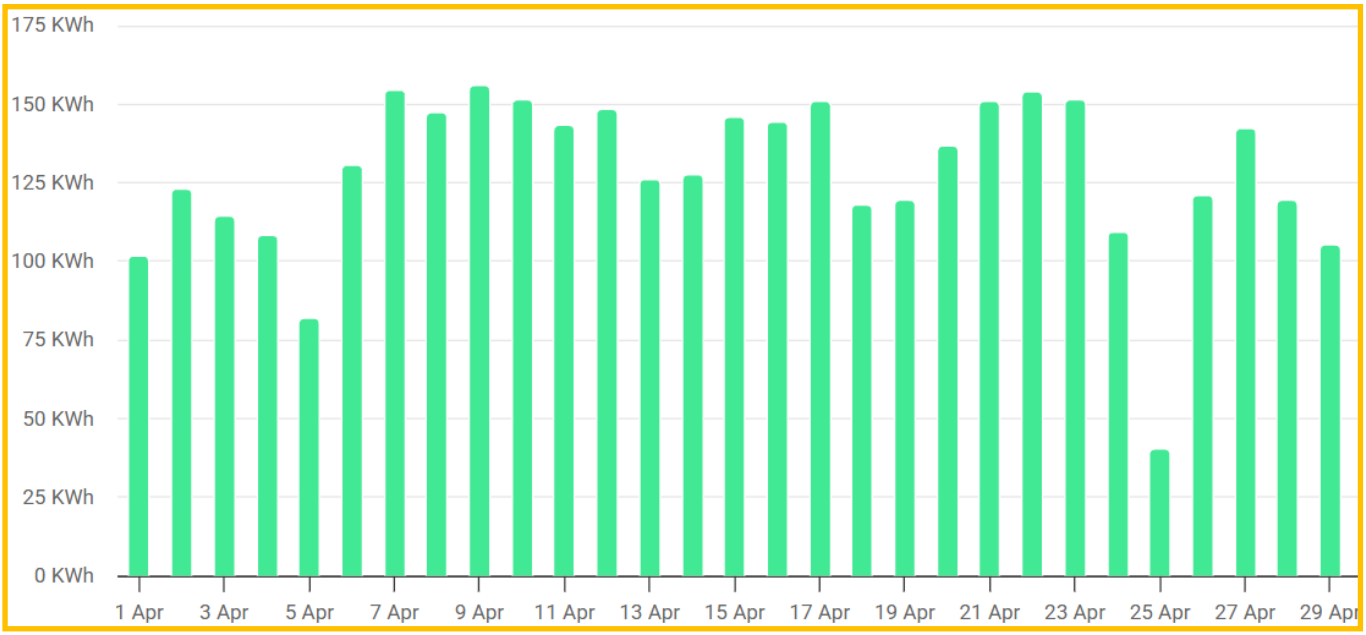
March 24th was the highest producing day at 155.96KWh

2,580

Equivalent Tree Planting

387K

Miles Driven on Sunshine



Sunday Calendar

May 3	**Fifth Sunday of Easter**
8:30am	Worship
9:45am	Faith Formation
11:00am	Worship
May 10	**Sixth Sunday of Easter**
8:30am	Worship
9:45am	Faith Formation
11:00am	Worship
May 17	**Seventh Sunday of Easter**
8:30am	Worship
9:45am	Faith Formation
11:00am	Worship
May 24	**Pentecost Sunday**
8:30am	Worship
9:45am	Faith Formation
11:00am	Worship
May 31	**1st Sunday of Pentecost**
8:30am	Worship
9:45am	Faith Formation
11:00am	Worship

May Birthdays

May 3	Mary Wilkins
May 4	Augustus Mott
May 6	Harmony Fox
	Jo Hammer-Clarey
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 28	Sharon Godfrey
May 30	Christopher Lindsay
May 31	Linda McHenry
	Rob Miller

Updated Contact Information

Danielle is working on publishing an updated 2026 Directory. If you or anyone in your household has new contact information, please let Danielle in the church office know. If you aren't sure - better safe than sorry! Send Danielle your current address, email, and phone number and she will cross reference the information she has on file. Danielle Barker - admin@stmarkslutheran.net

St. Mark's Lutheran

ASHEVILLE, NC

Love • Grow • Serve

10 North Liberty Street · Asheville, North Carolina 28801
(828) 253-0043 · www.stmarkslutheran.net

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

Temporary Office Hours

Monday through Thursday: 8:30am to 2:30pm

Ministers

The People of God at St. Mark's

Staff

Pastor: The Reverend Matt Smith
pastormatt@stmarkslutheran.net

Director of Discipleship and Faith Formation: Deacon Katie Rivers
deaconkatie@stmarkslutheran.net

Cantor: David Anderson
cantordavid@stmarklutheran.net

Parish Administrator: Danielle Barker
admin@stmarkslutheran.net

Facilities Manager: Steve Henry
facilities@stmarkslutheran.net

Pastor of Caring Ministries: The Reverend Linda McHenry
pastorlinda@stmarkslutheran.net