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

ReMARK'S
August 2026

Following in the Footsteps of Jesus

written by Vicar Katie

I've recently gotten really into line dancing. Yep, you heard that right. Line dancing.

For the past few months, I've been spending two evenings a week learning K-steps and grapevines, perfecting my rocking chair, and even attempting a spin or two.

While dancing one Sunday afternoon, I noticed a new couple step onto the floor beside me. As the music started, it was obvious they had never danced before. They looked completely lost. So I quietly began calling out the steps and positioned myself between them so they could see my feet and hear me over the music.

After that first dance, the couple headed off the floor to take a break. As they walked away, my Wednesday night instructor, who had been dancing next to me, leaned over and whispered,

"People are watching you now to follow along. You've got it."

For months, I had stood in the front row with my eyes glued to Kristy's feet. I had stumbled, stepped on toes (mostly my own), and made more mistakes than I can count. But I kept showing up. I kept following. I kept practicing. Then, one day, someone else was following me.

Jesus tells his disciples,

> *"So if I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. For I have set you an example, that you also should do as I have done to you." (John 13:14–15)*

As disciples of Jesus, we are called to pattern our lives after our Savior. We are called to move as Jesus moves and follow his example. To feed those who are hungry, clothe those who are naked, work for justice and peace throughout the earth, and do for others as Christ has done for us. We are called to show mercy and forgiveness, to love and serve our neighbors, and to reflect God's love in the world.

I don't know about you, but that takes practice.

Following in the footsteps of Jesus doesn't always come naturally to me. Sometimes I want to make my own moves. Sometimes I think of myself before others. Sometimes fear gets the better of me. Like all of us, I sin against God in thought, word, and deed.

Yet every day God calls us back. In perfect love, God forgives us and invites us to follow once again. We won't always get it right, and still God finds ways to use us for the sake of the Kingdom. God works through ordinary disciples like you and me to share God's love with the world and to show others the way of Jesus, inviting them to join the dance of discipleship.

Who in your life showed you what discipleship looks like? Who taught you how to move like Jesus? And who might God be calling you to stand beside so they can see your feet and follow along?

Need an opportunity to practice? Want to walk beside someone and show them the ways of Jesus? Join us for our **Intergenerational Sunday School on Sunday, August 30!** Together we'll learn, grow in faith, and practice following in the footsteps of our Savior.

Faith Formation - Sunday's @ 9:45am

August 2: Welcome Back Pastor Matt!
Pastor Matt will return back from Sabbatical in August! Join us as we welcome him and his family back to St. Mark's on Sunday, August 2. We will enjoy a pot luck breakfast together at 9:45am in the Fellowship Hall.

August 2: Graduation Quilt and Blessing

Join us this Sunday during the 8:30 service where we will present Alexandria McKay-Gilbert with her graduation quilt, and bless her as she goes off to college. Alexandria will be attending Wake Forest University this Fall to study medicine.

August 9 & September 6: LandMARKs
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 Vicar 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!

August 9 & 16: The Wired Word
This class takes a story from the news, and asks questions about how we can respond to the world around us as people of faith. Meet in the Library at 9:45am

August 23: Lutheridge Sunday
No Faith Formation

August 23: Blessing for the Beginning of the School Year @ Lutheridge
Join us for worship at 11:00 on Sunday, August 23 at Lutheridge when we will bless all students, teachers, school workers, and parents as they begin a new academic year.

August 30: Intergenerational Sunday School
Adults & Children: Let's kick off a new year of Faith Formation at St. Mark's! People of ALL ages are encouraged to gather in the Fellowship Hall on Sunday, August 30 at 9:45am as we start a new year of learning and growing together!

Sunday School for children starts back September 6!

Then Sings My Soul

St. Mark's 2026 Concert Series

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

Smoky Mountain Brass Band

This community ensemble has been delighting audiences in WNC since 1981. Under the direction of Dr. J. T. Womack of Mars Hill University, the band plays a wide variety of exciting music. Come delight in the sights and sounds of an authentic British-style brass band, right here in Asheville!

October 18 · 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

Christian Action Team (CAT)

Towels Needed for ABCCM

Do you have any extra towels (wash cloths...etc) that have been sitting in your linen closets and are no longer needed? The homes of clients of ABCCM Crisis North (Weaverville) would be a great place for them!

Please place them in the bin by the interior play area doors. St. Mark's volunteers will deliver them and make sure they are put to good use. These can be new, or used, in good condition.

Sandwich Makers Needed

A record number of homeless people have been coming to pick up sandwiches at the ABCCM lunch center on Patton Avenue. St. Mark's has been providing sandwiches for this location since the Covid outbreak. If you are able to make some sandwiches, we could use your help. We collect the sandwiches at St. Mark's on Tuesday and Wednesday mornings, between 8:30am and 9am.

Talk to Christian Wikoff or Dan Dudde if you have a question.

August 30: Noisy Bucket Collection

When a month has a fifth Sunday, St. Mark's takes up a special collection for a designated organization or purpose. This month, we will be collecting donations for those victims of the Venezuela Earthquakes. St. Mark's donation will be given through the Lutheran Disaster Response Team. Collect your coins and add them to the bucket collection on August 30!

Save the Date

CROP WALK 2026

October 4th @ St. Mark's

Lutheran World Relief Baby Care Kits

LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF

August-September

The CAT team, with help from a Thrivent Action Grant, is planning to collect baby care kits for Lutheran World Relief in August and September. We need to have them assembled in time to be shipped to LWR with the quilts. Most importantly, the CAT team is asking that you either donate a COMPLETE KIT or donate money that we can use to shop with. This will avoid ending up with too many of a given item and too few of another. LWR is very firm that all kits contain exactly the same items, so please do not vary from the specific list that we provide. There will be a list of what a kit must contain on the volunteer bulletin board and there will be a plastic crate below it for your donations. This list also has specific instructions. The Christian Action Team will be providing the diapers and diaper pins for each kit. Please follow them carefully so that LWR is not penalized by customs officials. Since the baby care kits can be expensive, you may want to work with others in the congregation to assemble a complete kit. Thank you for your help.

Lutheridge Sunday - August 23rd

Please join us at the Lutheridge Unity Service on Sunday, August 23. Bring your hearts and voices to our joint worship service with WNC Baptist Fellowship that begins at 11:00am at Whisnant's Chapel (signs will point the way). After the service, bring your growling bellies down to the pavilion for lunch. Then prepare your funny bones for a few rounds of BINGO with silly prizes, and maybe a few songs in between!! Bonus points for intentionally sitting next to someone from WNCBF to share some laughs during Bingo shenanigans!! Everything will be provided - we just need YOU to be there

Lunch menu:

Ham

Chicken Tenders

Mac n' Cheese

Potato Salad

Mixed Green Salad

Fruit

Chickpea & Artichoke Heart Salad (vegan)

Rolls/Cornbread

June Financial Report

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

Thank you for your continued contributions.

General Fund					
	June 2026			**Year To Date** (as of 6.30.26)	
	Actual	**Budget**		**Actual**	**Budget**
Giving	41,240	48,700		334,102	584,398
Expenditures	40,545	48,700		244,772	584,398
Surplus (Loss)	695			48,786	

Caring for God's Creation: June Solar Report *(as of 7.30.26)*

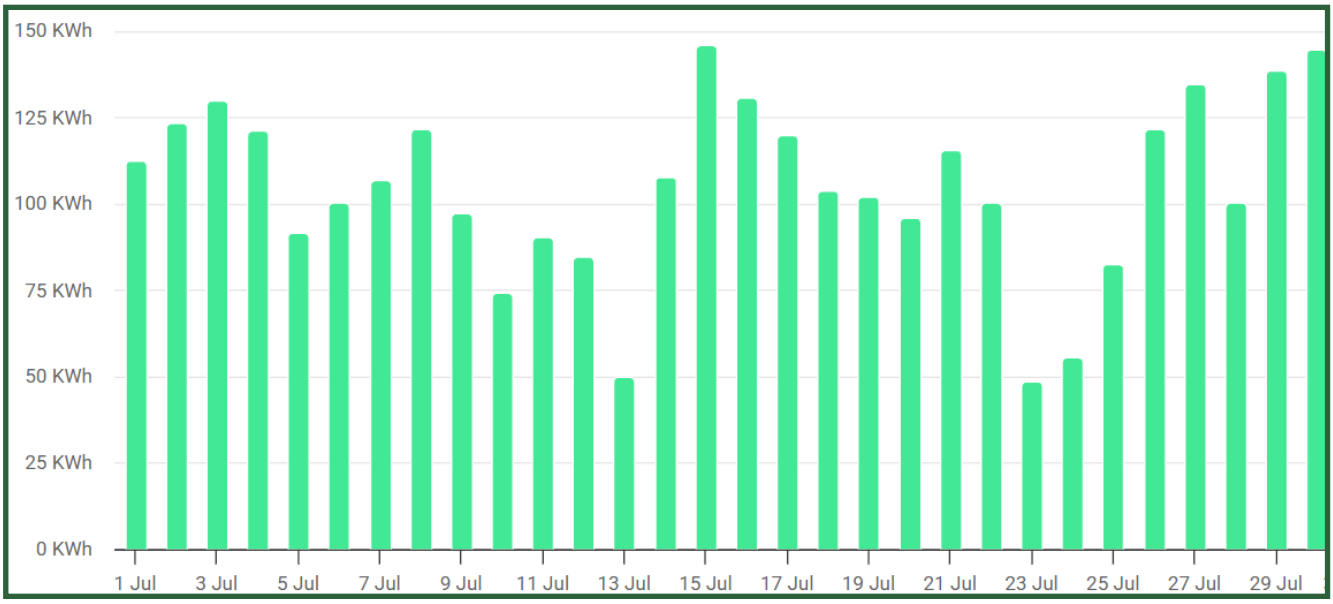
July 15th was the highest producing day at 145.86KWh

2,704

Equivalent Tree Planting

406K

Miles Driven on Sunshine



Sunday Calendar

August 2	**Tenth Sunday after Pentecost**
8:30am	Worship
9:45am	Welcome Back Breakfast
11:00am	Worship
August 9	**Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost**
8:30am	Worship
9:45am	Faith Formation
9:45am	LandMARKs
11:00am	Worship
August 16	**Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost**
8:30am	Worship
9:45am	Faith Formation
11:00am	Worship
August 23	**Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost**
8:30am	Brief Worship
11:00am	Lutheridge Sunday
August 30	**Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost**
8:30am	Worship
9:45am	Faith Formation
11:00am	Worship

Updated Contact Information

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

August Birthdays

August 1 - Jean Castle,
August 3 - Nate Mueller
Laurel Lown
August 6 - Rex Nance
John Herrmann
Lachlan Rybnicek
August 7 - Mason Frisella
August 8 - Jennifer Schiller
August 9 - Beverly Murphy
August 10- Spencer Stone
August 12- Naomi Otterness,
Bryan Short
Erin Pawelek
August 14 - Debbie Layne
August 17 - Sara Niedenthal
August 19 - Bonnie Richards
August 20 - Amy Edwards
Chery Atkins
August 21 - Trudy Streilein
August 22 - Doug Aanonsen
August 23 - Claire Lewis
Joe Murphy
August 26 - Matthew Roe
August 27 - Grace Schmidt
August 28 - Ed Malkin
Christian Wikoff
August 30 - Mary Dudde
August 31 - Erin Bonawitz-Roe
Aaron Neighbors

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: Vicar Katie Rivers
vicarkatie@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