

For the Life of the World *written by Deacon Katie*

Reflections from the 2025 Churchwide Assembly

I had the honor of attending the 2025 Churchwide Assembly of the ELCA, held July 28–August 2 in Phoenix, Arizona as a voting member from the North Carolina Synod. For six days, we gathered in plenary sessions—voting, discussing, singing, and praying. We attended to the vital work of the Church, heard inspiring reports from across the globe, and elected both a new Presiding Bishop and a new Secretary of the ELCA.



One of my favorite parts of the week, however, wasn't on the agenda at all. Surprisingly, it wasn't the historic election of Rev. Yehiel Curry, the first person of color to serve as Presiding Bishop. It wasn't the election of Rev. CeCee Mills, a NC Synod Assistant to the Bishop, as Secretary. It wasn't even the powerful sound of one thousand Lutherans singing in harmony during worship, or the joy of connecting with countless partners in ministry from across the country.

It happened Tuesday afternoon, when Bishop Elizabeth Eaton needed to fill a few minutes while the tech team sorted out an issue with one of the electronic ballots. Without missing a beat, she called out: *"Ok, quick. Someone come to a microphone and share with the assembly something exciting that is happening in your congregation."* And just like that, all the microphones on the floor filled up. Within moments, dozens of people were lined up—eager, joyful, ready to share all about what God is doing in their churches.



I honestly don't remember the specific stories people told. But I remember the energy. I remember the joy. I remember how I could feel the Holy Spirit moving among us. It was an unexpected and beautiful addition to the agenda-an important reminder that the Church is alive and God is on the move.

So I ask you, dear siblings in Christ at St. Mark's Lutheran Church in Asheville, NC: **What's something exciting happening in our congregation? Where do you see God at work in this place?** I'd love to hear your stories. More importantly, I encourage you to *share them*. Share them with a friend, a neighbor, a co-worker. Let them know that God is active and at work right here, in our midst.

Because the Church isn't just what happens at big assemblies or in historic ecclesiastical elections -it's what happens in everyday moments, in ordinary congregations, through Spirit-filled people like you. Let's bear witness to the new life, new hope, and new things God is doing in and through St. Mark's for the life of the world.



North Carolina Attendees

Christian Action Team

ABCCM Needs



The CAT Team collects needed items for the ABCCM Shelter. Currently they are in need of Rain Gear! Dollar General has reasonable priced ponchos if you need an idea of where to pick a few up. If you can donate, please place the donated items in the brown bins outside of the kitchen. Questions - contact Sharon Godfrey or Dan Dudde

Transformation Village

Transformation Village – a ministry of Asheville Buncombe Community Christian Ministry (ABCCM) - provides up to 100 beds of transitional housing for homeless women, mothers with children, and female veterans. Residents receive support to recover and reintegrate into the community. At Transformation Village clients get counseling, training for employment, and others get help to rejoin the community. Residents receive health care, meals, a home, and a chance to heal. **Within a year of arriving homeless at the shelter, 8 out of 10 guests find a good job and resettle into permanent housing.**

For over 30 years now, volunteers from St. Mark's Christian Action Team (CAT) have provided and served a meal for those under ABCCM's care. The food for the meal at Transformation Village (baked potatoes, toppings, broccoli and cheese casserole and fresh fruit) is donated by St. Mark's members. The meal is usually served on **the third Friday of the month**. To donate food, please contact St. Mark's Debbie Layne. If you're interested in volunteering contact Dan Dudde. If you'd like, ABCCM can arrange a visit to Transformation Village. It is a fascinating place to visit and certainly worth your time!



Swannanoa Communities Together - \$900 Donated

Your contribution to the June Noisy Bucket, and some Thrivent Choice Dollars allowed CAT to send \$900 on behalf of St. Mark's to SCT. This organization is helping people recover from Helene. Thank you for your generosity!

2025 Crop Hunger Walk

Sunday, October 5th

The 2025 Crop Hunger Walk will be held on World Communion Sunday, which is on October 5. Last year's walk was cancelled at the last minute when Helene struck. So, this year we want to make the Hunger Walk extra special. Please plan on participating!



Sacred Stories: Christian Storytelling Workshop

August 10 - August 24 @ 9:45am in the Fellowship Hall



Join Deacon Katie in a workshop that will explore the power of storytelling through our shared Christian perspective. We will dive into themes of identity, relationship, forgiveness, grace, service, and discipleship. Through small group discussions and creative writing prompts, we will share stories of what God has done, and continues to do in our lives. Everyone has a story to tell - Come share yours!

August 24

Blessing for the Beginning of a new School Year (in Worship)

August 31

Faith Formation Kick-Off Sunday (9:45, Fellowship Hall)

September 7

Lutheridge Sunday (No Faith Formation)

September 14

Children and Youth - First Day Faith Formation Classes (9:45, Sanctuary)

Adults- Welcome Workshop (9:45, Fellowship Hall)

September 21

Adults -Reconciled in Christ Conversation (9:45, Fellowship Hall)

SAVE THE DATE

Weekly Bible Study w/ Pastor Matt

Mondays @ 10 am on Zoom



Did you know a faithful group gathers with Pastor Matt by Zoom most Monday mornings to read and discuss the Bible passages for the upcoming Sunday? Whether you're brand new to this or have been reading the Bible for years, join us at 10:00 on Mondays for conversation, questions, and reflection as we ask what scripture tells us about who God is and who we are called to be. You can always access the Zoom session from the St. Mark's Calendar.

JOIN US FOR THE 4TH
ANNUAL KARES 5K!
SEPT 27, 2025



NOAH'S ARK

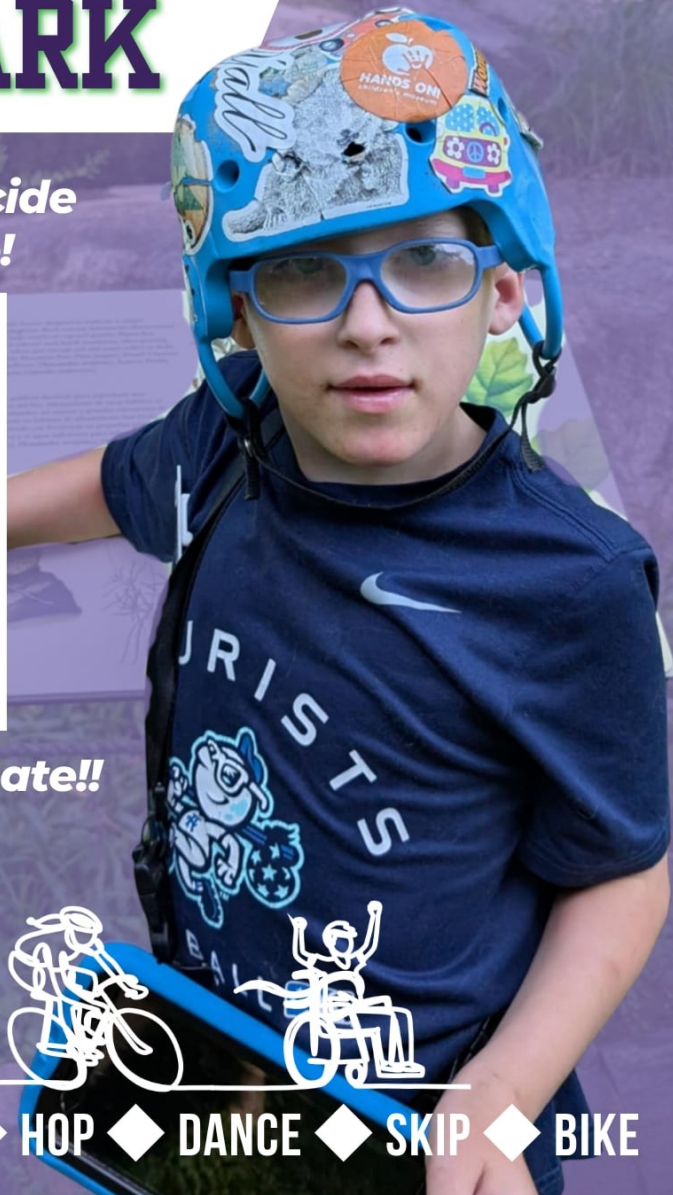
*Virtual Race / You decide
the time and place!*



Scan to register or donate!!



RUN ♦ WALK ♦ ROLL ♦ HOP ♦ DANCE ♦ SKIP ♦ BIKE



Stewardship

Financial Report

Below you will find June 2025 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>June</u>	<u>YTD</u>
\$46,568	\$279,408

Gifts received

<u>June</u>	<u>YTD</u>
\$59,324	\$296,536

Expenditures

<u>June</u>	<u>YTD</u>
\$44,758	\$276,109

Surplus/(Deficit)

<u>June</u>	<u>YTD</u>
\$14,566	\$20,427

Financial Report Building Fund

subject to change from treasurer's report

Income budgeted

<u>June</u>	<u>YTD</u>
\$5,658	\$33,949

Gifts received against Pledges

<u>June</u>	<u>YTD</u>
\$2,705	\$23,166

Loan Payments

<u>June</u>	<u>YTD</u>
\$5,658	\$21,254

includes council approved additional payments

Caring for God's Creation – July Solar Report

July 3rd was the
highest producing day
at 154.32KWh

Environmental Benefits



302k

Pounds of CO₂
Emission Saved



2,281

Equivalent Tree
Planting

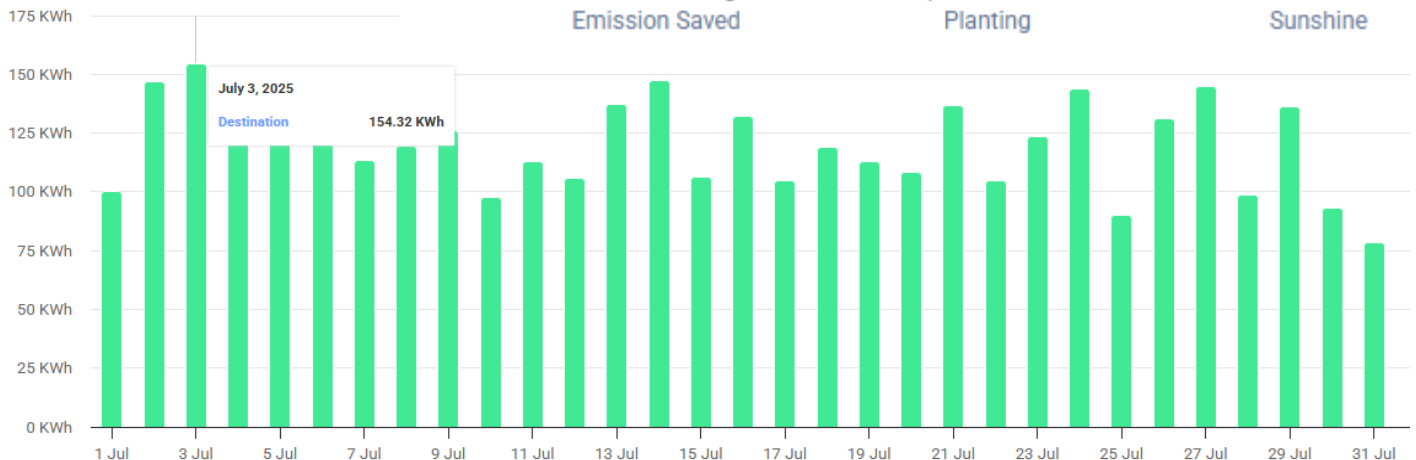


342k

Miles Driven on
Sunshine

Site Energy

Last Updated 08/06/2025 12:33 ⓘ



Sunday Calendar

August 10th - 9th Sunday after Pentecost

Genesis 15:1-6; Psalm 33:12-22

Hebrews 11:1-3; 8-16; Luke 12:32-40

8:30am.....Worship
9:45am.....A-Cappella Choir
11:00am.....Worship

August 17th - 10th Sunday after Pentecost

Jeremiah 23: 23-29; Psalm 82

Hebrews 11:29-12:2; Luke 12:49-56

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

August 24th - 11th Sunday after Pentecost

Isaiah 58:9b-14; Psalm 103:1-8

Hebrews 12:18-29; Luke 13:10-17

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

August 31st - 12th Sunday after Pentecost

Proverbs 25:6-7a; Psalm 112

Hebrews 13:1-8, 15-16; Luke 14:1, 7-14

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

August Birthdays

August 1 - Jean Castle,

August 2 - Samantha Kirby

Sierra Chick

August 3 - Nate Mueller

Laurel Lown

August 4 - Nadia Miller

August 6 - Rex Nance

John Herrmann

Lachlan Rybnicek

August 7 - Mason Frisella

August 9 - Beverly Murphy

August 10- Spencer Stone

August 12- Naomi Otterness,

Bryan Short

Erin Pawelek

August 14 - Debbie Layne

August 17 - Ryan Hutson,

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 25 - Bianca Edwards

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

August Anniversaries

August 5 - Jim & Trudy Streilein

August 6 - Kristina & Eric Lewis

August 7 - Bill & Anne Sites

August 9 - Drew & Sara Yoos

August 14 - Norm & Bonnie Richards,

Bill & Alice Silver

August 15 - Garry & Gina Linton

August 20 - Christian & Evelyn Wikoff

August 22 - Randy & Kari Warren

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

Website:

www.stmarkslutheran.net

Office Hours:

Monday—Friday 8:30am-2:30pm