

### Musical Moments *written by Cantor David*

Lutheran worship is full of music! Here is some information about the psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs that we sing during worship, in the order that you might find them on a Sunday morning.



#### **Hymns, Hymns, and More Hymns**

Our current hymnal has over 650 different hymns, from as early as the time of the New Testament, up to 2006. One peculiarly Lutheran concept is the “hymn of the day,” sometimes called the “sermon hymn,” the hymn that we stand and sing after the sermon. It is intended to be a summation of the Gospel text that we have heard proclaimed and opened in the sermon. When we stand together and sing this hymn, we are joining in proclaiming the Gospel!

#### **Lord, Have Mercy**

The books of the New Testament were written in Greek, and this part of worship has continued to be sung or spoken in Greek. *Kyrie eleison, Christe eleison* (pronounced kee-ree-eh eh-leh-ee-zohn, kree-steh eh-leh-ee-zohn) means “Lord have mercy, Christ have mercy.” When referring to this part of the liturgy it is typically called the “Kyrie”. The phrase appears throughout the Bible, particularly in the Psalms. Sometimes it is extended with prayer petitions, eg “for this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise.” The Kyrie typically leads directly into the next part of the liturgy...

#### **Glory to God in the Highest!**

The church cannot long contain her joy, and in this part of the liturgy we join our voices with the angels in praise of God. This text is taken directly from the birth narrative in Luke’s Gospel, when the angels announce the birth of Jesus to the shepherds with the words “Glory to God in the highest, and peace on earth!” It continues with a hymn of praise originating in the second or third century AD. This song is referred to as the “Gloria,” from the first line in Latin: *Gloria in excelsis Deo*.

#### **This is the Feast**

This song was introduced with the Lutheran Book of Worship (the “green book”) and quickly became a beloved seasonal alternative to the Gloria. Like all great texts for worship, it is drawn almost entirely from Scripture – John’s vision in the third chapter of Revelation.

#### **Psalms**

In between the first and second readings we sing the psalm appointed for the day. The book of Psalms is the original hymnal of the church, and contains texts that reflect the heights and depths of human experience. The psalms were sung by Jesus and his disciples, and have been in continual use by Christians and Jews for well over 2000 years. Most often we sing them together as a congregation, but sometimes they are led by a soloist or sung in alternation. Occasionally we sing a metrical paraphrase – a type of hymn has a long history in English worship, and merits its own article in the future!

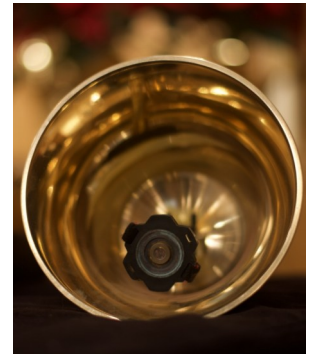
## Musical Moments cont.

### Creeds

It is not our tradition to sing the creed at St. Mark's, though it is common in other congregations. Christians confess three creeds as true statements of the faith: the Nicene, Apostles, and Athanasian. Rather than a sign of intellectual assent or conformity, this is a deeply spiritual exercise. By reciting the creed we are connecting ourselves with other believers of all times and places, and are reciting it not just for ourselves, but also on behalf of our siblings in Christ. St. Mark's recently starting using an alternate rendition of the Apostles' Creed: "he descended to the dead" rather than "...into hell." The Latin original is *descendit ad inferos*, with *inferos* meaning "below" or "underworld." While hell is an excellent English word, it carries many cultural associations (devils, torture, fire, etc) which are simply absent from the Biblical witness.

### Anthems, Anyone?

At St. Mark's we have a dedicated group of musicians who meet weekly to practice leading worship. The anthems they sing and ring are performed as an offering to God on behalf of the entire congregation and as a way to enrich our worship services with beauty and meaning. Choirs have a long and colorful history in Christian worship. Handbell ensembles are relatively new, dating to the 1800s. If you are interested in participating in either the Choir or Handbell Ringers, contact Cantor David! Both groups lead worship approximately twice per month at alternating services.



### Holy, Holy, Holy

After a dialogue between the congregation and presiding minister ("the Lord be with you" "and also with you," etc) we join as one voice in the Sanctus: "Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God of Hosts." This text comes from Isaiah's vision of worship in the temple in Isaiah 6:3. The second half, "Blessed is he that comes in the name of the Lord" is from Matthew 21:9, Jesus' entry into Jerusalem. You may notice that the organist usually 'pulls out all the stops' for this part of the liturgy – Isaiah 6:4 continues "And the foundations of the thresholds shook..."

### Lamb of God

As the pastor breaks the bread for communion we sing the Agnus Dei, or "Lamb of God." These words are an adaptation of John the Baptist's proclamation "Behold the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world." This song was introduced by Pope Sergius I in the late 600s. While the Sanctus is loud and bombastic, the Angus Dei is generally soft and contemplative, reflecting the themes of mercy and peace found in the text.

### Programmatic Postludes

After a closing hymn, the clergy dismisses the congregation to go into the world and "become what we have received: Christ's own body..." (ELW hymn #469, By Your Hand You Feed Your People) At this point one or more instruments break into music to send us on our way. This song is often based on one (or more!) of the hymns that the congregation has sung, or is related to the themes for the day.

## Adult Faith Formation

### Faith Formation w/ Cantor David - Concord of Sweet Sounds

*Sunday February 2, 9, & 23*

Join Cantor David for a long strange trip through the great music of the last 2000 years! On February 2 you'll fall in love with music from the Romantic period and beyond (and before). February 9 features classics of the modern era and the final session on February 23 will explore music by living composers. Classes begin promptly at 9:45am in the Fellowship Hall.

### Partners and Pastries with Lutheridge

*Sunday, February 16 @ 9:45 in the Fellowship Hall*

On Sunday, February 16, we will have the pleasure of welcoming Pastors Sara and Drew Yoos, Program Directors at Lutheridge (and St. Mark's members!). They will bring greetings on behalf of our ministry partner, report on Hurricane Helene damage and recovery at Lutheridge, and share about what God is doing through year-round ministry at camp. Come have some delicious treats and hear about this vital, life-giving ministry!

## 2025 St. Mark's Council

The St. Mark's 2025 council gathered together for a day of fellowship and learning on January 18th! They are excited to represent the congregation for the next year!



#### **Front Row:**

Diane Hughes, Mary Brady (President), John Herrmann, Alicia Lein, Bryan Short (Vice President), Amy Zellers (Secretary), Sue Monsen

#### **Back Row:**

Judy McKay, Tom Biltz (Treasurer), Pastor Matt, Kendra Miller, Tom Stewart, Carl Schreck

#### **Not Pictured:**

George Hahn (Vice-President), Lila Niedenthal

## Small Groups are back this Lent!

For the past few years, we have taken Lent as an opportunity to grow in faith and community together through Small Group ministry. Last year, we combined our tradition of midweek Lenten dinners and worship with small groups. It was a blast, so we are doing it again!

Each week, groups of 6-8 people will spend time together to grow in relationship with God and one another, then join the larger gathering for a provided meal, and Holden Evening Prayer in the Fellowship Hall.

**March 12, 19, 26 & April 2, 9**

- . 5:30pm - Small Groups
- . 6:15pm - Dinner
- . 6:45pm - Worship

Sign up for Small Groups this Lent by following the link in the weekly MiniMARKs email or fill out the tear and share in Sunday's Markings!

**On the fence about doing Small Groups? Wonder what it's like?  
Here's what some people said last year about their experience:**

*"It offered an intimate, safe space for deep diving into God's nature and scripture"*

*"It's a great way to get to know others in the congregation"*

*"I benefited from the connection and I think others would as well."*

*"I was able to learn more about the church and feel connected to the community within it."*

*Scan the QR Code to sign up online  
or complete the Tear in Share  
in Sunday's Markings*



**Questions? Talk with Deacon Katie**

# Faithful Feet

## What:

Looking for a Lenten discipline to support both your spiritual and physical wellbeing? Join Deacon Katie "Faithful Feet" to pray and walk your way through Lent! Each week there will be two morning opportunities to meet out in the community to pray together, then walk, run, skate, or skip for as long as you'd like.

## Where:

Meet/Park at the Asheville Botanical Gardens (151 W.T Weaver Blvd) to walk the Reed Creek Greenway

## When:

Tuesdays at 8:00am - March 10, 17, 24, & 31, April 7 and 10

Saturdays at 9:00am - March 8, 15, 22, and 29, April 5, 12, and 19



Sign up on the Sign-up Central bulletin board, or just join us on the morning you are able to attend. Questions? Contact Deacon Katie

## Candlemas

### Worship this Sunday, February 2

#### *Presentation of Our Lord and Candlemas*

Forty days after the birth of Christ we mark the day Mary and Joseph presented him in the temple in accordance with Jewish law. There a prophetess named Anna began to speak of the redemption of Israel when she saw the young child. Simeon also greeted Mary and Joseph. He responded to the presence of the consolation of Israel in this child with the words of the Nunc dimittis. His song described Jesus as a “light for the nations.”

Because of the link between Jesus as the light for the nations, and because an old reading for this festival contains a line from the prophet Zephaniah, “I will search Jerusalem with candles,” the day is also known as Candlemas, a day when candles are blessed for the coming year.

### Candles

On Sunday, we will bless candles that will be used in worship, as well as candles to be given to each household. They are intended to be a reminder of the ever-present light of Christ in our midst, but particularly in times of sorrow, distress, joy, celebration, and thanksgiving. May the candle that enters your home be lighted in times when a reminder of God’s steadfast love, protection, and provision are needed.



## Greg Hager in Concert



Join us for a free concert of country music at St. Mark's on **February 23** at 4:00pm! Award-winning North Dakota singer/songwriter Greg Hager takes the listener on a musical journey with songs of life, living, family and faith in an easy-going style. All are welcome -- bring a friend! An offering will be taken to support Greg's international ministry of music.

### The Impact of Lutheridge

by Jenny Simmons

I grew up going to camp at Lutheridge. My mom knew about the fun I could have as she attended back in the 1950s when they would swim in the lake for fun! Once I was finally old enough to go, I would always have a friend from my church go with me and we'd stay in Luther Lodge or the Hill Cabins on the upper part of camp with about 6 other kids and a counselor.

I had the best time getting to experience being around other youth outside of my home congregation, playing games, swimming in the pool, going to crafts, hanging out during F.O.B. or Flat on Bunk after lunch, going on outings to explore Pisgah National Forest, and staying up after lights out to just talk. My last summer as a camper, my cousin and I did the Canoe/Trail program together, hiking and camping along the Appalachian Trail from Max Patch to Hot Springs and then canoeing down the French Broad River from Hot Springs to Newport, TN. We only tipped over once. Somehow our belongings stuffed and tied up in trash bags in the canoe survived without getting wet. We were super excited after being in the woods for 5 days when we got to eat at Wendy's and hear "Our House" by Madness on the radio in the van on our way back to camp Friday afternoon.



I loved camp. I got to grow into myself and be around other kids learning about God's love. I got to see staff show genuine love and care for their campers and one another. I knew I wanted to be a part of that community some day. In 1989, during my freshman year at Lenoir-Rhyne, I interviewed with Pastor J. White

Iddings (not knowing his history at St. Mark's and that 10 years later I would live in Asheville and begin attending St. Mark's) to be a counselor. I made the cut! I was on staff that summer along with a camper who had been in my first cabin back in 1979. I continued to work as a counselor over the next 3 summers. In 1993, I joined Senior Staff as the Senior High Area Director where I was responsible for the high school program each week. Pastor Chris Webb and I served on Senior Staff together that same summer, of course not knowing he would be my pastor at St. Mark's several years later. Each camp week, I lead 2 outings into Pisgah National Forest and only saw a snake once, thank goodness. I continued serving as the Senior High Area Director for 2 more summers. In 1996, I became the Program Assistant at camp, helping then program directors, Pastors Tim and Mary Canniff-Kuhn, in more of an administrative assistant role.

## Light a Candle – Pass the Faith

Over my 9 summers on staff, I made some of my closest friends. Those friends are like family to me. We have journeyed through life together and supported one another, through the ups and downs. I know firsthand the importance of camp and want to be a part of ensuring that camp continues to be around for children and youth to enjoy and build friendships that embody God's love.

In February, St. Mark's will celebrate the ministry of camp by participating in the Lutheridge 75<sup>th</sup> Birthday Capital Campaign.

- February 2<sup>nd</sup>: We'll have a table in the Commons after both services. Please stop by to pick up a Campaign Brochure with details about all of the campaign projects, including renovating the bathrooms at Lakeside!
- February 16<sup>th</sup>: Pastors Drew and Sara Yoos will host Partners and Pastries at 9:45 AM to share more about Lutheridge and its impact.

Be on the lookout for a few mailings, one of which will include an intent card with information on how to contribute to the campaign. All intent cards (including online) are to be returned or submitted by Wednesday, February 26<sup>th</sup>.

I'll be back at Lutheridge this summer with a friend I made on staff 36 years ago. We will be there to volunteer July 4th week and I can't wait!

- Jenny Simmons



**Helene Aftermath**

*by Mary Brady*

To my fellow St. Mark's parishioners,

After the storm came through, my husband Bill and I did not have power for 41 days. With permission, we came down to St. Mark's every day to charge our phones and laptops, and use the internet. It was also a good way to socialize with those who came into the church and to help with whatever needed to be done. I spoke with Pastor Matt regularly; conversation not only helps you heal, it also brings people together.

He mentioned that Lutheridge had been hit very hard and thousands of trees were down. They weren't sure what they were going to do. Bill and I are members of the Carolina Mountain Club which provides trail maintenance to the AT, MST, and national forests. One of our trail maintenance organizers had asked if we knew of any projects to work on in the area since our regular trailwork was stopped. Working with Pastor Matt, I contacted Ken Hummel, the team organizer who then contacted Pastor Drew and arranged work days. Many volunteers came to help and we all worked to successfully reopen some of the trails at Lutheridge.

I want to share Pastor Drew's note of thanks to the Carolina Mountain Club and I also wanted to share one of the volunteer's responses below. You never know how your words and actions will take flight. As we all consider donating to the Lutheridge campaign, please know that these contributions will affect people now and in future generations.

Mary Brady  
St. Mark's 2025 Council President

Translation:

Ken, David, and the Carolina Mountain Club, I can't begin to express how grateful we are for the trail cleaning work you all did at Lutheridge. After the storm hit, I thought some trails may be closed for years or even permanently. Now, thanks to your generosity, our campers and guests can use these trails to get around the camp right now! You have made such a difference here and given us HOPE for the future. Thanks for the time and tremendous effort in restoring camp. Blessings in your continued work."

Pastor Drew Yoos



Ken, David, & the Carolina Mountain Club -  
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for the time and tremendous effort in restoring camp. Blessings on your continued work.

Pastor Drew Yoos  
*[Signature]*

## Light a Candle – Pass the Faith

### Making an Impact - Through Volunteering

Katie Oates, a volunteer with the Carolina Mountain Club shares her experience volunteering on Lutheridge property after Helene.

It brought tears to my eyes. When I first drove onto the grounds, my heart just sank. So much tree loss and debris. I have certainly seen similar—in fact much worse—sites all over western NC, but the contrast from the bustling road that was fairly untouched by the storm and driving into what you knew used to be an oasis and respite that now was such a scene of destruction.... It was heartbreaking.



And then walking onto the trails and seeing all the trees covering the trails (not even seeing the trail at times). It was amazing to work hard along with everyone else and start to see the way forward (literally!). I couldn't believe what a difference we all made in just a few hours by working together. It has been one of the most helpful things I have done, personally, in a very distressing fall. The experience made me hopeful, too. Thank you so much to you and CMC for the very valuable work you do.

With gratitude,  
Katie Oates

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### Making an Impact - The Next Generation

Read how Lutheridge has already impacted some of our youth!



#### Eleanor Schreck

Eleanor learned the seasons of the church and lots of music. Her favorite memory is making friendship bracelets.



#### Lila Niedenthal

Lila's favorite memory: Going to Launch Trampoline with the group. Lila learned that God's love is undying.



#### Claire Niedenthal

Claire's favorite memory: Whitewater rafting in the rain, getting to swim down the rapids, and jumping off a "cliff" into the water. She also enjoyed dancing in the rain and talking to her friends. Claire learned that God was able to hear your thoughts and he is always with you.

## Christian Action Team (CAT)

### Thanksgiving-Tree

St Mark's gifts to the needy community far and wide was greatly appreciated! Thank you!

- You gave over 40 gifts to 20 children of the Christine Avery School, which meets downstairs at St Marks. You can imagine the smiles!
- The three children of our Afghan refugee family received multiple gifts through the St Marks "Welcome Circle": Winter clothing and shoes, soccer shoes and a pair of soccer nets, and ear buds to help with learning English.
- We sent \$2020 to the ELCA Good Gifts program, to assist in combating world hunger: Goats, pigs, bees, women empowering materials, school materials for children, and much more!
- Soccer balls and dolls for children who will be arriving soon in Asheville, and....a partridge in a pear tree?

For these gifts, we received some assistance from Thrivent Financial, with an Action Grant, and Choice Dollars.



Pictured are the children from the Sarwari Afghan Family and the Circle of Welcome team enjoying a homecooked meal while delivering Christmas Presents!



## Sunday Calendar

### February 2nd - 4th Sunday after Epiphany

Jeremiah 1: 4-10, Psalm 71:1-6

1 Corinthians 13:1-13; Luke 4:21-30

#### Candlemas

8:30am.....Worship

9:45am.....LandMARKs

9:45am.....Faith Formation

11:00am.....Worship

### February 9th - 5th Sunday after Epiphany

Isaiah 6:1-8[9-13], Psalm 138

1 Corinthians 15:1-11, Luke 5:1-11

8:30am.....Worship

9:45am.....Congregational Meeting

11:00am.....Worship

### February 16th - 6th Sunday after Epiphany

Jeremiah 17:5-10; Psalm 1

1 Corinthians 15:12-20, Luke 6:17-26

8:30am.....Worship

9:45am.....Partners & Pastries

9:45am.....Faith Formation

11:00am.....Worship

### February 23rd - 7th Sunday after Epiphany

Genesis 45: 3-11, 15; Psalm 37:1-11, 39-40

1 Corinthians 15:35-38, 42-50; Luke 6:27-38

8:30am.....Worship

9:45am.....Faith Formation

11:00am.....Worship

4:00pm.....Greg Hager Concert

Happy belated birthday and anniversary to all those that celebrated in January!

## Feb. Birthdays

- Feb 3 Chuck Kopp  
Feb 4 Anna Hibbert  
Feb 6 Chris Weil  
Donley Studlar  
Feb 7 Pat Patton  
Megan Cram  
Feb 8 Evan Kelling,  
Carolyn Otto  
Feb 9 Ken Carlson  
Feb 10 Jason Noel  
Feb 12 Mary Brady  
Feb 14 Philip Otterness  
Chris Miller  
Feb 16 Jo McIntire  
Feb 18 Jeanette Jackson  
Feb 19 Connie Chaplin  
Bill Hygon  
Feb 21 Alexa Hibbert  
Feb 22 Nicholas Dudde  
Ray Mack  
Feb 24 Ella Kopp  
Karen Puthoff  
Feb 25 Liam Short  
Feb 26 Bonnie Morris  
Dave Epley  
Sheila Ray  
Feb 27 Mary Margaret Curley  
Gene Makela  
Summer Noel  
Feb 29 Bob Kaufmann

## Feb. Anniversaries

- Feb 18 Al & Sharon Tenty

# 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:***

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### ***Website:***

[www.stmarkslutheran.net](http://www.stmarkslutheran.net)

### ***Office Hours:***

*Monday—Friday 8:30am-2:30pm*