



ReMARKS, *July 2022*

A Pastoral Letter from your Clergy

In light of the recent Supreme Court ruling overturning Roe vs. Wade, abortion has come up in pastoral conversations with St. Mark's members. Some are rejoicing, others are weeping and gnashing their teeth. Some have expressed a clear desire for their congregation and their clergy to say something about all of this. What we (Deacon Katie and Pastor Matt) can say is that our heads are still spinning as we process, both personally and through the experiences of people we care about.



The ELCA's social statement on abortion from over 30 years ago continues to be the guide and basis for teaching in the congregations of this Church. The social statement says that the number of induced abortions is a source of deep concern for a Church that values life made in the image of God, while also recognizing that abortion is morally complex and ought to be legal. The social statement also explicitly acknowledges that Christians acting in good faith come to different conclusions on this issue. Conversations in faith formation in this congregation have grappled with the complex task of interpreting how the nuances of the biblical witness might inform us. None of this is easy.

I (Pastor Matt) will share a personal story with you. In the Spring of 2015, Keri and I had decided to start a family, and she was thirteen weeks pregnant. All indications to this point had been positive, and we were so excited (and a little bit nervous) that we were becoming parents. We don't know why, but this potential life never made it. As many as half of fertilizations end in miscarriage, often before the woman even knows she is pregnant. Our experience was not unusual then, but it was devastating.

In addition to the emotional trauma, the physical toll was overwhelming. For 36 hours Keri bled and contracted in intense pain before her OB told us we needed to go to the hospital for a D&C. I'd never heard that term. It's what the procedure is called to remove tissue from the uterus. In many cases it's synonymous with abortion. For us, this procedure was what we needed to stop Keri's body from physically shaking and hurting so that we could slowly begin healing from the shock and trauma of this loss.



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I share all of this to say that I resonate with the ELCA's teaching. We never wanted an abortion, but in this situation this procedure was clearly what we needed to heal and be well. I fear that in places where abortion becomes illegal in almost all circumstances, women may lose access to the care they need to heal and be well.

At different times in my life, I (Deacon Katie) have been surrounded by people on the extreme sides of this issue. I've held the hands of friends in clinics; I've protected people from protestors as they crossed lines to receive reproductive health care; I've been invited to and attended a Right to Life Rally; I've attended the Women's March. With that diverse background on this issue, what I'm feeling most called to is to remind those who are baptized of the covenant that God made with them at the font.

It is my call as your Deacon to equip and encourage you to live out your baptismal calling in the world, which includes promises to "work for justice and peace in all the world, and to proclaim the word of God through word and deed." So, yes, God calls you to work for change, to protect the vulnerable, and to fight for justice so that we might see peace this side of heaven. Please, do that good and Godly work. God also calls you to proclaim the word of God in what you say and do, and that word of God is love. So in your interactions with others, put on love and understanding for your neighbor. It's the only way to ensure the doors of communication stay open so that needed conversation can happen.

We (Deacon Katie and Pastor Matt again) recognize that there is no one size fits all solution to reproductive decisions. Each situation is complex. What we can confidently say is that no matter what your lived experience with abortion has been- if you've had an abortion or you haven't- you are beloved of God. And there's nothing in this world or beyond it that can change God's love for you.

We love you too, and if there are ways we can help you process the world we live in until Jesus comes in glory, we're here. Please reach out if it's helpful to have a conversation companion in your journey of the life of faith.

+God's peace to you this day+

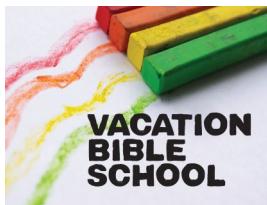
Deacon Katie and Pastor Matt

St. Mark's Faith Formation and Fellowship

For Questions regarding Faith Formation or Discipleship, Contact Deacon Katie

Vacation Bible School - VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

August 14th-18th from 5:15pm-8:15pm



We are excited that we are able to have VBS again this year, but we need your help in order to make it happen! Crafts, snack, games, and guides - there are lots of different ways for you to support of fun faith formation for St. Mark's kids!

Children age 2-Grade 5 are invited to join us for VBS .

Let Deacon Katie know if you are interested in supporting VBS this summer.

LandMARKS

July 3rd from 9:45am-10:45am



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 Deacon 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!*

Faith Formation, SOME LETTER!

Starting Sunday, July 10th



The Apostle Paul founded a Christian church in pagan Corinth, Greece. As soon as he left, it started having problems - Imagine! He wrote several letters, the best known being I Corinthians. It's full of good stuff. Adult Faith Formation with James Aydelotte (Sundays, 9:45 am, Library) will discuss whether Paul's advice is still good for today.

Lutheridge - July 17th

Lutheridge Sunday - Save the Date

July 17th beginning at 11am

St. Mark's and Western North Carolina Baptist will worship and enjoy lunch and fellowship together at Lutheridge on Sunday, July 17. If you attended last year, you know you don't want to miss this day!



Date: Sunday, July 17, 2022

Time: 11:00am (There will be no service at 11am at St. Mark's)

Who: St. Mark's Lutheran and WNC Baptist

Address: 2511 Hendersonville Rd. Arden, NC 28704

Lunch: Dread Life Kitchen

Wear: "Live Generously" t-shirts! Debbie Layne will have some shirts on site if you don't happen to have one!

The service will begin at 11am in Whisnant Chapel. From the main entrance, keep turning right and driving up the hill. Lunch, games, and fellowship will follow at the Lakeside Pavilion. There will be a pre and post lunch bubble show performed by Steve Henry. Don't miss his spectacular talent!

*If you cannot attend the Lutheridge service,
there will be a brief spoken service at 8:30 am at St. Mark's.*

Council Corner



Greetings from the St. Mark's Congregation Council!

Here are some highlights from our June 2022 Zoom meeting:

- The Council strongly supported keeping the current mask requirement for worship, given that COVID remains active in our community. We will revisit this situation each month and will move to a "masks strongly encouraged but optional" policy for worship as soon as conditions allow.
- Plans for the 2023 100th Anniversary Celebration are beginning to be developed. More information to come soon.
- Replacement of the HVAC (heating, ventilation, and air conditioning) system for the childcare and office areas is underway. We're hoping this will allow for an August opening of the Christine W. Avery Child Care Center.
- The Treasurer's report continues to show a positive balance for the year to date.

Christian Action Team

Ice Cream Social fundraiser for Community High School

Sunday, July 31st after the 11pm Service

Please join the Christian Action Team on Sunday, July 31 following the 11:00 service for an important fundraiser to benefit the Community High School. CHS serves students from all six districts of Buncombe



County and Asheville City Schools with approximately 110 students (but can serve up to 150). The school contends with disproportionately high rates of truancy, chronic misbehavior and delinquency, homelessness, food insecurity, emotional and psychological difficulties, teenage pregnancy and parenthood, familial disruption, drug dependency, trauma, learning disabilities, and other issues. The staff at CHS supports these kids by targeting both their academic AND existential needs. But they cannot do this with only the funding provided by the state and district.



So that's where St. Mark's can step in! We invite you to come and enjoy an ice cream sundae in the heat of July while staff from the school explains the amazing work they do at Community High School (and just wait until you hear ALL they do), and what steps we can take to support them with the funds raised. God's Work, Our Paws!

Who are the St. Mark's CATs?

1st Monday of the month @ 6:30pm



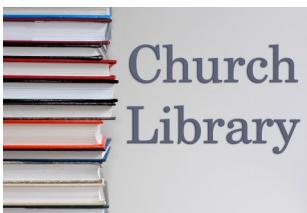
The St. Mark's CATs are the coolest group in your Church. "CAT" stands for "Christian Action Team", and they are your outreach people, who look for ways to serve your local and global community. Are you looking for ways to be more involved at St Marks, and getting to better know some really neat members?

Join the CATs! They meet on the first Monday of the month, 6:30pm, at St Marks--**except** in July when they will meet on Tuesday the 5th!

Got questions? Contact Daniel Dudde

Something New in the Church Library

Jigsaw Puzzles NOW Available!



By popular demand, a new category of resources has been added to the library shelves. *Jigsaw Puzzles!* Lots of us like to work beautiful puzzles, but once they are done, and back in the box, what do we do with them? How about share them! Pass them around! All the puzzles on the shelf under the window in the library are available to borrow, they do NOT need to be checked out, and can be returned or replaced with a different puzzle you are ready to share.

Visit the library soon and see what's there.

100th Anniversary, Memories to Share

Wonderful Addition to the Church Archives

St. Marks Archives is blessed to have received a new document to cherish, share, and keep in its file of member "reminiscences." Pastor William Trexler, who served as our interim pastor in 2018 and 2019, has done what he promised to do. He has written down many of the delightful stories that he loved to tell of his time as a boy here in the 1950s when his father, Pastor Bernard Trexler was serving here. You can access the full document in the June 1st MiniMarks or contact the church office for a copy. Read about the many people who shared their love with him and formed in him lasting happy memories of this place.

Now, the Archives Team has a challenge for YOU. We want to hear your stories and memories also.



1. What or who helped you to grow to love St. Mark's?
2. What delightful or funny things happened that you will always remember?
3. How did your family "fit in" here at St. Mark's that helped to shape us as a congregation?
4. What stories do you remember that your parents used to tell?
5. Who was your favorite teacher or pastor, and why?
6. What do you really wish to be a part of the lasting record of the story of St. Mark's?

Start writing! (Or, if you prefer, record your thoughts.) Give these to Eileen Cram (eileenacram@gmail.com) or turn in to the office (admin@stmarkslutheran.net). Our goal is to share them in the Re:Marks over the course of the year of our 100th anniversary (that's next year!!)

Stewardship

Financial Report

Below you will find May's 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>May</u>	<u>YTD</u>
\$42,581	\$212,905

Gifts received

<u>May</u>	<u>YTD</u>
\$52,629	\$253,644

Expenditures

<u>May</u>	<u>YTD</u>
\$41,317	\$202,696

Surplus/(Deficit)

<u>May</u>	<u>YTD</u>
\$1,265	\$50,948

Financial Report

Building Fund

subject to change from treasurer's report

Income budgeted

<u>May</u>	<u>YTD</u>
\$4,207	\$21,035

Gifts received against Pledges

<u>May</u>	<u>YTD</u>
\$3,675	\$28,265

Loan Payments

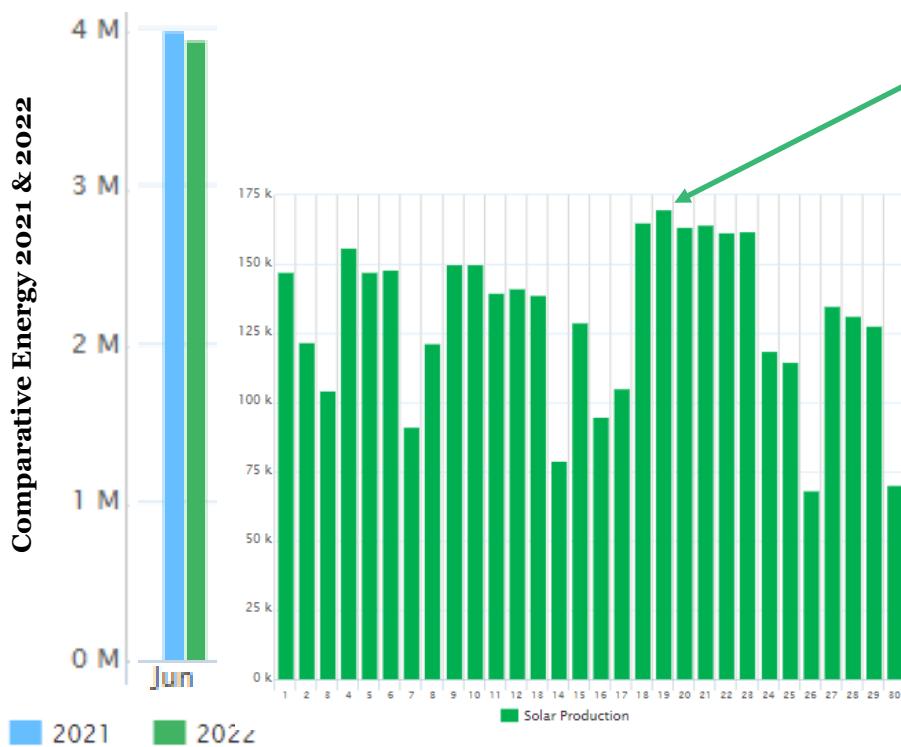
<u>May</u>	<u>YTD</u>
\$5,351	\$26,755

Surplus/(Deficit)

<u>May</u>	<u>YTD</u>
(\$532)	(\$1,510)

Caring for God's Creation

June Solar Report



Environmental Benefits
From Install date of July 2020

Environmental Benefits

 CO2 Emission Saved
126,136.81 lb

 Equivalent Trees Planted
953.08

News and Updates

Worship Assistant Availability

August and September

Danielle will be working on the Worship Assistant schedule for August and September over the next few weeks. Please send the dates you are not available to serve and she will piece together the schedule based off of this information.

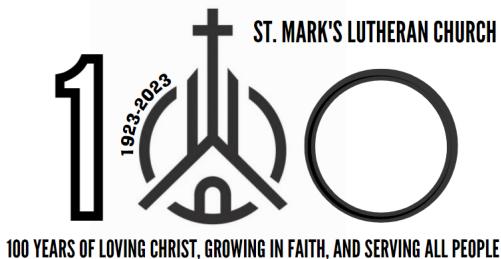
Archives Team Meeting

Friday, July 22nd @ 10am

Interested in helping preserve the history of St. Mark's or have an act for organization? The Archives Team will be meeting on the 4th Friday of each month beginning at 10am to do just that! Contact Eileen Cram if you would like more information.

Noisy Bucket July 31st

Thank you for contributing to the noisy bucket and other special collections. Please remember that if you donate cash, we can not accept any kind of currency besides American Currency, including coins.



100th Anniversary

On July 15th, St. Mark's will be celebrating her 99th birthday. This month you will receive more information on how we will spend one full year in anticipation of her 100th birthday!

STAY TUNED!!!

Sunday Calendar

July 3rd - 4th Sunday after Pentecost

Scripture Readings:

Isaiah 66:10-14; Galatians 6:1-16
Psalm 66:1-9; Luke 10:1-11, 16-20

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

July 10th - 5th Sunday after Pentecost

Scripture Readings:

Deuteronomy 30:9-14; Psalm 25:1-10
Colossians 1:1-14; Luke 10:25-37

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

July 17th - 6th Sunday after Pentecost

Lutheridge Sunday

8:30am.....Brief Spoken Worship @ St. Mark's
11:00am.....Worship @ Lutheridge
12:30pm.....Lunch, Bubbles, and Games

July 24th - 7th Sunday after Pentecost

Scripture Readings:

Genesis 18:20-32; Psalm 138
Colossians 2:6-19; Luke 11:1-13

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

July 31st - 8th Sunday after Pentecost

Scripture Readings:

Ecclesiastes 1:2, 12-14, 2:18-23; Psalm 49:1-12
Colossians 3:1-11; Luke 12:13-21

8:30am.....Worship
9:45am.....Faith Formation
11:00am.....Worship
12:00pm.....CAT Ice Cream Social

Birthdays

July 1	Carl Hughes
July 3	Lucie Hartmann
	Noah Schreck
	Stephanie Baer
July 4	Max Hartmann
	Deanna Jordan
July 6	Pat Patton III
July 8	Joshua Kersey
	Ransdell Marcus
July 9	Mae Mueller
	Mary Schreck
July 10	Tom Pagan
	Katherine Laveck
	Ken Lane
July 12	Bobbie Epley
	Ari Stone
July 15	Shelby Montgomery
	Annette Pal
July 16	Marcus Smith
July 17	Bryan Noel
July 18	Kelly Davis
July 21	Nathan Crownover
	Alicia Richard
	Kendra Miller
July 23	Anne Mock, Annalise Roe
July 24	Gloria Sainio
	Emilee Hendrix
July 26	Bill Badger
	Eric Van Tassel
July 27	Carl Schreck
	Theresa Reboulet
	Gaston Miller
July 29	Samantha Hunkele
	Grant Millin, Steve Linton
	Jill Hutson, Lori Kemper
July 31	Maximilian Schmidt
	Sadie David

St. Mark's will be Celebrating its
99th Birthday on July 15th!

Anniversaries

July 4 Robert and Judith Taylor
July 7 Ken and Deborah Lane
July 8 Rob and Ann Marie Miller

July 18 Christopher P. and Taylor Lindsay
July 21 Kevin and Michele Kopp
July 31 Robert and Patricia Kaufmann

Worship Assistant Schedule

The Worship Assistant Schedule for July has been published. If you have a conflict, please first try to find your own replacement and then communicate this change with the church office. This way we will be prepared for worship on Sunday mornings. If you are unable to find a substitute, please contact Danielle and she will be happy to help you!

Worship Assistant Schedule	Date	July 3rd	July 10th	July 17th	July 24th	July 31st
Greeters		8:30am (1)Dan Duddle (2) Mary Duddle 11am (1)Bob Mihara (2) TBD	8:30am (1)Henry Ulrichs (2)Barbara Ulrichs 11am (1) Eric Van Tassel (2) Susan Van Tassel		8:30am (1)Vic Allwein (2)J.D Slater 11am (1) Cindy Lauster (2) Bob Mihara	8:30am (1)Evelyn Reinhold (2)Becky Sachsenmaier 11am (1) Eric Van Tassel (2) Susan Van Tassel
Usher		8:30am (1)Claire Niedenthal (2)Ronnie Shoe 11am (1)Scott Baumann (2)Anne Blackwell	8:30am (1)Tom Stewart (2)Brenda Stewart 11am (1) TBD (2) TBD		8:30am (1)Ken Lane (2)Deborah Lane 11am (1) TBD (2) TBD	8:30am (1)Tom Stewart (2)Brenda Stewart 11am (1) Scott Baumann (2)Alice Silver
Altar Guild		8:30am Ken Clark 11am Bonnie Morris	8:30am Sharon Herrmann 11am Donna Turnbaugh		8:30am Amy Zellers 11am Paula Lindsay	8:30am Amy Zellers 11am Susan Van Tassel
Crucifer		11am Christian Wikoff	11am Paula Bradt		11am Eileen Cram & Erick Smith	11am Christian Wikoff
Acolyte		8:30am Lila Niedenthal 11am Bonnie Richards	8:30am Eleanor Schreck 11am Eileen Cram		8:30am Isa Slater 11am Katie Rivers	8:30am Julia Volk 11am TBD
Assisting Minister		8:30am Amy Zellers 11am Beth Korb	8:30am Katie Rivers 11am Steve Doane		8:30am Amy Zellers 11am Randy Warren	8:30am Mary Brady 11am Gloria Sainio
Reader		8:30am Barbara Ulrichs 11am Dave Epley	8:30am Diane Hughes 11am Al Seale		8:30am Nancy Dodenhoff 11am James Aydelotte	8:30am Tom Stewart 11am Bonnie Richards
Communion Assistant		8:30am Diane Hughes 11am Bonnie Morris	8:30am Connie Chaplin 11am Anne Blackwell		8:30am Mary Anne Allwein 11am Natalie Haynes	8:30am Nancy Dodenhoff 11am Bonnie Morris
Live Stream		11am Natalie Haynes	11am Trey Doss		11am Cord Doss	11am Bob Mihara

Lutheridge Sunday

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

Contact Information

Pastor:

Reverend Matthew Smith

Director of Discipleship & Faith Formation:

Deacon Katie Rivers

Cantor:

David Anderson

Parish Administrator:

Danielle James

Pastor of Caring Ministries:

Reverend Linda McHenry

Facilities Manager:

Steve Henry

Physical and Mailing Address:

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Phone:

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E-mail:

admin@stmarkslutheran.net

Website:

www.stmarkslutheran.net

Office Hours:

Monday—Thursday 8:30am-4:30pm

Friday 8:30am-12:30pm