

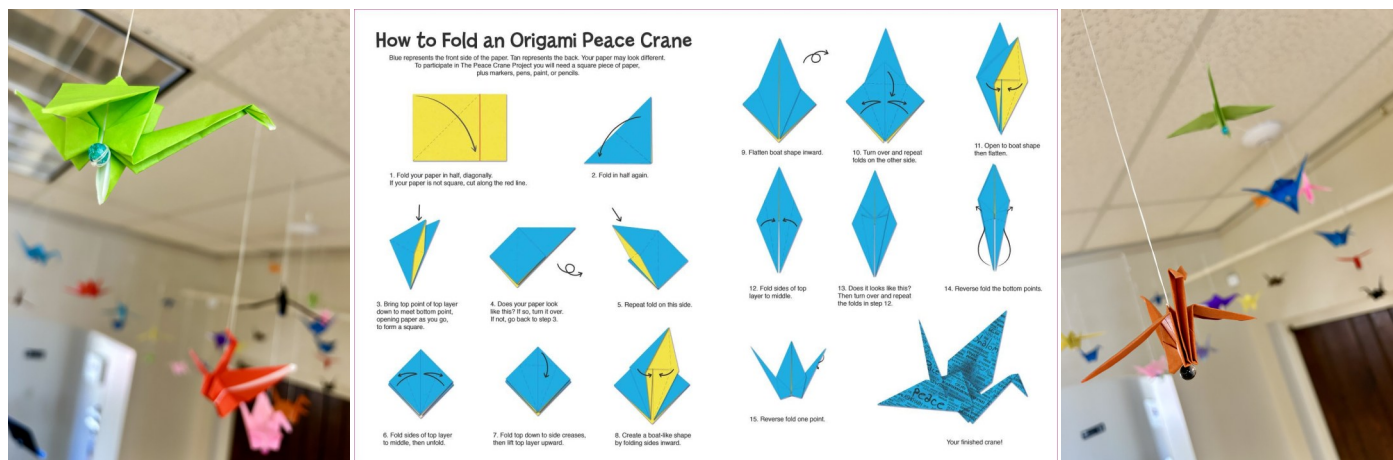
Easter Hope, Peace, and Joy *written by Deacon Katie*

A few months ago, we received one of the stranger packages I've seen show up on the doorstep of St. Mark's. It was a box full of hundreds of origami cranes, carefully packaged for their trip south for the winter. With the flock came a card of love and support from St. Andrew's Lutheran Church in Ridgefield, CT. The congregation made the cranes and used them as a decoration for Pentecost. They wanted to share them with us, along with their prayers of love and support, as we recovered from Hurricane Helene.

Like a phoenix rising from the ashes, these little paper birds have soared above our heads in the Commons, they have been a reminder that God brings new life, even out of death and destruction. Their presence in our building has brought hope, peace, joy, and a reminder that we are part of a family of God that is larger than ourselves.

It's time to share some of that Easter joy and resurrection life with others.

This Easter, during our Pot-luck breakfast, you will be invited to make a paper crane or two. These folded fowl will be packed up with our love and prayers, and sent on to a congregation who needs the same hope and support as we did back in the Fall. If you'd like to get a head start, I've included instructions on how to fold an origami crane (there are also lots of good videos on YouTube!). You can also find the instructions and origami paper in the Commons for you to use.



May the work of our hands and the prayers of our hearts this Easter be a clear proclamation that Christ is risen (Christ is risen indeed, Alleluia!) and we, too, shall rise – from disaster, and for eternity with God in paradise.

Holy Week Announcements

Holy Week and Easter are central to our lives together as followers of Christ. On Palm Sunday we celebrate his triumphant entry into Jerusalem; on Maundy Thursday we recall his washing of the disciples' feet and institution of Holy Communion; on Good Friday we hold a tenebrae service (service of light and darkness) as we commemorate his crucifixion. Finally on Easter Sunday we celebrate with unbounded joy his victory over death.

Palm Sunday, April 13

-8:30am and 11am Worship Services

Wednesday, April 16th

-No Evening Service

Maundy Thursday, April 17th

-6:30pm Worship Service

Good Friday, April 18th

-8pm Worship Service

Ecumenical Stations of the Cross

-12pm @ EW Grove Park

Easter Vigil, April 19th

-8:30pm @ St. Mary's (led by St. Mary's)

Easter Sunday, April 20th

- 8:30am and 11am Worship Services

- 9:45am Easter Breakfast

- 10am Easter Egg Hunt



Please note: the Palm Sunday celebration begins with a procession, meeting in the covered drive/welcome center.

Easter Breakfast - April 20th @ 9:45am



Join us for a special time of fellowship on Easter Sunday at 9:45! Please sign up on the bulletin board to bring a breakfast dish, fruit, or baked good to share for this potluck breakfast. We ask that your contribution be in the Welcome Center by 9:30am. Coffee, tea, and juice will be provided.

Willing to help set up and decorate for the Easter Breakfast? Contact Deacon Katie!

Easter Egg Hunt - April 20th @ 10am



Children are invited to participate in an Egg Hunt on Easter Sunday at 10am on the playground! Children may bring a basket to collect eggs, or one will be provided for them.

THE REDress Project (and collection)



The REDress Project is an impactful visual art installation created by Métis artist Jaime Black in 2010. This project specifically addresses the MMIW crisis in Canada by focusing on the issue of missing or murdered Indigenous women. The central feature of the REDress Project is the collection of red dresses, which are donated by community members and then displayed in public spaces.

The red dresses are a poignant symbol in this project. They stand empty, symbolizing the absence of the women who are no longer present. The color red was chosen for its visibility and its connection to life and its spiritual significance in many Indigenous cultures. It is said that red is the only color spirits can see, so the dresses act as a beacon for the spirits of the missing and murdered women, calling them home and honoring them.

In the United States, President Joe Biden officially declared May 5 as the National Day of Awareness for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls through a presidential proclamation in 2021.

St. Mark's Racial Healing Team will replicate the REDress Project on Sunday, May 4, by addressing the MMIW crisis on the Qualla Boundary in Cherokee, and we are asking to borrow your red dress.

If you have one to lend, please bring your dress to the commons on any Sunday by April 27. We hope you will join us on May 4 and be moved by the display of dresses.

Questions? Contact Debbie Layne @ 828.412.1281 or laynedeb70@gmail.com

Dinner for ABCCM Transformation Village

TRANSFORMATION – to change markedly the form of, to give and receive reciprocally, interchange



If transformation depends on giving and receiving, then surely we can be a part of it. Every third Friday of the month, St. Mark's has the opportunity to provide a simple healthy meal for the women and children of ABCCM's Transformation Village. As we are continuously fed by Jesus, the Bread of Life, we are called to reciprocate, share what we have with our sisters and brothers. It is in this giving that we may receive in abundance.

Interested? Contact -

Mary Dudde @ 828.620.7392 or starrdudde@bellsouth.net

Debbie Layne @ 828.412.1281 or laynedeb70@gmail.com

Announcements

All Sunday Helpers, Save the Date- April 6

Are you an usher, greeter, video operator, assisting minister, altar guild, reader, communion assistant, and/or coffee hour host on Sunday mornings? If so (or if you aspire to be), please plan to join Deacon Katie, Pastor Matt, and Cantor David in the Sanctuary during the Faith Formation hour on April 6 as we update some job descriptions, help orient new servers, and make sure we're all on the same page.



New Member Sunday - May 4th

On Sunday, May 4th we will be welcoming new members to St. Mark's. If you are interested in learning more about joining the congregation, or are ready to join, please contact Deacon Katie (deaconkatie@stmarkslutheran.net).



Lutheridge Summer Camp - Scholarships Available

Faith based summer camp is one of the best ways to instill faith in young people, and St. Mark's wants to help your child(ren) attend camp this summer. We are blessed to have Lutheridge, Lutherock, and Camp Agape all right here in NC, and if your child (ren) attends one of these Lutheran camps, St. Mark's will contribute \$300 per child towards their registration fee. To view the camp catalog visit lutheridge.org. Questions or for registration details, contact Danielle in the church office.

Sign up for a free e-book from Guidepost! Questions - Contact the Library Team

A Gift from Guideposts

Thank you for your purchase! We want to express our gratitude for your support with a special gift just for you.

Dive into *Spirit Lifters*, a complimentary e-book that will fortify your faith, offering solace during challenging moments. Its 31 carefully selected scripture verses will soothe and uplift your soul.

Please use the QR code or go to guideposts.org/spiritlifters to download.

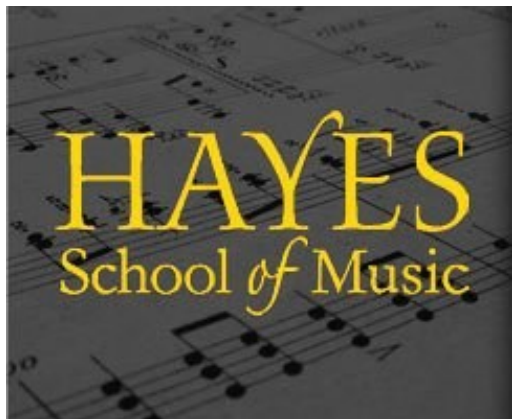


Opportunities through St. Mark's

Young Artist Organ Recital

3:00pm, May 3 @ St. Mark's Lutheran Church, Asheville NC

Get ready to be inspired by the next generation of musicians! Students from the Hayes School of Music at Appalachian State University along with their professor Dr. Joby Bell will present an organ recital at St. Mark's Lutheran Church at 3pm on May 3.



They are playing works by Bach, Gerre Hancock, Franck, Joseph Bonnet, and more. The instrument, Opus 85 built by Martin Ott, is the largest mechanical action organ in Asheville with over 1,300 pipes made from a variety of materials (tin, oak, lead, cherry, and pine), two keyboards, and a full pedalboard. Don't miss your chance to hear these accomplished young musicians make her sing! Free admission -- donations will be split between the church music program and the university scholarship fund.

Explore Nature! Helene through a natural lens w/ Jamie Rhodes



Session 1 - May 4th

12:00-1:30 in the St. Mark's Fellowship Hall

(Lunch provided)

Session 2 - May 17th

11:00-2:00 @ UNCA Botanical Gardens

(Carpool available and bag lunch provided)

Why did hurricane Helene cause so much destruction? Is our ecosystem ok? Will it bounce back? Explore these questions and more in a two-part program with Jamie Rhodes, an environmental educator and longtime church member who is working to complete their North Carolina Environmental Education certification. The first session of the program will be a seated interactive discussion and the second session will be an outdoor exploration of the changes to Reed Creek following Helene. Anyone is welcome to attend either one or both of the sessions. You won't want to miss a fun and interesting look at nature in our own backyard!

*So we are able to prepare for lunch, please sign up on Sign-Up Central bulletin board at the bottom of the stairs.

Stewardship

Financial Report

Operating Fund

subject to change from treasurer's report

Income budgeted

<u>February</u>	<u>YTD</u>
\$46,568	\$93,136

Expenditures

<u>February</u>	<u>YTD</u>
\$48,087	\$91,390

Gifts received

<u>February</u>	<u>YTD</u>
\$49,992	\$116,532*

Surplus/(Deficit)

<u>February</u>	<u>YTD</u>
\$1,905	\$25,142

*Numbers reflect a few annual gifts

Caring for God's Creation – March 2025

Environmental Benefits

Install date of 7/2020



127

Kilograms of
CO₂ Emission
Saved



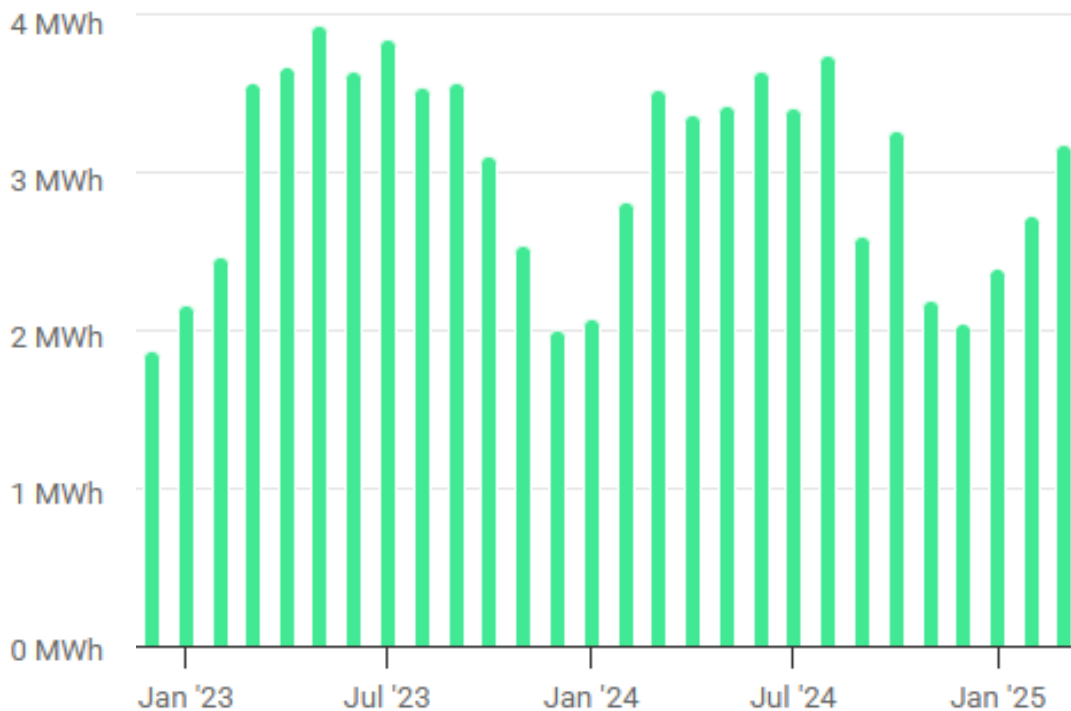
2,109

Equivalent Tree
Planting



1,081,872

Km Driven on
Sunshine



Sunday Calendar

April 6th - Fifth Sunday in Lent

Isaiah 43: 16-21; Psalm 126

Philippians 3:4b-14; John 12:1-8

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

April 13th - Palm Sunday

Isaiah 50:4-9a; Psalm 31:9-16

Philippians 2:5-11; Luke 22:14-23:56

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

April 20th - Easter Sunday

Acts 10:34-43; Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24

1 Corinthians 15:19-26; Luke 24:1-12

8:30am.....Worship
9:45am.....Easter Breakfast
10:00am.....Easter Egg Hunt
11:00am.....Worship

April 27th - Second Sunday of Easter

Acts 5:27-32; Psalm 118:14-29

Revelation 1:4-8; John 20:19-31

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

Additional Upcoming Dates

April 2nd & 9th @ 5:30pm - Wednesday Lenten Gathering

April 12th @ 8:30am - Lutheran Men in Mission

April 17th @ 6:30pm - Maundy Thursday Worship

April 18th @ 8pm - Good Friday Service

May 3rd @ 3pm - Young Artist Organ Recital

April Birthdays

April 1	Nancy Engelhardt
April 2	Brant Niedenthal, Bob Taylor Madelyn Hunter
April 3	Henry Dixon
April 5	Mary Anne Allwein, Debbie Otto
April 6	Eric Lewis, Rachel Hahn
April 8	Gloria Fritch
April 10	David Anderson, Steve Henry
April 14	Emily Van Tassel
April 15	David Penland
April 17	Mike Bradley
April 20	Toby Schuetze
April 21	Jan Hronek
April 23	Shanna Webb
April 24	Garry Linton
April 25	Sara Yoos
April 26	Zelma Parris
April 27	Beryl Mack

April Anniversaries

April 3	James Aydelotte & Susan Denne
April 5	David & Devika Penland

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