



Time Apart *written by Deacon Katie*

By the time you are reading this, I very well may be counting the cars on the New Jersey Turnpike as I begin my sabbatical. For the next three months, I will be stepping away from my duties at St. Mark's for a period of rest and reflection. I am so thankful that St. Mark's is allowing me this amazing opportunity as I come up on my 10th anniversary as your Deacon.

You, the people of God at St. Mark's, are all very important to me. It is an honor, privilege, and delight to be your Deacon, and serve alongside you in the name of Christ. As I've prepared for sabbatical, I've experienced a multitude of feelings – excitement, anticipation, and gratefulness... but also anxiety, apprehension, and worry. Not about the ministry and people of St. Mark's – y'all will be just fine in my absence. But I know that I'll miss you so very much, and I don't want to miss out the amazing ministry that God is doing through you.

But sometimes stepping away from something brings clarity and renewed focus. Sometimes having different experiences can bring new ideas and renewed excitement. Sometimes changing routines can bring healthier rhythms and better balance in life.

Sometimes, a girl just needs a good nap.

I'm hoping for all of those things in my time away- for both you and me. I'm excited to see how God works through these next three months, and for what is in store for us together when I return.



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More concretely, below are some of my plans for sabbatical:

New York –I'll spend most of August with my Dad in New York. My days will be spent reading (I've collected about 25 books to read on sabbatical!), cooking in my Mom's kitchen, and swimming. Wally (my basset hound) will join me, and serve as official taste tester and lifeguard. I'll also get time with my brother and his family, and look forward to taking my nephews to their first county fair.

Maine – September will be spent in Maine! I've rented a little trailer on my favorite beach, and plan to write curricula for adult small group ministry between walks on the beach and lobster rolls. Popham Beach is remote, beautiful, and has a very strong family connection for me. I'm really excited to be able to spend an extended amount of time in my favorite place.



Road Trip – My last month of sabbatical will bring me to/through approximately 20 different states! As I “look for America” on this long road trip, I hope to also spend time looking for myself, and looking for God. I'll be visiting lots of friends and family along the way, including my great-Aunt Betsy in South Dakota, my brother in Dallas, and sister in Houston. My remaining 8 nieces and nephews will all get some quality time with Aunt Katie, and I'll hopefully make friends with some buffalo (from an appropriate distance, of course.)

Please pray that God would direct and protect my ways during the next three months, and know that I'll be praying for all of you as you continue God's work here in Asheville. I can't wait to share my adventures with you when I return November 3rd!

Have a question you would usually ask Deacon Katie?

While Deacon Katie is on sabbatical, she will not be available by phone or email. In order to give her time apart, please contact the following people instead of her with questions.

General: Danielle Barker, Parish Administrator

Pastoral Care and Children/Youth: Pastor Matt

Adult Faith Formation: Anne Sites

Visitors, New Members, and Coffee Hour: Ken Lane

Faith Formation

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

A new school year means new faith formation classes are starting for children and adults! Below are some important dates in August and September as we start the school year.

Blessing of the Students

August 25th

Join us in worship on Sunday, August 25 as we bless students who are beginning a new year of school, and send them with God's love to learn and grow.

St. Mark's Kids and Youth,

September 15 & October 13 @ Lutheridge, 4-5:30pm

Deacon Katie's away, but we can still play! Pastors Sara and Drew Yoos will host us at Lutheridge for some camp fun! We'll all gather at the Faith Center before splitting up into kids and older youth. There will be time together to play, learn, craft, and sing. And SMORES. Don't forget SMORES! Please let Pastor Matt know you are coming so we can make plans.



Adult Faith Formation Class: Inspired to Inspire

August 11th-August 25th @ 9:45am

Jesus' second most important commandment to us was to "Love your neighbor as yourself." Beginning today, John Herrmann will spend some time looking at ways people have been inspired to do just that, primarily because they saw a need. In turn, these inspired people have become inspirations for others to follow suit. Maybe something that comes from the discussions will have a similar effect on you!

New Adult Faith Formation - Rome at the time of Jesus

September 15



How often do *you* think about the Roman Empire? Join Phillip Otterness, St. Mark's member and Warren Wilson Professor Emeritus of History and Political Science as he helps us better understand the world in which Jesus lived. This class will begin on September 15 and meet in the Fellowship Hall.

2024 Crop Walk

Mark Your Calendars - *Sunday, September 29*

These boots are made for walking, And that's just what they'll do.

One of these days these boots are gonna walk to raise over \$1,000,000 for the CROP Hunger Walk! And “one of these days” is going to be on Sunday, September 29!!

WALK. GIVE. CHANGE THE WORLD.

2024
CROP HUNGER WALKS
ENDING HUNGER ONE STEP AT A TIME

That's right - 2024 is the year that the Asheville/Buncombe CROP Walk will reach the one million dollar mark in funds raised to help families, locally and globally, fight food insecurity. St. Mark's always strives for 100% participation from our congregation because there are so many ways to be involved:

- Register to walk and raise money here.
- Volunteer the day of the CROP Walk by helping Dan Dudde at St. Mark's (set up the fellowship hall, help with snacks, help walkers make signs, etc.)
- Donate money by sponsoring a walker or going online to www.crophungerwalk.org/cropwalks/team/st-marks-lutheran-church
- Share your fundraising efforts on social media - our Church goal is to raise \$9500 this year, so PLEASE spread the word to everyone you know!

Now is the time to get your boots ready and your playlist set up so you can fight hunger while you walk the line, walk on sunshine, walk on by, walk 500 miles and 500 more, do the walk of life, walk on the wild side, walk this way, walk in Memphis, walk on the moon, walk like a man, walk like a lady, or walk like an Egyptian. Then mark your calendar for the CROP Hunger Walk on Sunday, Sep 29, at St. Mark's with registration opening up at 1:00pm and the walk beginning at 2:00pm. We cannot wait to see your smiling face and celebrate how we do God's Work with Our Hands(and Feet)

More info at "www.CropHungerWalk.org/ashevillenc" or Dan Dudde 828-683-9064.

Circle of Welcome

Refugee Family Circle of Welcome Update

St. Mark's has an Afghan refugee family for its Circle of Welcome, the Sawari's. Mom (Leda), dad (Safiullah), sons (Abdul Samad, 15; Abdul Rahman, 8), and daughter (Asia, 12) speak Dari but do not speak English. The Sawari's are a lovely family who are welcoming and gracious. Currently, we are orienting them to the community as well completing their initial health screenings. At present, LSC is looking for a more permanent living situation for the family as well as employment.

There will be an additional three Afghan refugee families arriving this week. One family has seven members. Originally, LSC had hoped to have 10 Circles of Welcome in Asheville. As you may know, there are only 5 right now. If you would like to make donations to assist the Sawari's and the other refugee families, there is a list attached of items that would be helpful. Cash donations are also useful. You can contact R.J. Hronek (rjhronek@gmail.com)

LSC Welcome Kits

Welcome Kits are a needed and valued option that offer donors an opportunity to make an immediate impact on the life of a newly arriving refugee family. These kits contain basic household and hygiene items and assembling them can be an easy way to involve friends, families, and teammates.

Here are a few ideas to help you get started!

1. Select the kit(s) from the attached list.
2. Contact the LSC Development Office (704-603-1701) and let them know your goal, which kits you would like to provide, where you are located, and if you can store the kits until they are needed.
3. Collect the items (new items only, please) over a set period. You can create a sign-up genius or giving tree for members to choose which items to donate.
4. Throw a party to build the kits!
5. Pack kits in reusable storage containers. (We suggest using plastic totes, reusable bags, or buckets).
6. Include a welcome note from your congregation to a refugee family.
7. Contact LSC when you have completed the kits.

Cooking Kit

- 3.5-quart cooking pot with lid (1)
- 1.5-quart cooking pot with lid (1)
- Saucepan with lid (1)
- Strainer (1)
- Set of cooking knives Ladle (1)
- Spatula (1)
- Drying dish rack

Dining Kit

- Forks, Knives, Spoons (6 sets)
- Plates (6)
- Bowls (6)
- Cups (6)
- Pitcher (1)
- Serving Platter (1)
- Serving Spoon (3)
- Silverware Organizer (1)

Cleaning Supplies Kit

- Swiffer style mop
- Cleaning gloves (1)
- Dish soap
- Bathroom/kitchen cleanser
- Paper towels (4)
- Laundry Detergent
- Broom and dustpan
- Sponges (2)
- Kitchen Towels

Bathroom Kit

- Washcloths (6)
- Hand Towels (6)
- Bath Towels (6)
- Shower Rod (1)
- Shower Curtain (1)
- Shower Curtain hooks/rings (1)
- Bathmat (1)
- Toilet Brush (1)
- Toilet Paper (4 rolls)
- Small Waste Basket (1)

Summer Fun Kids Kit

- Crayons/Markers/Colored Pencils
- Coloring Books
- Stickers Pencil Sharpener
- Paper
- Arts and Crafts
- Glue
- Building blocks
- Be creative & choose the age range you prefer to shop for

Hygiene Kit

- Shampoo (14 oz or larger)
- Soap (4 bars)
- Toothbrushes (4)
- Toothpaste (2 tubes)
- Hand soap (2)
- Feminine pads (1 box)
- Men's deodorant
- Women's deodorant
- Men's disposable razor (1 pack)
- Women's disposable razor (1 pack)
- Men's Shaving Cream (1 can)

Lutheridge & Musical Opportunities

Lutheridge Sunday

September 8, 11:00am



St. Mark's and Western North Carolina Baptist will worship and enjoy lunch and fellowship together at Lutheridge on Sunday, September 8th. If you attended last year, you know you don't want to miss this day! Lunch will be provided, and please note that there will be no service at 11am at St. Mark's.

Camp Lutheridge is located at 2511 Hendersonville Rd. Arden, NC 28704. We will gather around 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.

You are invited to help lead the music with Peggy and Cantor David! Please come to a brief rehearsal at St. Mark's on Thursday, September 5 at 7:00pm. All singers, instrumentalists, and enthusiastic clappers are welcome!

If you cannot attend the Lutheridge service, there will be a brief spoken service at 8:30 am at St. Mark's. Please note that there is no 11:00 service at St. Mark's on this day.

Bluegrass Service

August 25, 4:00pm

Join Pastor Elizabeth Rawlings on August 25 at 4:00pm for a Bluegrass worship service outdoors! This service will be held near the gazebo at French Broad River Park, 508 Riverview Drive, to the right of the bathrooms when you enter the parking lot. Cantor David and some other musicians are helping to lead



Handbell Ringers Needed

September-December

The Celebration Handbell Ringers need a few more people to ring with them for September through December, 2024. Rehearsals are on Thursdays from 5:30pm to 7:00pm, beginning September 12. You need to have some very basic music reading ability, but that's it -- Cantor David will help you every step of the way. This group works hard and has a lot of fun! Do you have what it takes? RSVP to the church office or cantordavid@stmarkslutheran.net

Donation Opportunities

LWR School Kits

August will be the final month to donate school supplies for the LWR school kit program. Thank you so much for the generous donations we've received during the month of July. You should still be able to find good sale prices on school supplies so that we can assemble as many kits as possible. There are lists of needed supplies on the bulletin board at the bottom of the stairs, but I will also include the list below. There is a plastic crate below the bulletin board in which to deposit your donations. LWR is very definite that all kits contain the same supplies, so please do not vary from the list we provide.

Fortunately, we have a Thrivent Action Grant so that we will be able to shop for needed items to complete each kit. If you are unable to shop, but would like to contribute to this project, a donation of money will also be greatly appreciated. Specific items that are especially needed include 70 sheet spiral notebooks, blunt scissors, personal pencil sharpeners, and boxes of 24 crayons. The completed kits will be packed and delivered at the same time as the quilts. Thank you again for your generosity.



Supply list: 70 sheet spiral notebooks, 30 cm ruler or ruler with cm on one side and inches on the other, personal pencil sharpener, blunt scissors, unsharpened #2 pencils with erasers, black or blue ballpoint pens (no gel ink), box of 24 crayons, 2 1/2 inch eraser.

Food Drive for ABCCM

This summer we will hear a string of Gospel readings in the lectionary focused on Jesus as the Bread of Life. We will be reminded of God's abundant, sustaining, and life-giving love for all people. As we are fed spiritually by God's word and Christ's body through this "season of Bread," we thought it would be a great opportunity to feed our neighbors in need.

We invite you to share God's gifts with God's children in Asheville by bringing in donations of non-perishable food for ABCCM's Crisis ministry. Help us see God's abundance as loaves and fishes (well, maybe in this case, rice and canned tuna) are multiplied to feed thousands in our community.



ABCCM Food Pantry Needs

• vegetable oil	• peanut butter	• chicken/tuna (canned)
• sugar	• jelly	• fruits (canned, low sugar)
• oatmeal	• cereal	• beans (dried)
• self-rising flour	• canned vegetables	• pasta sauce
• rice	• hearty soups	• pasta

Please place donations in the wooden bins near the playground doors.

Monetary donations welcome! Be sure to designate cash/check for ABCCM Food Drive.

Stewardship

Financial Report

Below you will find June 2024 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>
\$45,240	\$271,439

Gifts received

<u>June</u>	<u>YTD</u>
\$44,622	\$318,140

Expenditures

<u>June</u>	<u>YTD</u>
\$42,875	\$263,062

Surplus/(Deficit)

<u>June</u>	<u>YTD</u>
\$1,748	\$55,078

Financial Report

Building Fund

subject to change from treasurer's report

Income budgeted

<u>June</u>	<u>YTD</u>
\$4,207	\$25,242

Gifts received against Pledges

<u>June</u>	<u>YTD</u>
\$5,552	\$28,105

Loan Payments

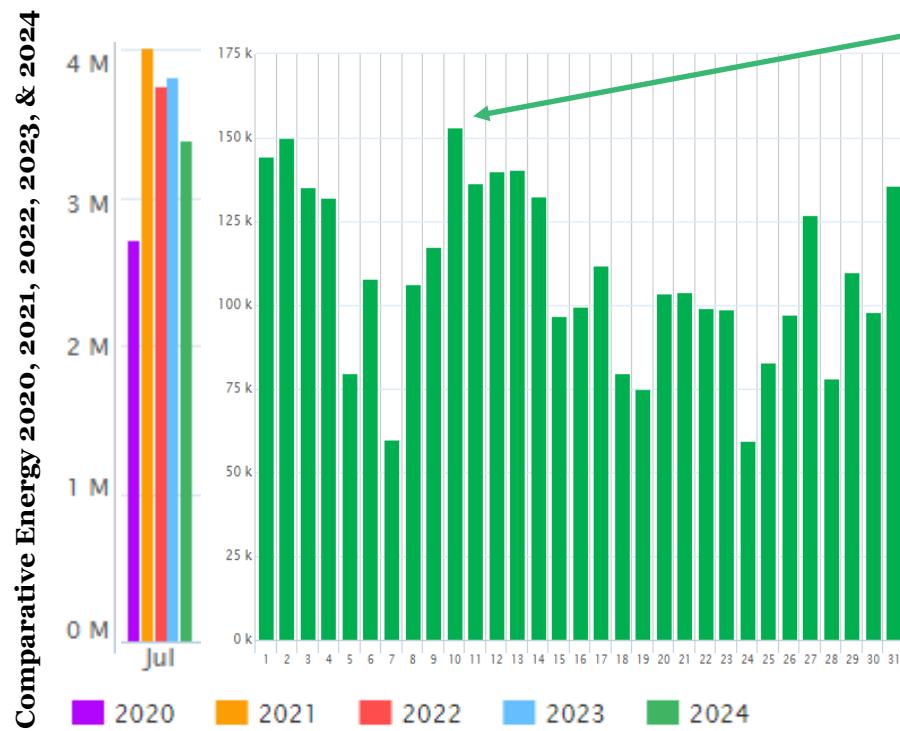
<u>June</u>	<u>YTD</u>
\$5,351	\$32,106

Surplus/(Deficit)

<u>June</u>	<u>YTD</u>
\$201	\$(4,001)

Caring for God's Creation

July Solar Report



July 10th was the top producing day this month @153..267kWh

Environmental Benefits

From Install date of 7/2020

Environmental Benefits



CO2 Emission Saved
249,061.09 lb



Equivalent Trees Planted
1,881.88

Sunday Calendar

August 4th - 11th Sunday after Pentecost

Scripture Readings:

Exodus 16:2-4, 9-15; Psalm 78:23-29

Ephesians 4:1-16; John 6:24-35

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

August 11th - 12th Sunday after Pentecost

Scripture Readings:

1 Kings 19:4-8; Psalm 34:1-8

Ephesians 4:25-5:2; John 6:35, 41-51

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

August 18th - 13th Sunday after Pentecost

Scripture Readings:

Proverbs 9:1-6; Psalm 34:9-14

Ephesians 5:15-20; John 6:51-58

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

August 25th - 14th Sunday after Pentecost

Scripture Readings:

Joshua 24:1-2a, 14-18; Psalm 34:15-22

Ephesians 6:10-20; John 6:56-69

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

August 4 - Nadia Miller

August 6 - Rex Nance

John Herrmann

August 7 - Mason Frisella

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,
Aaron Neighbors

August Anniversaries

August 3 - Norm & Patricia Bumby

August 5 - Jim & Trudy Streilein

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