

### God's Doing a New Thing *written by Deacon Katie*

After ten years of faithful leadership, the Rev. Dr. Timothy Smith decided to retire as bishop of the North Carolina Synod this summer and begin a new chapter of life and ministry. With his departure, the NC Synod Assembly had the good and holy work of electing a new bishop during our assembly in Greensboro, May 29-31, 2025.

The process to elect a new bishop is both an election and a call process. It is a time of discernment. A time to listen and prayerfully consider the candidates and the direction in which God is calling our synod.



Deacon MaryAnn Schwabe, Executive for Synod Relations, ELCA, joined the assembly as the representative from the churchwide office to shepherd us through the election process. She explained to the assembly that the role of bishop is a unique call. They are a public leader for both the church and the world. They are a pastor who preaches, teaches, and administers the sacraments; someone who provides leadership and pastoral care. And, “a bishop is more,” she explained. A bishop is a servant, a reminder of unity, and accountable to congregations. A bishop is the Chief Ecumenical Officer, fostering partnerships with other denominations. “And, a bishop is more.”

The process by which the NC Synod elects a new bishop begins with an ecclesiastical ballot. Before this vote, and every additional vote for bishop, the assembly paused to pray and sing, asking for God's guidance, for the Spirit to be at work in that place.

All of the more than 500 voting members had the opportunity to submit the name of any ELCA Minister of Word and Sacrament (pastor) on the first ballot. The results of the Thursday evening ballot resulted in approximately 80 names.

By Friday morning, many pastors had removed their name from consideration, leaving 15 on the second ballot. From that list, seven moved forward and provided biographical information and had the opportunity to address the assembly. The results of the third ballot narrowed the candidates to three: Pastor CeeCee Mills, Pastor Cassie Overcash, and Pastor Emily Hartner.

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By Friday evening, it became clear to me that God was doing a new thing through the people gathering in that ballroom in Greensboro.

Having grown up and served in a different denomination, one that rejects the ordination of women, I was sitting there, an ordained deacon myself, voting for a woman to be the bishop of my beloved church. No matter how the remainder of the election turned out, for the first time in its history, the North Carolina Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America would have a female bishop.

God was doing a new thing in and among us.

All three of the remaining candidates were profoundly formed in and by the North Carolina Synod. They have served in many and various ways at the congregational, synodical, and churchwide expressions of our church. All three baptized, beloved, and blessed by God with amazing gifts for ministry.



The remaining candidates were able to address the assembly again before the fourth ballot, answering questions about ministry, mission, and their vision for the future. The fifth and final ballot narrowed the candidates to two: Pastor CeeCee Mills and Pastor Emily Hartner. After one final opportunity to speak, one final prayer and song, the assembly voted one last time and elected Pastor Emily Hartner to serve as bishop of the NC Synod.

“I love you. And I love Jesus. And I have a lot of hope for our church,” Bishop-elect Emily Hartner proclaimed from the podium in her remarks following the election.

God is calling us to a new time as the Church together.

God is calling us to continue to share the Gospel of Jesus and the hope it proclaims.

God has called, and Emily Hartner has answered, to serve Christ and his church for the sake of the world.

May God bless Bishop-elect Emily Hartner and the North Carolina Synod as we move forward together into this new thing that God is doing.

## Christian Action Team

### ABCCM Needs



The CAT Team collects needed items for the ABCCM Shelter. Currently they are in need of men's clothing - particularly jeans and boxer shorts. If you can donate, please place the donated items in the brown bins outside of the kitchen. Questions - contact Sharon Godfrey or Dan Dudde



### The Medical Ministry at ABCCM

In Buncombe County, ABCCM (Asheville Buncombe Community Christian Ministry) offers the only free clinic in our area. The ABCCM Medical Ministry provides access for the uninsured to medical care and medicine. In addition to these standard medical services, the ministry provides urgent care, medication assistance, and crisis dental care. The clinic serves nearly 4000 adults in Buncombe County.

As a free clinic, The Medical Ministry at ABCCM relies on your donations, both financial and in-kind. The Medical Ministry particularly seeks volunteers who are trained as health care professionals. Several members of St. Mark's already serve in this capacity. ABCCM is also considered one of St. Mark's community partners. As such, the church donates financially to ABCCM every year. For more information about the Medical Ministry, volunteering and/or donating click or follow this link: <https://www.abccm.org/ministry-services/medical-ministry/>

### Welcome ABCCM Crisis Ministry

*June 30th - July 3rd*

St. Mark's will continue to host the operations of ABCCM's crisis ministry while their facility on Cumberland Ave is still under construction receiving a major face lift, courtesy of Home Depot who is bringing in 300 volunteers and over \$500,000 in materials to make the facility shine! ABCCM volunteers and staff will serve clients out of St. Mark's fellowship hall for another week, June 30 - June 3. We're glad to partner with ABCCM to meet the needs of our community!

### **Hominy Valley Men's Christian A-Cappella Choir**

*Sunday, July 6th @ 9:45am*



Join us in the Fellowship Hall on Sunday July 6 at 9:45am to hear the Hominy Valley Men's Christian A-Cappella Choir! This group, which includes St. Mark's member Mike Masters, will be performing a variety of Gospel and patriotic selections in barbershop style.

### **Keynon Lake & My Daddy Taught Me That (MDTMT)**

*Sunday, July 13th @ 9:45am*



Over the past two years, some St. Mark's members have been sponsoring the My Daddy Taught Me That Track & Field Team because of the personal relationships we have made at WNC Baptist Fellowship Church. Our little sister in Christ, Reilly Howard, consistently makes it to the AAU National Jr. Olympics, and this year is no different - Reilly and 9 other athletes will be traveling to Houston for a week of competition.

St. Mark's RHT and WNC Baptist are teaming up to host a big fundraising event for them because sending 10 kids and their coaches to Houston, TX is not cheap! To gain a better understanding of who and what My Daddy Taught Me That is, we have invited the founder of the organization to speak during the Faith Formation hour on July 13.

Keynon Lake is the visionary founder of KL Training Solutions and My Daddy Taught Me That (MDTMT), a nonprofit organization dedicated to mentoring young men in Asheville. Born and raised here, Keynon has deep roots in the community and a passion for uplifting and empowering youth. During his nearly two decade career as a Social Worker in Child Protective Services, Keynon came face-to-face with the challenges many children attempt to face alone, particularly those from low-income and single-parent households. He founded KLTS & MDTMT in 2012 to provide guidance, support, and positive role models.

Fast forward to 2025 and the MDTMT Track & Field team is only one extension of the many programs Keynon has started. Please join us on July 13 to hear all of the amazing things Keynon Lake is doing in our community.

### Sacred Stories: Christian Storytelling Workshop

July 20-August 24 @ 9:45am in the Fellowship Hall



This workshop 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!

### LandMARKs

Sunday, July 6th @ 9:45am

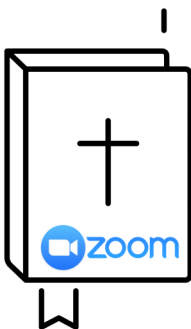


**St. Mark's  
Lutheran**  
ASHEVILLE, NC

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 meeting that occurs on the first Sunday of each month 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!

### 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.

## MDTMT Fundraiser

### **My Daddy Taught Me That Fundraiser @ St. Mark's Lutheran**

*Saturday, July 26, 11:00am - 3:00pm*

St. Mark's Racial Healing Team and WNC Baptist Fellowship Church will be sponsoring a BIG fundraiser for the MDTMT Track Team. What? You don't know what MDTMT is? *My Daddy Taught Me That* is a local non-profit who mentors the young people of our community. Their founder, Mr. Keynon Lake, will join us on 7/13 during Faith Formation to explain how he started MDTMT.

#### **WHAT:**

Family-friendly fundraiser to include games, a bouncy house, food, face painting, music, raffle baskets, and bake sale

#### **WHEN:**

Saturday, July 26, from 11:00am - 3:00pm

#### **WHERE:**

St. Mark's Lutheran Church Parking Lot and Fellowship Hall

#### **What we need from YOU:**

- volunteers for the day of the event [10:30am-1:00pm or 1:00pm-3:30pm shifts]:
- enthusiastic greeters
- bouncy house shepherds
- game running gurus
- keepers of the kitchen
- melodious musicians
- raffle basket ringleaders
- bake sale slingers
- a mighty clean-up crew.
- Help us to spread the word about the event!
- Hang up flyers and/or invite your family and friends.
- **Donate! Donate! Donate! This is a fundraiser!**



Sign up on the sign-up central bulletin board to let us know how you can support this event. Stay tuned to our weekly emails to learn more about MDTMT.

Please contact Debbie Layne with questions  
828-412-1281 or [laynedeb70@gmail.com](mailto:laynedeb70@gmail.com)

## Sunday Calendar

### July 6th- 4th Sunday after Pentecost

Isaiah 66: 10-14; Psalm 66: 1-9

Galatians 6:[1-6] 7-16; Luke 10:1-11, 16-20

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

### July 13th- 5th Sunday after Pentecost

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 20th- 6th Sunday after Pentecost

Genesis 18:1-10a, Psalm 15

Colossians 1:15-28; Luke 10:38-42

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

### July 27th- 7th Sunday after Pentecost

Genesis 18: 20-32; Psalm 138

Colossians 2:6-15 [16-19]; Luke 11:1-13

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

### Additional Important Dates:

July 4th - Office Closed  
 July 7th - Executive Meeting  
 July 7th - Christian Action Team  
 July 12th - Lutheran Men in Mission  
 July 14th - Council in Person & Zoom  
 July 26th - MDTMT Fundraiser

## July Birthdays

July 1 Carl Hughes  
 July 3 Lucie Hartmann  
 Noah Schreck  
 Stephanie Baer  
 July 4 Max Hartmann  
 Deanna Jordan  
 July 6 Pat Patton  
 July 8 Joshua Kersey  
 Marcus Ransdell  
 Theodore Ransdell  
 July 9 Mae Reilly Mueller  
 Mary Schreck  
 July 10 Tom Pagan  
 Katherine Laveck  
 Ken Lane  
 July 12 Bobbie Epley  
 Ari Stone  
 July 13 Chuck Johnson  
 Claire Maloney  
 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 Steve Linton  
 Jill Hutson  
 Lori Kemper  
 July 31 Maximilian Schmidt  
 Sadie David

## July Anniversaries

July 4 Robert and Judy Taylor  
 July 7 Ken and Deborah Lane  
 July 31 Robert and Patricia Kaufmann

# 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](mailto:admin@stmarkslutheran.net)

### ***Website:***

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

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

*Monday—Friday 8:30am-2:30pm*