

ReMARKS

November 2025

Welcome Affirmed *written by Pastor Matt*

Thank you to all who provided feedback on our Reconciling in Christ conversations through the recent survey form. Each response and all comments were provided to the council with identifying information removed. Having weighed those responses, in the October meeting, St. Mark's council voted unanimously to approve our welcome statement and become a Reconciling in Christ Congregation.

We hope you'll **join us to celebrate** this milestone in our welcome of the LGBTQ+ community with cake during coffee hour on **November 16!** As part of our celebration we will invite you to sign your name to our welcome statement in banner form (see below) to give it a more personal touch. The banner will hang in our fellowship hall to be a clear message of invitation and welcome to the hundreds of community members who use that space each week.



Reflecting God's expansive love, St. Mark's is committed to being a welcoming community for all. **WE WELCOME YOU** and people of all sexual orientations, gender identities, gender expressions, socioeconomic conditions, educational backgrounds, abilities, family situations, ages, physical and mental health conditions, and religious backgrounds. We are committed to fostering anti-racism and inclusion in our congregation and community.



In the pattern of good Lutherans, you might be wondering, "what does this mean?" "what comes next?" Well, having been intentional about stating our welcome to the LGBTQ+ community, we will now be listed on the RIC website as a partner congregation. This will be a great tool for folks with a Lutheran background who are looking for safe spaces. In many ways, St. Mark's was welcoming already. But now we will be clearer and more intentional in publicly extending the welcome we have already been showing to those who found their way here. Beyond that, there may not be huge, dramatic changes (you can't pin the Spirit down, though, so no promises). Going forward, our St. Mark's RIC team will have a slightly different role, focusing on helping make sure that we continue to live out the welcome we have proclaimed.

See you on November 16 to celebrate our commitment to welcome. I'm excited to sign on the banner, and I hope you will add your name too!

Pastor Matt

November Outreach Opportunities



November Food Ingathering

Please take a grocery bag home with you that you will find in your pew, and fill it with groceries for the ABCCM pantry. Suggested items are listed on the bag label, but other non-perishable food items are welcomed too. Please return your donations by Sunday, November 16, placing your bag(s) in the hallway by the playground doors. In our two previous Ingathering collections, we collected over 1000 lbs of food items. Let's do it again!

Thanksgiving- Tree

Our traditional Thanks Giving-Tree will soon be up in the Commons! There will be tags for gifts for children of "our" Christine Avery School, tags for farm animals purchased through the ELCA Hunger relief program, and a special new surprise item to **decorate your tree**, which is also a ABCCM fund raiser!



Gorgeous decorative ornaments are made by a member of Saint Mark's. You can purchase these for \$10, and that donation will be matched by this same member by an additional \$10, so each item you purchase will become a \$20 donation to ABCCM!

The gifts for the children of Christine Avery will have full instructions on the tree tags.

Please make your checks for the ELCA Animals, and the Christmas Tree Ornaments out to "St Mark's Lutheran Church", with the item designation ("ELCA Animal" or "Ornament") at the bottom. Your checks can be placed in the offering plate.

2025 Fall Ingathering for Lutheran World Relief

Mark your Calendars! This year we will be taking quilts and 111 Care Kits that include towels, tooth brushes, combs, nail clippers, and soap to Grace Lutheran in Hendersonville. We need your help to send these gifts off with love and prayers.



Wednesday, November 5th - Helpers are needed to pack, weigh, label, tape, and count the boxes from the attic.

Wednesday, November 12th - Helpers are needed to load the boxes for transport. Several helpers are also needed to travel with the vehicles to help unload in Hendersonville.

November Upcoming Events and Dates

Bishop Installation

November 15th in Charlotte, NC

St. Mark's has been invited to the Rev. Emily K. Hartner's Bishop Installation at Christ Lutheran Church in Charlotte NC on November 15th.

If you are unable to join in person, join worship via livestream -

bit.ly/Bishop-Hartner-Installation

Your prayers and presence are requested at the service of

Holy Eucharist

with the

Rite of Installation

**for the bishop of the North Carolina Synod,
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America**

The Rev. Emily K. Hartner

Saturday, November 15, 2025, at 2:00 p.m.

Christ Lutheran Church

4519 Providence Road, Charlotte, NC 28226

Reception to follow



Baby Shower for our Parish Administrator

November 19th @ 12pm

Come share your well wishes with Danielle as she prepares to welcome baby Wyatt into the world!

Wednesday, November 19 @ 12:00pm in the Fellowship Hall (lunch provided)

Please RSVP to Deacon Katie so that we can plan for the event.

Danielle is registered on Amazon

<https://www.amazon.com/baby-reg/danielle-barker-january-2026-fletcher/2SEBWARMQQL80>

Maternity Leave Office Angels

Danielle will be out of the office on Maternity Leave beginning in January until the Middle of March. During her leave, we are looking for Office Angels to sit at her desk to monitor the phones, doors, and help with a few easy office task. This will allow the other staff members to not be interrupted from their everyday task as much. There will be two shifts Monday-Thursday; the first will run from 9:30am-12pm and 12pm-2:30pm. If you are interested in helping out for one shift or multiple shifts, please reach out to Danielle who will be gathering a list of volunteers, create a schedule, and prepare a small training.

Thanksgiving Dinner

November 23rd after the 11am Service

Save the date and join your St. Mark's family for our annual Thanksgiving Dinner on November 23th after the 11am service! Plan to bring a side or dessert to share, and stay tuned for more details. Sign up on the bulletin board.

December Upcoming Events and Dates

Ecumenical Midweek Advent Worship

This year, we will be gathering with our Ecumenical Church Partners for our Wednesday Advent Worship, each of them leading a mid-week Advent worship service. With the way the calendar falls this year, we will only have three services within the four weeks of Advent. We will have a time of fellowship before worship where we will share a meal of soup together, beginning at 6pm. Worship, in person, will follow beginning at 7pm.

Advent through Hymns

6pm - Soup and Sandwiches

7pm - Worship

November 26 - No Worship

December 3 - St. Eugene Catholic

December 10 - St. Mark's Lutheran

December 17 - St. Paul's United Methodist

Christmas Poinsettias

Order by December 14th

We will be ordering poinsettias for our Christmas services this year. If you'd like to order a poinsettia in memory or honor of someone, please let Danielle know no later than December 14th by calling the church office or completing a tear and share during worship service. This can be found on the back of your MARKings beginning in the middle of November.

We have pre-ordered 30 Poinsettia plants this year! Each plant will cost \$7. Please make your contributions out to St. Mark's indicating Christmas Poinsettias in the memo line.

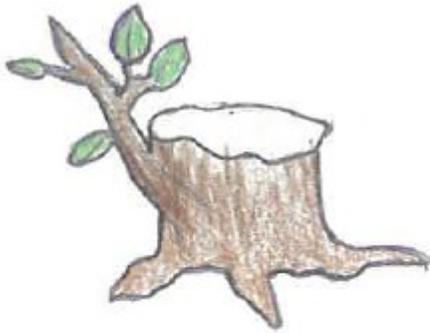
Christmas Pageant Invitation

You are invited! Help share the story of Christmas this year! Children, youth, and adults are invited to participate in our Christmas pageant on December 21, 2025 during the 11am service. Pageant participants and adult helpers are asked to fill out the form link in the Wednesday email or by scanning the QR code. Questions? Contact Deacon Katie



Visual Representations from our Youth

Eileen Cram and the youth have been working on visually representing important elements they have been discussing for Advent. See their creativity and descriptions below.



A shout shall come out from the stumps of Jesus,
and a branch shall grow out of his roots

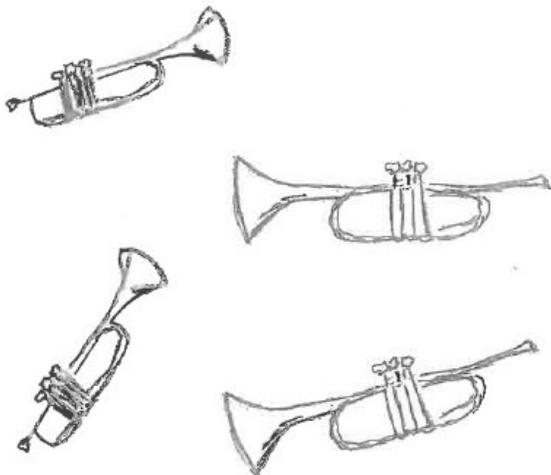
-Julia Volk and Iona Gilbert

ISAIAH 11:1



This is my interpretation of a Jesse tree. The tree holds significant events in the Bible leading up to Jesus birth.

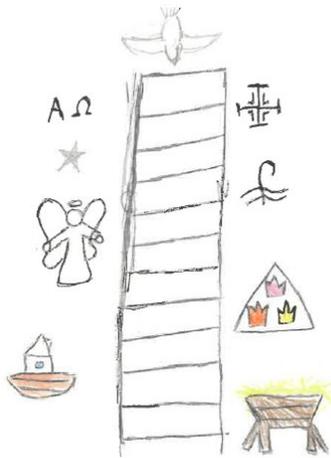
-Lila Niedenthal



These trumpets seem like a good symbol that represents the announcement of the Lord.

-Claire Niedenthal

Visual Representations from our Youth



This is my version of the Jesse ancestry tree with Jesus, the dove, descending down the ladder of Earth.

-Claire Niedenthal



The Advent Wreath reminds us each week as we light one candle of the wonderful things that we are preparing for. The angel coming to Mary, the birth of Jesus in a manger, the visit by the Shepherds, the Wise Men, and the choir of Angels.

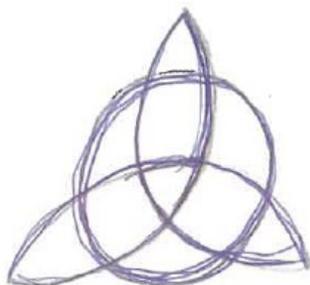
-Liza Volk



The cross on this branch is a symbol of Jesus on the branch of the Jesse tree. It could also be thought of as the tree of life.

The Trinity symbol stands for God the Father, Jesus the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

- Isa Slater



Stewardship

Financial Report

Below you will find September 2025 financial report for both the Operating Fund and the Building Fund. Thank you for your continued contributions.

General Fund				
	September 2025		YTD 2025	
	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget
Giving	35,922	46,568	420,464	419,116
Expenditures	47,076	46,568	409,655	419,116
Surplus (Loss)	(11,154)		10,809	

Building Fund				
	September 2025		YTD 2025	
	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget
Giving	2,688	5,658	83,947	50,924
Expenditures	5,658	5,658	77,249	50,924
Surplus (Loss)	(2,970)		6,698	

Caring for God's Creation – October Solar Report as of 10/30

October 1st was the highest producing day at 132.45KWh

Environmental Benefits



316K

Pounds of CO₂ Emission Saved



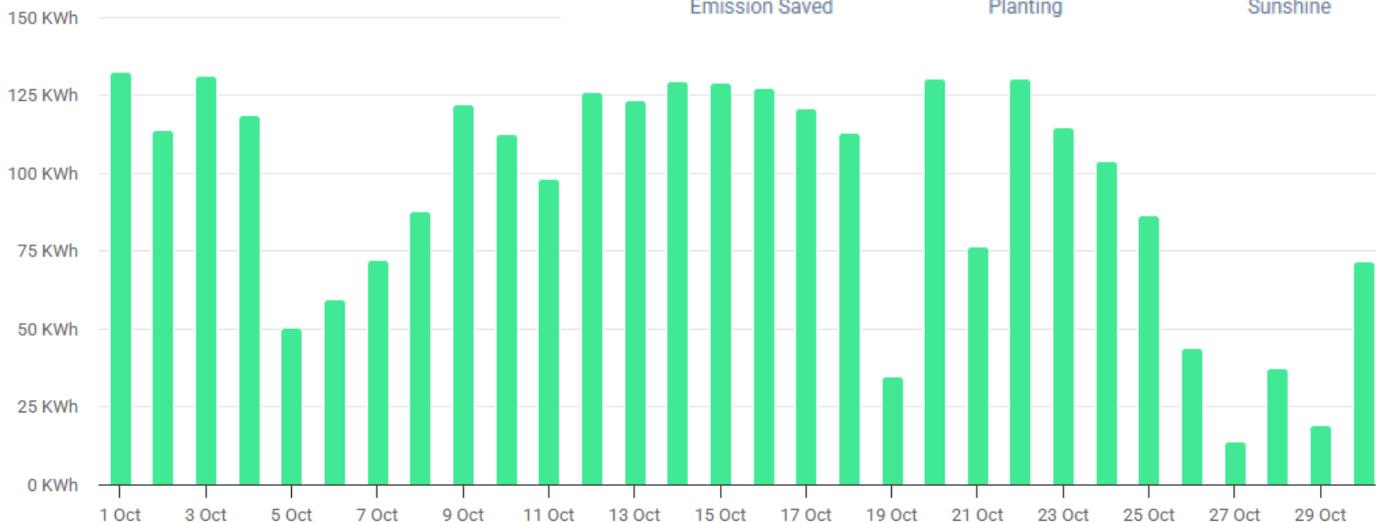
2,385

Equivalent Tree Planting



358k

Miles Driven on Sunshine



Sunday Calendar

November 2 - All Saints Sunday

Daniel 7:1-3, 15-18; Psalm 149
Ephesians 1:11-23; Luke 6:20-31

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

November 9 - 22nd Sunday after Pentecost

Job 19:23-27a; Psalm 17:1-9
2 Thessalonians 2:1-5, 13-17; Luke 20:27-38

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

November 16 - 23rd Sunday after Pentecost

Malachi 4:1-2a, Psalm 98
2 Thessalonians 3:6-13; Luke 21:5-19

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

November 23 - Christ the King

Jeremiah 23:1-6; Psalm 46
Colossians 1:11-20; Luke 23:33-43

8:30am.....Worship
9:45am.....Faith Formation
11:00am.....Worship
12:10pm.....Thanksgiving Dinner

November 30 - First Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 2:1-5; Psalm 122
Romans 13:11-14; Matthew 24:36-44

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

November Birthdays

Nov 1 David Roe
Nov 2 Martha Price
Mikka Yoos
Nov 3 Adam Lewis
Meaghan Schreck
Nov 4 Susan Reiser
Heather Smithson
Julia Volk
Liza Volk
Nov 7 Barbara Ulrichs
Nov 8 Jackie Harron
Tina Mueller
Rachel Brown
Nov 10 Kristina Lewis
Nov 13 Ann Johnson
Nov 15 Ryland Colburn
Nov 16 Linda Fobian
Nov 18 Torin Linton,
Adrienne Neighbors
Nov 19 Cord Doss
Nov 20 Anne Sites
Nov 21 Steven Burnett
Nov 23 Isabella Fontaine
Vickie Hauser
Nov 24 Jennifer Key
Wolfie Layne
Nov 26 Steve Fobian

November Anniversaries

Nov 4 Stan & Shanna Webb
Nov 9 Heather & Rex Nance
Nov 23 Jerry & Sheila Ray
Nov 28 Wolfie & Carolyn Otto

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

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Website:

www.stmarkslutheran.net

Office Hours:

Monday—Friday 8:30am-2:30pm