



St. Mark's
LUTHERAN CHURCH

RE:MARK'S—SEPTEMBER 2020

Sunday's in September

September 6th: Rally Day!

14th Sunday after Pentecost
9am—Adult Faith Formation via Zoom
10am—Sunday Worship—via Facebook
10:30am—Coffee Hour—via Zoom
5:30pm—Communion Worship Service @ St. Mark's—RSVP Required

September 13th:

15th Sunday after Pentecost
9am—Adult Faith Formation via Zoom
10am—Sunday Worship—via Facebook
10:30am—Coffee Hour—via Zoom

September 20th:

16th Sunday after Pentecost
9am—Adult Faith Formation via Zoom
10am—Sunday Worship—via Facebook
10:30am—Coffee Hour—via Zoom

September 27th:

17th Sunday after Pentecost
9am—Adult Faith Formation via Zoom
10am—Sunday Worship—via Facebook
10:30am—Coffee Hour—via Zoom

September Scripture:

September 6th

Ezekiel 33:7-11; Psalm 119:33-40;
Romans 13:8-14; Matthew 18:15-20

September 13th

Genesis 50:15-21; Psalm 103:[1-7] 8-13; Romans 14:1-12;
Matthew 18:21-35;

September 20th

Jonah 3:10--4:11; Psalm 145:1-8; Philippians 1:21-30;
Matthew 20:1-16

September 27th

Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32; Psalm 25:1-9; Philippians 2:1-13;
Matthew 21:23-32



Rally Day on Zoom—September 6

Join your St. Mark's family as we kick off a new academic year! On September 6 children, youth, and adults are invited to gather together and learn what the Faith Formation will be like this Fall as, for the time being, we continue to practice social distancing.



There will be time for music, an intergenerational activity, and time in breakout rooms with Sunday School teachers for children and youth.

Monday, September 7th—Labor Day. Please note that the church office will be closed...therefore, Faith and Fellowship will not be gathering on Monday, September 7th.



ST. MARK'S HAPPENINGS

Faith @ Home Bags and Faith Formation for Children and Youth

This Fall we will not be able to safely gather on Sunday mornings in classrooms at St. Mark's. In order to continue to gather and grow in faith, St. Mark's Sunday School teachers have prepared Faith @ Home bags for each child and youth in the congregation. Each bag will contain a month's worth of activities and resources to help children and parents learn at home. Faith @ Home bags will be delivered to homes the first Saturday of each month. On the first Sunday of each month (the next day), we will have a Zoom Sunday School with children, youth, and parents. Kids will have the opportunity to connect with teachers, and parents can learn about the resources that were included in their bags.

Parents- stay tuned for more information coming to your email soon!



New Adult Faith Formation class starting in September!



One Body - Welcome and Inclusion in the Church

September 13— October 4; 9am on Zoom

Join Deacon Katie as she leads a discussion about how we as the Body of Christ can welcome and include all people in the life of the Church. Starting September 13, we will have sessions on people with disabilities, poverty and homelessness, gender and sexuality, and children and youth.

Each week, a special guest will join the class to share their knowledge and experience with the demographic being discussed.

Communion Opportunities – We are beginning to offer in-person Communion Worship Services in the St. Mark's parking lot. Our next available date is: **Sunday, September 6th at 5:30pm**—Space is limited and RSVP is required. You can RSVP by calling the church office (828.253.0043). Please know we will continue to schedule these opportunities for us to gather. As dates are determined, we will share through email and during Sunday Worship on Facebook.



We understand not everyone is able to make it to the church to participate. We have a few other opportunities for participation. Please contact Scottie at 828.253.0043 or scottiemiller@stmarkslutheran.net to speak about the options St. Mark's has available.

Stories from Our Members—

The Racial Healing Team and Kari Warren would like to share a story with you all. Please click on the link below to read.

<https://wherearealltheyodapajamas.com/2020/01/21/separation-policy/>



COUNCIL CORNER

Greetings from the St Mark's Congregation Council! Highlights from our August 24 zoom meeting:



The second meeting of each month serves mainly for Council to touch base with one another and keep up with the everchanging realities of life in the pandemic.

However, at our August 24th meeting we did pass one motion to hire hire Jan Pro to clean the church twice monthly. This cleaning contract will meet current needs. Eileen is still providing some Facility Management. When pandemic is over and needs increase, we will re-evaluate and potentially re-negotiate the contract.

Thanks for giving us the opportunity to serve.

Amy Zellers, Council President

ROOTED IN FAITH UPDATE

Let everything that breathes praise the Lord! Praise the Lord!
Psalm 150:6

Years ago the people of St. Mark's began a process of discernment about how this congregation could best live out God's kingdom in our neighborhood. In conversation and prayer, major needs were identified within our walls and beyond them. Children living in low income households in our area did not have access to quality early childhood education. St. Mark's historic building needed major work to assure it would continue to be a welcoming place for proclaiming Christ into the future. Work spaces were not adequate for a staff that had grown to meet the needs of the ministry. Faced with these needs, you, the people of St. Mark's, decided to step up and do something. Praise the Lord for each of you who faithfully supported the Rooted in Faith Campaign, and praise the Lord that the renovations at St. Mark's are complete!



Because you heard God's call in this place, we are now pursuing a partnership with Christine Avery Learning Center to provide quality early childhood education in our newly renovated spaces! Our hope is that we will be able to begin serving children in early 2021.

Because of your faithfulness, leaking walls are repaired and stand ready to support ministry in this place for decades to come. With the interior renovation complete, all staff now have comfortable and productive spaces for the work of ministry.

Because God worked through the generosity of this congregation, new bathroom spaces in the commons and in the education wing provide accessible and welcoming facilities for both visitors and regulars. And with the addition of showers, St. Mark's will now be able support the ministry of other congregations with the ability to host groups on mission or youth trips.

Because of your commitment to ministry in this place, new spaces exist for faith formation, and existing spaces have the cooling systems they need to make them effective spaces for learning and ministry.

So on behalf of all the people who will be touched by the ministry of St. Mark's for years to come, thank you! Thank you for stepping out in faith to meet the needs. If you did not catch our dedication of new facilities when it premiered on August 23, please visit our Facebook page to see the new spaces and pray for their use (with some special guests)! And while it is true that our renovations are complete and that the pledge campaign period had ended, the exciting work of ministry in these spaces is just beginning. Will you continue to partner with us in both prayer and financial support? Any additional gifts to Rooted in Faith will be used to pay for these ministries.

I am so thankful for all the prayers, faithful planning, financial gifts, and good execution that have brought us to this place of celebration! May God continue to bless our ministry in this neighborhood for years to come!

Pastor Matt

ROOTED IN FAITH UPDATE—PICTURES



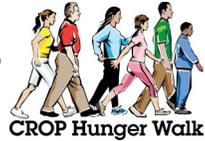
Pictures—Top two are new Faith Formation and social spaces
Bottom four are the new staff offices. Pastor Matt's office is seen in his article



ST. MARK'S IS ACTIVE IN THE COMMUNITY

Crop Hunger and (Covid-19)

Walk—St. Mark's continues to walk alongside our neighbors, near and far, through these tough health and financial times.



CROP Hunger Walk

When we walk in Asheville, we support local agencies Loving Food Resources, ABCCM, and Buncombe County Schools Meals Assistance Program. Church World Services embraces the whole world to help people with Covid-19 and hunger relief.

On **Sunday, September 27**, we ask you to take a thoughtful walk in your neighborhood, or other favorite place. We pray that you will be there with the rest of St. Mark's supporters. Whether you walk or not, please consider pledging to our St. Mark's team. The easiest way to make a donation is to access the web site: <http://www.crophungerwalk.org/ashevilenc/stmarkslutheran>.

You can also send a check ("Crop Hunger Walk") and mail it to: Daniel Dudde, 93 River Walk Drive, Asheville NC 28804.

All summer, St. Mark's has helped our neighbors in need. We made over 8000 sandwiches and chili for the ABCCM Crisis Ministry, and gave almost 200 towels and wash cloths to the WNC Rescue Mission.

Here's our next challenge: the "Crop Love your Neighbor Hunger Walk" on September 27. Can we count on you?

Voting by Mail is Easy

"We are called to conversation and prayer around our role as US residents, and as people of faith in ensuring our election systems promote dignity and respect for all". #ELCAVotes.



Voter registration deadline is October 9th.

In North Carolina, you don't need an excuse to vote "absentee". **Everyone is eligible to Vote by Mail!** Voting by Mail keeps you healthy and safe. The best way to protect yourself, your family, and your whole community during this time is to vote my mail.

Request an **absentee ballot application** from your county Board of Elections (Buncombe County: 250-4200) or print one out from their Web Site, which you can complete and return. Then, you will receive a ballot to mail in, without ever leaving your home. No waiting in line on election day!

(If you are concerned about the reliability of your postal service, you may wish to **drive** your application and ballot to the board of elections).

It's OK if you change your mind and decide you would rather vote in person on election day, or early voting. There are different deadlines for all these methods. If you will Vote by Mail, apply for your ballot **now**.

Your **Vote by Mail Ballot** will be mailed out to you starting Sept. 4. Remember, you do not have to be "absentee" to **Vote by Mail**. When you get your ballot, fill it out, and get it back to the Board of Elections right away so it will be counted.

Yarn Angels Update

As we continue to struggle with many different challenges, the Yarn Angels are working hard to complete projects that will provide comfort for the needy. Just to give you an idea—at last count, there are 64 hat/scarf sets, 17 prayer shawls, 17 hats, 24 various mitten combo sets, over 30 pocket crosses, and 24 baby hats ready for distribution. It is difficult to think working with yarn in the middle of the summer, so I offer a huge thank you to those who have continued this wonderful ministry in spite of the heat. In addition, we are now gathering and storing all the YA materials that were temporarily placed, into the beautiful new cabinets located in the "social room". Thank you so much to those doing this rewarding work and to all as we continue to share with "hearts and hands".



WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES AT ST. MARK'S

Please know all links to classes, fellowship, meeting, and worship opportunities can be found on our church calendar. Please visit www.stmarkslutheran.net—at the top left, click on Calendar of Events. Each event on the calendar is a clickable link with the information needed.

Sunday Service will continue on Facebook —10am

Thank you all for continuing to join us on Facebook for our Sunday Worship Services. We look forward to seeing you this Sunday at 10am, with music a few minutes beforehand.



St. Mark's Facebook page: www.facebook.com/stmarksasheville

Worship Booklet will be posted on our website and Facebook on Saturday prior to the Sunday service. www.stmarkslutheran.net

Adult Faith Formation Class—Join on Sundays for Adult Faith Formation 9:00am.

This class will be taught via Zoom. Use the following link to join, or access the link through the St. Mark's calendar.



Click here: [Faith Formation Zoom Link](#)

Contributions - Simply Giving and Mailed in checks

Thank you all for your continued donations at this time. Wanted to make sure it was clear on Online Donations - if you put in a credit or debit card, **there is a processing charge that gets taken out of your contribution.**

HOWEVER, if you set up an account using your routing number and checking account, then the fee is not taken out. If you are mailing in checks, please know we are making deposits every other week at this point.

If you have any questions about your contributions, please contact Scottie @ 980.474.6726.



Faith and Fellowship - Weekly Video Conferencing - Monday @ 10am & Thursdays @ 6pm These are ongoing opportunities for us to gather. Each call is through Zoom. Below are the links, or you can find the information on the St. Mark's calendar.

Mondays at 10:00am - [Click here on Monday to join the conversation](#)

Thursdays at 6pm - [Click here on Thursday to join the conversation](#)

Zoom - What is it? How do I use it?



[Click here for a document with information on how to use Zoom.](#)

If you need any technical assistance, please contact Scottie and she will walk through the steps. (#980.474.6726).