



St. Mark's  
LUTHERAN CHURCH

## RE:MARK'S—NOVEMBER 2020



### November 8th—In-Person Worship Opportunity

23rd Sunday after Pentecost

9am—Adult Faith Formation via Zoom

9am—Youth/ Faith Formation via Zoom

10am—Sunday Worship via Facebook

11am—In-Person Worship in the parking

lot @ St. Mark's—RSVP required

10:30am—Coffee Hour—via Zoom

### November 15th—In-Person Worship Opportunity

24th Sunday after Pentecost

9am—Adult Faith Formation via Zoom

9am—Youth/ Faith Formation via Zoom

10am—Sunday Worship via Facebook

11am—In-Person Worship in the parking

lot @ St. Mark's—RSVP required

10:30am—Coffee Hour—via Zoom

### November 22nd—Christ the King

9am—Adult Faith Formation via Zoom

10am—Sunday Worship via Facebook

10:30am—Coffee Hour—via Zoom

### November 29th—Advent I

Noisy Bucket

9am—Adult Faith Formation via Zoom

10am—Sunday Worship via Facebook

10:30am—Coffee Hour—via Zoom

2pm—Advent Extravaganza!

**Annual Congregational Meeting** will take place on Sunday, December 6th at 9am. Please save this date. More information is to come.



Please note this year, the meeting will be **via Zoom**. If you do not have access to Zoom, please contact Scottie to discuss how to be involved. 828.253.0043

### November Scripture:

#### November 8<sup>th</sup>

Amos 5:18-24; Psalm 70;

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18;

Matthew 25:1-13



#### November 15<sup>th</sup>

Zephaniah 1:7, 12-18; Psalm 90:1-8 [9-11] 12;

1 Thessalonians 5:1-11; Matthew 25:14-30

#### November 22<sup>nd</sup>

Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24; Psalm 95:1-7a; Ephesians 1:15-23; Matthew 25:31-46

#### November 29<sup>th</sup>

Isaiah 64:1-9; Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19; 1 Corinthians 1:3-9;

Mark 13:24-37

### Eileen Cram's Official Retirement Celebration!



She did it!! We cannot believe it either. To send her off properly, we are working on a social distance celebration.

Save the Date for Saturday, November 21st 10am. More details to come ...

# ST. MARK'S HAPPENINGS

## Advent Extravaganza—Sunday, November 29—2-4pm

Join us for this drop-in event in the parking lot as we kick off Advent!

Make an advent wreath, pick up devotion booklets and activities for children, and more! This event is for all ages and will be a joyous time with your church family as we prepare for the coming of Christ. Join us! Contact Deacon Katie if you have any questions or would like to help.

(The event will be moved into the Fellowship Hall in the event of unfavorable weather)



- 2 Martha Price
- 3 Adam Lewis
- 4 Susan Reiser, Heather Smithson, Julia Volk, Liza Volk
- 7 Barbara Ulrichs
- 8 Jackie Harron, Tina Mueller,
- 10 Kristina Lewis
- 13 Ann Johnson
- 15 Ryland Colburn
- 18 Torin Linton, Adrienne Neighbors
- 19 Cord Doss
- 20 Anne Sites
- 21 Steven Burnett
- 23 Isabella Fontaine, Vickie Hauser
- 24 Jennifer Key, Wolfie Layne

## Advent Schedule—Wednesday Evenings—Dinner & Worship

This year, we will still be gathering with our Ecumenical Church Partners for our Wednesday Advent Worship. Each of them leading a worship.



This year will look a little different though, as we will be gathering virtually.

For dinner, we will be sharing a soup recipe for each of you to try out at home. At 7pm, we will gather for worship via Facebook.

The dates for the Advent Wednesday Worship Are:  
December 2nd  
December 9th  
December 16th  
December 23rd

- 4 Stan & Shanna Webb
- 5 Robert & Gail McWithey
- 23 Jerry & Sheila Ray
- 28 Wolfie & Carolyn Otto



## A LITTLE HUMOR



"I don't know where Cain and Abel went for Thanksgiving, Son. I just know they didn't go to Grandma's."

# ST. MARK'S HAPPENINGS

## In-Person Worship— November 8th, 15th, and Wed, November 18th



We will be outside and social distancing in chairs RSVP is required. If you have your own chairs, we encourage you to bring these, as you may be more comfortable.

Please note, our online worship on Sundays at 10am will still be streaming - this service is another opportunity for us to Worship.

Sunday, November 8th & 15th at 11am  
Wednesday, November 18th at 12pm

## New Adult Faith Formation class starting in November—

Join Cantor David and James Aydelotte as they lead you through an adventure with music.



## November Healing Services—

Wednesday, November 18th @ 12pm—  
In-Person RSVP is required for this date.



## Noisy Bucket November ~ There are

5 Sundays this month, so you know what that means ~ NOISY BUCKETS! But it IS still 2020 and things are still different. Without knowing what our Worship service on Sunday, November 29th will look like, the Christian Action Team wants you to know that Noisy Buckets will go on!



## THANKSGIVING

The holidays will look a little different this year...beginning with Thanksgiving. For some of you, this may mean you will not see your family and friends.



Please know that no matter what, St. Mark's is here for you. We are only a phone call away.

We are wishing you all a Happy Thanksgiving and look forward to Thanksgiving 2021 when we will, once again, have our Annual St. Mark's Thanksgiving Lunch. Go ahead and save that date and start planning your recipes.

The women and children of the Steadfast House have been waiting what seems like forever to move into their new home, Transformation Village. Along with the shower curtains and liners you all graciously donated last month (Thank you!), they also have a list of needs to get them up and running:

- Towels and washcloths (white or beige or any neutral color)
- Dish towels & Potholders
- Yoga mats (at least 5)
- Salon-type things (curling irons, hair dryers, etc.)
- and Twin comforters/bedspreads (white or beige or anything neutral)

The money donated to the Noisy Buckets will go towards purchasing these items. If you would like to donate any of the actual items, that would be "paw-some!"

Lookout for the buckets during in person worship in November or you can send your donation to the church with your offering and designate it to "Noisy Buckets." The Christian Action Team is so grateful for all you are doing to continue showing God's love to our community. God's Work, Our Hands!

## NEWS & UPDATES

### St. Mark's Solar Impacts—Activated on June 26, 2020

-28.8KW system installed by Sundance Power Systems

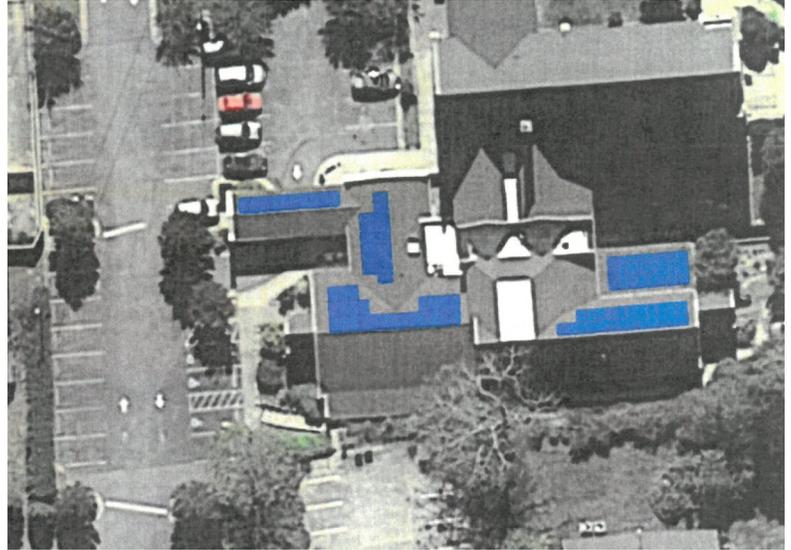
-89 REC, 325W Solar Panels

-So far has produced over 12 MWh of electricity

-Saved over 18,000 pounds of carbon emissions in the first 3.5 month, the equivalent of planting more than 135 trees

-Meets over 50% of electricity needs most months

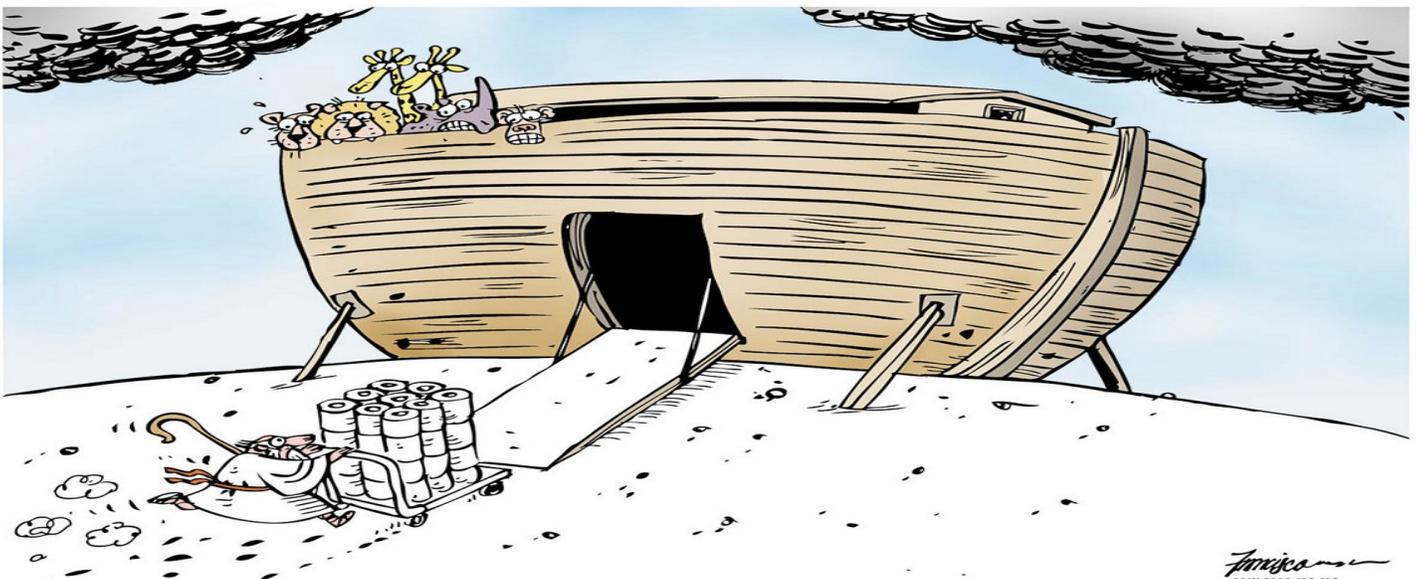
-Electric bills were about \$500 lower than last year in the months of August and September



## FINANCIAL UPDATE

<b>Operating Fund</b>	<b>September</b>	<b>YTD</b>	<b>Building Fund</b>	<b>September</b>	<b>YTD</b>
Income budgeted	\$41,409	\$372,681	Gifts received	\$ 615	\$17,822
Gifts received	\$24,264	\$343,821	Amount needed	\$ 2,201	\$19,808
Expenditures	\$31,331	\$285,504	Difference	\$(1,586)	\$(1,986)*
Difference	\$ (7,067)	\$58,316*	Loan balance 9/30/20	\$260,105	
<i>PPP Loan received totaled \$62,800</i>			<i>*\$42,547 on reserve</i>		

## WE COULD USE MORE



*Amico*  
MAR 17 2020

## RACIAL HEALING TEAM UPDATE

Family ~ Checking in. How are you doing?

The election is near. We are going on month 8 of the pandemic. The systems of racial inequality still exist. Folks in the Black and Brown community still do not feel safe when they leave their homes in the morning. Mean people are feeling more and more comfortable showing their meanness to others. Kids are stressed out and falling behind in school. Some kids are falling behind because of the ridiculous expense of having wifi. And we miss casually hanging out with our friends and family! Are you keeping up with all of it? Or have you grown tired of hearing about all of it?



Need a pep talk? Unfortunately I don't have one for you. When it comes to racial healing and having fair and equitable systems, there can be no "growing tired" of hearing about anything. *"I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery; you shall have no other gods before me. You shall not make for yourself an idol, whether in the form of anything that is in heaven above, or that is on the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth."* (Exodus 20: 2-4) White supremacy is an idol, y'all. So while we go out of our way to love God, we are also called to go out of our way to reject what is not of God. And white supremacy is certainly *not* of God. It is so important that we, as a church and as individuals, take steps every day to actively reject white supremacy without growing tired of doing so.

Many of us are learning about anti-racism as adults, but I think there IS hope in the fact that kids today are being taught differently than we were. I don't think American History textbooks have all been rewritten yet, but the little generation of kids watching the beloved show, Sesame Street, are certainly getting lessons in how to stand up to racism. In their special, [The Power of We](#), young viewers learn what racism is and how it can be hurtful, so they should speak up when they see something that's wrong and tell an adult. A lesson we can all use. Sesame Street also has a book called, [We're Different, We're the Same](#) that should be read to children over and over!

Ibram X. Kendi has a new baby board book titled, [Antiracist Baby](#). "Antiracist Baby is bred, NOT born." This powerful first sentence of the book begins your journey of nine steps to make equity a reality. Each step is important to read to the babies in your life, but Step 8 applies to all of us: "Grow to be an antiracist. Antiracist Baby is always learning, changing, and growing. Antiracist Baby stays curious about all people and isn't all-knowing." There is always something to learn, right? And when we know better, we can do better.

And we can be klutzy all the way while doing this work (we will say the wrong things, we will do the wrong things, we will think the wrong things), as long as we continue to move forward. What kind of anti-racist work have you been doing lately? Are you reading a good book? Watching documentaries? Have you VOTED??? Have you called or emailed Asheville City Council yet on behalf of our Black brothers and sisters? There is another opportunity to do so because it seems they are moving backwards and making it more difficult for folks to voice their concerns or comments. Read all about it, and take action, [here](#). (The RJC is the Racial Justice Coalition)

The good news is that WNC Baptist is still able to have their Sunday worship services inside at 11:00am (with masks, social distancing, and hand sanitizer) and the great news is that Rev Robbie Williams has been there. Please continue to pray for her as she is still not 100%, but it's wonderful to see her! Tyrone Greenlee is doing better and better after his heart surgery and is so thankful for all of the prayers being lifted for him.

But there are other people of color in our community who continue to suffer due to effects of racism. My Mexican-American neighbor and her children deal with the effects of hate speech almost on a daily basis, our

## RACIAL HEALING TEAM UPDATE CONT'D...

Black brothers and sisters are feeling disappointed with the lack of accountability of our local government, and really, none of us are living up to our full potential as long as others are suffering. It is past time for change, and I am so glad you are still in the fight!

Keep the faith and continue to pray, "Lord, help me get my whiteness out of the way so I can hear your truth and see you in others." ~God's peace

## COUNCIL CORNER

Greetings from the St Mark's Congregation Council! Here are some highlights from our October 12 Zoom meeting



Adorned with party hats and masks, we celebrated Pastor Matt's "Eve of Call". (Pastor Matt answered our call on October 13, 2019.) We are grateful that God called Pastor Matt to serve at St. Mark's and that he answered that call.

Blessing of the Animals was a wonderful time. Lots of people from the community attended – probably half of those in attendance. We'll do this again next year.

St. Mark's raised more money than ever before - \$6,100 - from the CROP walk.

Insurance: Get eligible personnel – Deacon Katie and Cantor David - on the Gold plan. Use \$2,000 from savings with Pastor Matt's insurance to have the gold plan. **Motion:** Finance Team moves that for 2021 St. Mark's provides the Gold insurance plan rather than the Silver plan to eligible employees. The anticipated cost increase is about \$2,000. This motion was approved.

*2021 NC Synod Assembly:* Barbara and Henry Ulrichs have agreed to serve as Voting Members to NC Synod Assembly. **MOTION:** The Executive Team moves that Barbara and Henry Ulrichs be nominees as Voting Members to the NC Synod Assembly and be approved by council for presentation at the congregational meeting. This motion was approved.

*2021 Young Adult to NC Synod Assembly:* Gloria Sainio has agreed to serve as Young Adult Voting Member to NC Synod Assembly: **MOTION:** The Executive Team moves that Gloria Sainio be the nominee as the Young Adult Voting Member to the NC Synod Assembly and be approved by council for presentation at the congregational meeting. This motion was approved.

*Constitution update.* Changes to our constitution are proposed that make it in line with the changes made at the ELCA churchwide assembly in 2016 and 2019. In the bylaws section – rearranged listing of committees to alphabetical order with the exception of committees that require voting members – as one is no more important than another – and now every team has a description of its purpose. Changed the council meeting agenda to the current mode of operations. Clarifies committee membership. NC Synod has to approve changes before they can go to the congregation. **MOTION:** The Constitution Committee moves that the changes to the Constitution and Bylaws be approved by Council for presentation at the Congregational Meeting, pending approval by the North Carolina Synod. This motion was approved.

Thanks for giving us the opportunity to serve.  
Amy Zellers, Council President

## 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](http://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](http://www.facebook.com/stmarksasheville)

Worship Booklet will be posted on our website and Facebook on Saturday prior to the Sunday service. [www.stmarkslutheran.net](http://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).