



RE:MARK'S

MAY 2021

We're back! Well, mostly...

Have you heard? St. Mark's is open for in-person, indoor worship at 8:30 and 11:00 each Sunday morning! And there's even a coffee hour in the courtyard! This calls for celebration, Psalm 150 style!

Praise the Lord with trumpet sound; praise the Lord with lute and harp!
Praise the Lord with tambourine and dance; praise the Lord with strings and pipe!

The Hebrew scriptures are filled with songs of praise and thanksgiving, many of which are appropriate for us as we transition back into the sanctuary for worship. As I think about the joy I've felt being back in the sanctuary with many of you, I've been thinking about the songs of praise that must have been lifted by the people of Israel returning from exile in Babylon. Almost 50 years after being taken into captivity, the remnant of the people finally had the chance to come home. They were back, O joyous day!



But the returning exiles also found that not everything was the way it had been before. Since the fall of Jerusalem and the destruction of the temple, pagan rituals had crept back in among the people. Economic oppression continued to make life difficult for most everyone. The temple was still in ruins (see Isaiah 56-66, Ezra, Haggai, and Zechariah). The returning exiles quickly found that simply being "back" didn't mean that everything was back to the way it had been before.

And this is where we find ourselves. We're back in the building, Praise the Lord! But not quite everything is back to the way it had been before. For the time being, we still ask you to visit our website or call the church office (M-F) to RSVP to worship. For the time being, we're still asking folks to sit 6 feet apart and wear masks. For the time being, communion is still seated with individually packaged elements. And as was the case for the people of Israel, I suspect some of us have picked up some less than ideal habits around our worship life while things were shut down.

It took the returning exiles more than 20 years to repair the temple in Jerusalem. Lord willing, it shouldn't take nearly that long for us to find familiar rhythms again. But in the meantime, we hold both realities in hand - we are back, and it's not the same yet. Perhaps holding those two realities is good practice for us as people of the resurrection who believe in the *already* of God's defeat of death, yet still live in the *not yet* with respect to the kingdom's fullness.

So if you are able, come back to worship with us in person! But also know that we will all need to remain extra flexible for a while as we continue to transition. And if you can't be with us in person for whatever reason, we are thankful that our livestream to Facebook is something we plan to continue indefinitely.

I'm hopeful that June could bring further transitions toward normal rhythms, but for today and the ability to be together, Praise the Lord! ~Pastor Matt

ST. MARK'S HAPPENINGS

Youth Schedule

Outdoor Movie Night – Saturday, May 8
Pizza and a Movie! Youth will meet on the Playground at 6pm to enjoy a flick on the big screen!



Mini-Golf – Sunday, May 16
The Youth Group will meet at Tropical Gardens Mini Golf on Patton Ave at 1pm for a round of mini-golf.

Coffee Hour ~ Are you interested in making lots of people happy? Then join the Coffee Ministry and be responsible for satisfied smiles at St. Mark's!



Contact Debbie Layne for the fun and easy details ~ laynedeb70@gmail.com or (828) 423-8434.

Family Clean-up Day - Saturday, June 5 - 10-12

Save the date! Come enjoy some time with your church family as we clean up both the church property and our neighborhood by picking up trash, pulling weeds, and more! Jobs for all ages and abilities. Questions? Contact either Deacon Katie or our new Facilities Manager Steve Henry.



YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY

Young Adult Ministry – Sunday Gatherings
Starting Sunday, May 23rd -
White Duck Taco – 4pm

Come hang out, grab a snack or a drink, and spend some time with other young adults from St. Mark's. We will share joys and struggles, pray, and just enjoy time together. This will be a weekly gathering, and plan to change locations every few weeks. Children and friends welcome!

Questions? Contact Deacon Katie

Do you miss singing hymns? We do too! While health guidelines continue to preclude in-person singing, we are making available three hymns every Sunday on our Facebook page.



If you watch the livestream, just stick around after the postlude. If you are attending in person, you'll find them as a separate post on our Facebook page, generally put up at noon each Sunday.

As always, you do not have to have a Facebook account to access these videos. If you don't have a hymnal at home, the words and music are being published on our website under "Ministry News." Make a joyful noise with us this Sunday!

Opening Back Up - As we continue to slowly open our doors, we are in need of help on Sunday mornings. If you are available, please contact the office (828.253.0043) to hear where you are needed.



The logo for the Lutheran Men in Mission group features a row of six stylized male faces in various colors (green, blue, yellow, purple, pink, and brown).
Lutheran Men in Mission - The LMIM group will begin gathering again in person and inviting any and all who would like to join, to come on!

Please contact Warren Wheeler if interested or in need of more information. Warren's number is - 330.321.4848

ST. MARK'S HAPPENINGS

New Adult Faith Formation Classes beginning the May 5th

The Wired Word

The Wired Word is a curriculum that takes a news story and has participants consider how they respond to events as people of faith. This class meets both on Zoom and in the Library at 9:45.

New class starting May 30!

James Aydelotte will lead us through the book *Teach us to Pray* by Justo Gonzalez, which provides a historical view of the Lord's prayer with modern day application. This class will meet both on Zoom and in the Library at 9:45.



Children's Summer Faith Formation

Starting May 30 we will have "One room Sunday School" for children age 3-Grade 5! We will meet in the Fellowship Hall on Sundays at 9:45 for story time, crafts, and games. Questions? Want to help? Contact Deacon Katie



All Are Invited to Scottie's Send-Off -

Saturday, May 15th, we will say our goodbyes to Scottie & Holden as they move on to their next chapter - and location. Festivities begin at 11am in the Parking Lot at St. Mark's.



INTRODUCING OUR NEW STAFF

Our New Parish Administrator Is...Danielle James!

Danielle James, is a native of Asheville, North Carolina. After living in the Charlotte area for almost eight years, she has decided to listen to the Lord calling her home to the mountains and has relocated back to be closer to her family. Danielle, and her four year old son Walter, are often found exploring the beauty of Western North Carolina. Danielle's background is in elementary education but she has experience working as a Parish Administrator in a liturgically based church. She has a passion for literacy and continues to nurture this passion through curriculum development and pleasure reading - when time allows!

We are happy to Welcome Danielle to the St. Mark's Family. She starts on May 17th.



Our New Facility Manager Is...Steve Henry!

Steve Henry was born in Germany and is a long-time resident of Asheville. Having worked in a variety of trades, he brings many skills with him for the task here at St. Mark's. He is happily married to Anita and has 2 children and 1 grandchild. Steve enjoys hiking, sailing, canoeing, kayaking. He also has a hidden talent (and passion) for making giant bubbles...yes, BUBBLES!

We are happy to Welcome Steve to the St. Mark's family. His first day was April 19th.



SCRIPTURES IN MAY

May 2

Acts 8:26-40; Psalm 22:25-31; 1 John 4:7-21; John 15:1-8



May 9

Acts 10:44-48; Psalm 98; 1 John 5:1-6; John 15:9-17

May 16

Acts 1:15-17, 21-26; Psalm 1; 1 John 5:9-13; John 17:6-19

May 23

Acts 2:1-21; Psalm 104:24-34, 35b; Romans 8:22-27; John 15:26-27; 16:4b-15

May 30

Isaiah 6:1-8; Psalm 29; Romans 8:12-17; John 3:1-17

NEWS & UPDATES

Council Corner

Greetings from the St Mark's Congregation Council! Here are some highlights from our April 2021 Zoom meeting:

Steve Henry will be our new Facilities Manager starting April 19.

13 applications have been received so far for the Parish Administration position.

Synod Assembly is June 3-5. This is a bishop's election year!

Faith Formation will be a hybrid (live and on line!) starting April 18. Be sure to register if you plan to attend in person.

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

HOW ST. MARK'S IS INVOLVED IN THE COMMUNITY... GET INVOLVED

Dinners Needed for Transformation Village -

TV Dinners ~ No, not the frozen dinners you might remember from the past. The CAT's TV Dinners are the equivalent of our Steadfast Suppers, but they are now being served at the brand new Transformation Village (get it? we're hilarious, right?).

We need your help supplying just a bit more food and would love for you to join us in this paw-some ministry. We serve the dinner on the 3rd Friday of each month and there are many ways to help. You might want to jump right in by supplying food AND helping us serve the ladies and children, or you might just want to drop the food off and then leave. Everyone has their own comfort level and we are happy to work with you. For instance, Transformation Village might be too far for you to drive. That is okay ~ drop your food at St. Mark's and we'll deliver it for you! How easy is that?



If you are interested, we do have a set menu, and we can share the details. Contact Debbie Layne for more info ~ laynedeb70@gmail.com or (828) 423-8434. God's Work, Our Hands!

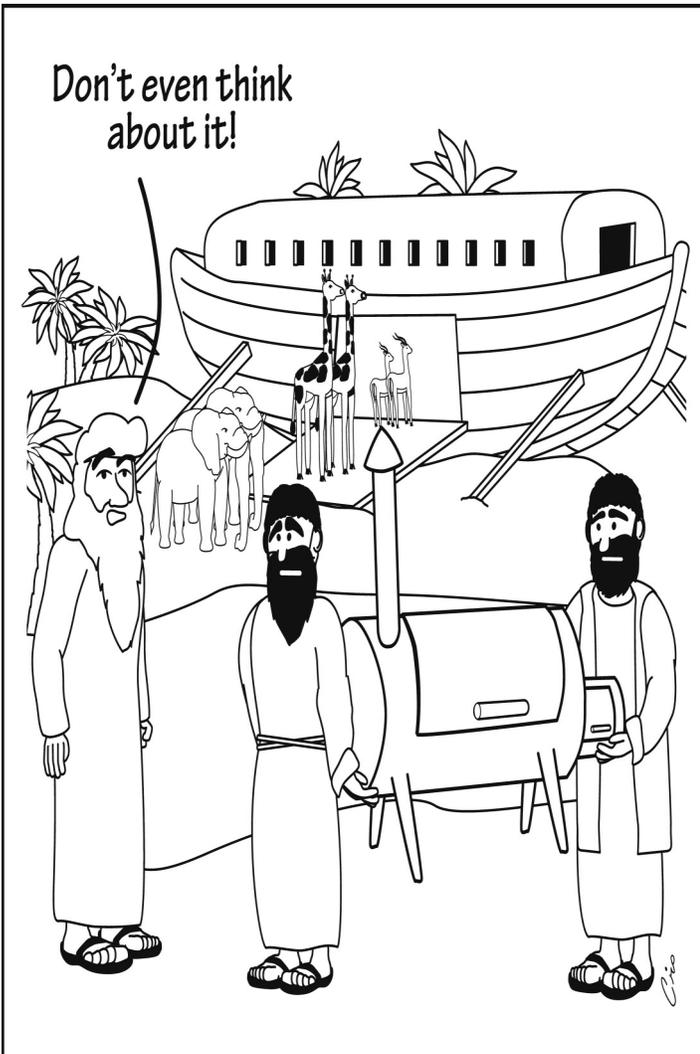
FINANCIAL REPORT MARCH 2021

Operating Fund	March	YTD
Income budgeted	\$38,913	\$116,739
Gifts received	\$33,056	\$154,438
Expenditures	\$36,745	\$104,524
Difference	-\$3,688	\$49,914



- 2 Ann Marie Miller
- 4 Augustus Mott
- 6 Harmony Fox
- 7 Lucy Kopp
- 9 Jamie Rhodes
- 11 Gracie Hartmann
- 12 Harry Thompson, Randy Warren,
Mitch Williams
- 14 Sherrie Hygon
- 15 Hannah Smith
- 16 Carol Sturm
- 17 Lucinda Morin
- 19 Kip Otterness, Katie Rivers
- 21 Stan Webb
- 23 Al Tenty
- 24 Lila Niedenthal
- 25 Paisley Miller
- 27 Betty Thompson
- 28 Mark Fritch, Sharon Godfrey
- 30 Christopher Lindsay
- 31 Linda McHenry, Rob Miller

HUMOR CORNER



- 4 Bill & Sherrie Hygon
- 7 Philip & Naomi Otterness
- 19 David & Adrienne Neighbors
- 27 Matt & Sarah Volk
- 28 Carl & Mary Schreck
- 29 Bob & Becky Sachsenmaier

St. Mark's Lutheran Church
10 N. Liberty Street
Asheville, NC 28801



ST. MARK'S LUTHERAN CHURCH
10 N. Liberty Street, Asheville, NC 28801
Mail: P.O. Box 8608, Asheville, NC 28814
Phone: 828-253-0043
E-mail: admin@stmarkslutheran.net
Website: www.stmarkslutheran.net

STAFF:

Pastor: Pastor Matt Smith
Director of Discipleship & Faith Formation:
Deacon Katie Rivers
Cantor: David Anderson
Parish Administrator: Scottie Miller
Pastor of Caring Ministries:
The Rev. Linda McHenry
Facilities Manager: Steve Henry

Church Office Hours:
Mon.-Thu. 8:30 a.m.—4:30 p.m.
Fri. 8:30 a.m.—12:30 p.m.

OUR MISSION:

Making disciples by loving Christ,
growing in faith, serving all people

OUR VISION:

Transforming lives through God's grace as an
inclusive, intergenerational congregation
through Worship, Outreach,
Learning and Fellowship