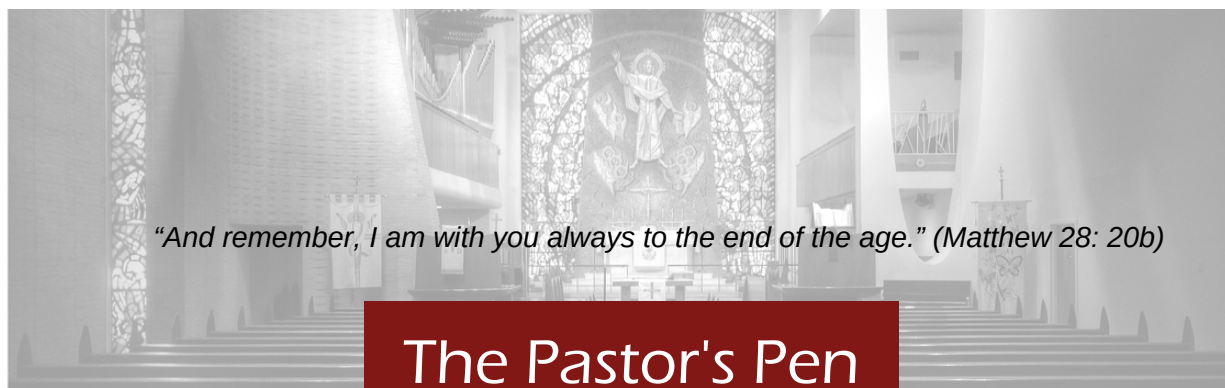


# ReMarks

June 2023

## St. Mark's Lutheran Church



*"And remember, I am with you always to the end of the age." (Matthew 28: 20b)*

### The Pastor's Pen

Dear Friends in Christ,

These words of Jesus at the very end of Matthew's gospel are words of grace. Jesus' words are grace because he has been with and continues to be with his disciples of every age. He is with us today at St. Mark's and he promises to remain with us in all that we do in his name.

These final words of Jesus conclude what is often called "The Great Commission." However, these words cannot simply be lifted out of Matthew's gospel, becoming a mere slogan to advance our own cultural or programmatic agendas. Jesus' words are the promise of his ongoing presence in his disciples. His disciples are to embody the good news that Jesus is alive and his kingdom continues to cross the boundaries and limits of every place and time.

Jesus' words remind us of his work in Matthew's gospel, of calling his disciples, saying, "Follow me." They remind us that he calls us "blessed" when we are merciful to others and work for peace. They remind us that we are to love our enemies and pray for our persecutors. As he ate with the sinful and forgave them, his presence helps us to do the same. He continues to say, "Your faith has made you well," encouraging all to come to him with their heavy burdens.

As he strengthened Peter's faith to get out of the boat, he encourages us to believe that we can do what may seem impossible. He had compassion for the crowds and fed the hungry, and continues to invite us to follow him, denying ourselves by serving others. He promises to know us by our feeding of the hungry, welcoming of the stranger, clothing the naked, visiting the sick and the imprisoned. He gave his life so that we might live to tell our neighbor that in him they too will never die.

"I am with you always to the end of the age," is Jesus' promise containing all of the power you will ever need in your life to live for others. His presence will make you bear good fruit, and in you, others will see and know the kingdom of heaven in this world.

He is with you so that you might be his grace, peace and love for others. Jesus sends you every day as light in the darkness and as love in the midst of hatred. He goes with you so that you might see him in the face of your neighbor.

In his grace and peace, Pastor Tim McKenzie

1001 Queens Road, Charlotte, NC 28207 | 704.375.9185 | [stmarkscharlotte.org](http://stmarkscharlotte.org)

July 2023 ReMarks deadline is 6/19/22

Email articles/pictures to [stmarkselca1001@gmail.com](mailto:stmarkselca1001@gmail.com)



# May Council Highlights

On 5/8/2023, the congregational council held their monthly meeting in the choir room.

From the Pastor's Report:

- 4/30 – Pastor CeCee Mills preached and led well-attended session on Call Process
  - o Thank you to Congregational Life Committee for organizing the fried chicken lunch
- 4/30 – Queen City Ringers Spring Concert: “Reconciliation: Tune My Heart to Ring”
- Memorial Services
  - o 4/22 – Betty Lentz
  - o 5/6 – Avery Grace Lepkowski
- 5/6 – Men's Group 1-Year Anniversary Breakfast
  - o St. Mark's Men's Group held a potluck breakfast in the Fellowship Hall

From the Treasurer's Report:

- 2023 4-month budget: Surplus of ~\$10,000
  - o Since start of year, congregation has given approximately 105% of pledges and total expenses are at 93% of budget
    - Committees have under-spent based on budgeted allocations
    - No money spent on additionally-budgeted team member
  - o No anticipation that we will maintain high giving and low spending for the rest of the year
    - Multiple deferred expenses, including the roof which requires immediate attention

Other topics during meeting:

- Neil Dixon, Property Committee Vice President, attended the meeting to discuss options for the roof replacement.
- The Pastor and Jay Jacobs are reviewing the Ministry Site Profile which will be used during the calling process for a Rostered Minister.
- The council approved the following motions:
  - o Based on initial survey results from congregation and results of well-attended congregation meeting with Pastor CeCee Mills, council will seek to form a Call Committee to call an additional Rostered Minister. Email will be sent to congregation to introduce need for and next steps to form Call Committee. In email, the constitution will be quoted for transparency. Once email is sent, congregation will have two weeks to submit nominations. The Synod stipulates that Pastor Tim will be one of the six members of the Call Committee.
  - o Hold congregational meeting to discuss total flat roof replacement, which excludes the sanctuary and chapel rooves, on Sunday, June 4th. Council will pursue a capital campaign appeal directly to the congregation. Alternative financing options will be researched by council and practicable bids from roofing companies will be researched by property.

Peace,

A.J. Pridgen, Council Secretary

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# From St. Mark's Council

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## *St. Mark's Special Congregational Meeting*

6/4/2023 Holy Trinity Sunday  
immediately following  
the 10:30 am service.

*Regarding the church roof replacement*

Thank you for your faithfulness in service  
together to Christ at St. Mark's!

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# Around St. Mark's

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John Graham of the Property Committee can often be seen around St. Mark's changing light bulbs and rewiring fixtures for more energy efficient LED bulbs. John has said that if you would like to learn how to do this, he is happy to teach! Thank you, John!



The 5/28 altar flowers were given by the Temple family in loving memory of Sam Temple, who could often be seen as a volunteer at St. Mark's reception desk answering the phone and greeting visitors. Sam served St. Mark's in many ways, and we give thanks to God for his life. He will be missed.

# Congregational Life

## Kay Sehorn Committee Chairperson

### Ethnic Restaurant Group



The Ethnic Restaurant Group will dine at Hacienda El Rey on June 20, 2023 at 7:00 PM.

Hacienda El Rey is a family owned restaurant that brings flavors from the central east-coast of Mexico in an upscale setting. Birrias are a special feature at this location. Standard Mexican dishes abound, and the desserts offer a delicious cap to the varied flavors of composed entrees. Hacienda El Rey will provide a most rewarding dining experience!

RSVP to Tom and Judy Tolbert (please contact the church office) by Sunday evening before this dinner to assure seating.



Hacienda El Rey is located at 1361 Chestnut Lane, Matthews (Indian Trail) NC 28104. Hacienda El Rey is located beside HarrisTeeter at the intersections of Chestnut Lane and Potter Road. If you are south of Matthews and I-485 on East John Street, Potter Rd turns to the right and continues 1.2 miles to this HarrisTeeter shopping center. Several HarrisTeeter stores are nearby, and Hacienda El Rey has another restaurant in Waxhaw; make sure to go to the correct one.

A group of seven men standing outdoors in front of a stone wall. They are wearing various hats and clothing, including a white sweatshirt with "DUKE" on it, a blue jacket, and several high-visibility yellow vests. The text "SAINT MARK'S MEN'S GROUP" is overlaid in a white box at the top. Below the photo, there is a white box with text about a meeting and cleanup.

**SAINT MARK'S MEN'S GROUP**

**Saturday, June 10 at 9 AM in the Fellowship Hall**  
**After the meeting: Adopt-a-Street cleanup**

Please join us for our monthly meeting, and stay to serve with us, helping to clean the Charlotte streets that St. Mark's Men's Group has adopted. All are Welcome!

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# Congregational Life

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## Kay Sehorn Committee Chairperson



### St. Mark's Book Study Group

The St. Mark's Book Study Group will meet on Thursday, June 22, at 10 am in the large conference room and via Zoom. Our study this month is *A Single Thread* by Tracy Chevalier. This is an immersive, moving story of a woman coming into her own at the dawn of the Second World War. After World War I took both her beloved brother and her fiancé, Violet Speedwell has become a "surplus woman," one of those doomed to a life of spinsterhood after the war killed so many young men. Yet Violet cannot reconcile herself to a life spent caring for her grieving, embittered mother. Eventually she moves to Winchester, home to one of England's grandest cathedrals. There, Violet is drawn into a society of embroiderers—women who embroider kneelers for the Cathedral, carrying on a centuries-long tradition of bringing comfort to worshipers. She finds support and community in the group, and fulfillment in the work they create. But when forces threaten her new independence and another war appears on the horizon, Violet must fight to put down roots

in a place where women aren't expected to grow. Told in Chevalier's glorious prose, *A Single Thread* is a timeless story of friendship, love, and a woman crafting her own life. All are welcome to participate in this study. Please contact Kay Sehorn or Judy Tolbert for more information.

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# Gifts & Memorials

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## Jay Jacob Committee Chairperson

### In Memory of Marie Anne Daniels

Barry & Rachel Fulp - Social Ministry Fund  
Paul & LeeAnn Babinski - Gifts & Memorials

### In Memory of Betty Lentz

Dale & Mary Lou Hopp - Lenten Box  
Marilyn Kroll - Gifts & Memorials

### In Memory of Avery Grace Lepkowski

Her Loving Family - Pastor's Discretionary Fund  
Gary & Linda Trigiani - Children's Ministry Fund

### In Memory of Jane Lawing Waggoner

Joel & Cathy Ritchie - Gifts & Memorials  
Joanne Marz - Property Fund  
Benny & Judy Cox - Gifts & Memorials  
Robert M. & Jane Hutchison Taylor - Gifts & Memorials

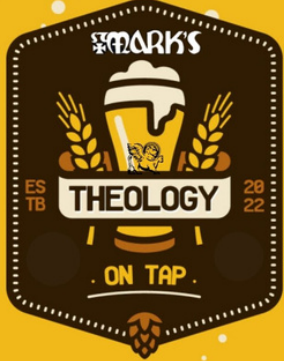
### In Memory of Tom and Jane Lawing Waggoner

David & Linda Wyatt - Youth Ministry Fund  
David & Linda Wyatt - St. Mark's Seniors Fund

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# Family Ministry

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## THEOLOGY ON TAP

**Thursday,  
June 15 at 7pm -**  
Middle James Brewery  
400 N. Polk Street, Pineville  
All are welcome!



Pictured:  
May Theology on tap  
group at the Vaulted  
Oak Brewery.

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**The Family Ministry Committee would like to recognize our 3 High School graduates:**

Lucy Ilderton (who graduated in January 2023)

Brooks Stevenson (University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill)

Kelsey Smith (Dance study, Joffrey Ballet; Honors College, George Mason University)

**Congratulations College Graduates:**

Jacob Wenzel - UNCC with a Computer Engineering degree

Ainsley Stevenson -Appalachian State University with a Global Studies degree

**Graduate School:**

Claire Dixon-University of South Carolina with a Masters of Science in Aerospace Engineering

**God bless and lead all of our graduates into their new life chapters!**

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# Worship & Music

Kevin Feezor Committee Chairperson

## Vespers at St. Mark's

QCR Spring Concert May 30, 2023



The Queen City Ringers gave their annual Spring Concert "Reconciliation: Tune My Heart to Ring!" It was a well attended event. The Queen City Ringers calls St. Mark's "home" and we are grateful for their ministry of music to the wider community of Charlotte. After the concert, the young and "young at heart" were encouraged to check out the bells and ask questions. Thank you to Bill D'Happart, spouse of one of the ringers, for the marvelous photos!

# Worship & Music

Kevin Feezor Committee Chairperson

## May Worship Highlights



Solo vocal quartet, Fourth Sunday of Easter: Christian Souza, Micah Deer, Deleenn Rumbolo, Madeline Phillips



St. Mark's Choir, Fourth Sunday of Easter



Communion Assistants, Fourth Sunday of Easter



Queen City Ringers Spring Concert, Sunday, April 30th



St. Mark's Handbells, Sunday, May 7th, Fifth Sunday of Easter



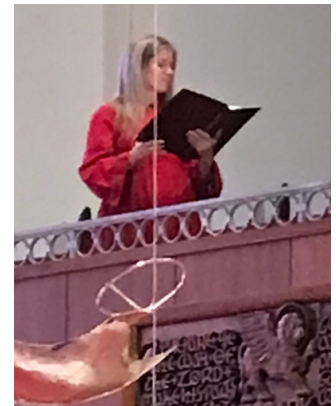
8:30 Worship song leaders and cantors, Amy Woodall, Micah Deer, Sixth Sunday of Easter



Lakeman family: Charles, Susan, Jonathan and Michael, Sixth Sunday of Easter



Madeline Phillips, Christian Souza, Jack Richardson, Deleenn Rumbolo, cantors; Seventh Sunday of Easter



Kate Suchanek, soprano soloist, Seventh Sunday of Easter

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# Worship & Music

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Kevin Feezor Committee Chairperson

We Sing the Faith

Historical and Spiritual Insight Into the Hymns We Sing

Reflections by Lester Ackerman

## "Christ Is Alive! Let Christians Sing" ELW 389

was penned by Brian Wren (b.1936) for Easter of 1968, just ten days after the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Wren is a minister in the United Reformed Church of England and Wales. He has revised this hymn several times, with the version in Evangelical Lutheran Worship completed in 1993. His hymn reminds us that the risen Christ is not far away from our lives. Christ is alive, and suffers with us, yet lives and comes to us with good news, "till all of creation rings with joy, justice, love and praise." The tune TRURO is named for a city in Cornwall, England, and we believe written by Thomas Williams, from a collection of his hymns entitled *Psalmodia Evangelica*, published in 1789.

## "Sing with All the Saints in Glory" ELW 426

This Easter hymn was written by William J. Irons (1812-1883) with first publication in 1873. Inspired by 1 Corinthians 15:20, it celebrates the meaning of the eternal life won for us in Christ's resurrection. The text looks beyond individual deaths to the consummation of all things, when "the storms of times shall cease.

## "Now Thank We All Our God" ELW 840

This French Easter hymn was written by Edmond Budry (1854-1932) with its first publication in 1885. Budry was pastor for thirty-five years of the Free Church in Vevey, Switzerland. He begins this hymn with a line of praise to the risen Christ, then repeated after each stanza in the refrain. It tells of angels who rolled the stone away, alludes to Jesus' encounter with the women at the tomb, and refers to the doubting of Thomas. The tune JUDAS MACCABAEUS is by George Frideric Handel (1685-1759) and is from his oratorio *Judas Maccabeus*.

## "Holy Spirit, Truth Divine" ELW 398

Samuel Longfellow (1819-1892), brother of American poet and educator Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, is the author of this Pentecost hymn. Samuel was a Unitarian pastor and poet. Each stanza names one of the qualities of the Holy Spirit (Truth, Love, Power, Peace and Right), and prays that each quality may be acted upon in the life of all Christians. The tune SONG 13 was composed by sixteenth century English composer and organist Orlando Gibbons (1583-1625).

## "Crown Him with Many Crowns" ELW 855

This hymn was extracted from two six stanza hymns, twelve stanzas total. From Matthew Bridges (1800-1894) we have stanzas one, two, three, and five, and from Godfrey Thring (1823-1903) stanza four. Both hymn writers were inspired by the passage from Revelation 19:12 "and on his head were many crowns." Each stanza itemizes the characteristics of the risen Lord: "The Lamb upon his throne," "The Lord of love," "The Lord of life," and "The Lord of years." George Elvey (1816-1893) wrote the tune DIADEMATA for this hymn, with its first publication in the 1868 edition of *Hymns Ancient and Modern*. The tune name DIADEMATA is derived from the Greek word for crown or diadems, a royal headband.

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# Worship & Music

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Kevin Feezor Committee Chairperson

We Sing the Faith

Historical and Spiritual Insight Into the Hymns We Sing  
Reflections by Lester Ackerman

## "I Come with Joy" ELW 482

This hymn comes to us from the pen of contemporary British pastor and hymn writer Brian Wren (b. 1936). Written in the summer of 1968, the hymn was intended as a complement to a series of sermons on the meaning of communion. Wren gathers in all the elements of the Lord's Supper-joy, forgiveness, remembrance, community, love, praise, thanksgiving, and dedication. He writes: "The hymn moves from the individual ('I come') to the collective (we'll go'). Stanza four describes Christ's 'real presence' in the faith community and in the communion meal." The tune DOVE OF PEACE is from The Southern Harmony, (New Haven, 1835), a hymnal compiled by William Walker (1809-1875).

## "God of Tempest, God of Whirlwind" ELW 400

This relatively new Pentecost hymn was first published in 2000 in a collection entitled Awake Our Hearts to Praise! The author is Herman Stuempfle (1923-2007) a professor of preaching at Gettysburg Seminary, where he eventually became Dean for five years, and then President of the college for thirteen years. Dr. Paul Westermeyer says of this hymn: "a whole series of images and attributes of the spirit are called out-- in this case not the gentle ones, but powerful ones of tempest and whirlwind, blazing and burning, earthquake and thunder, and passion without sleep. The petitions are equally powerful: drive us to costly service, let your flaming Spirit surge and kindle truth against the deceit of injustice, break the chains of sin and walls that divide, and stir in us a restlessness that is not content with evil. Strong stuff!" The Welsh tune CWM RHONDDA (Rhondda Valley) is paired nicely with this text, as well as two additional hymns in Evangelical Lutheran Worship, #618, "Guide Me Ever, Great Redeemer", and #705, "God of Grace and God of Glory".

## "Creator Spirit, Heavenly Dove" ELW 578

is the classic Latin Pentecost hymn. Usually attributed to Rhabanus Maurus (776-856), Martin Luther made one of the earliest translations to German, and also modified the original Sarum plainsong of ELW 577 into the simpler congregational tune we know as KOMM, GOTT SCHOPFER.

## "Come, Join the Dance of Trinity" ELW 412

This hymn is the work of American hymn writer and pastor Richard Leach (b. 1953), who wrote this hymn in 2002 for the 250th anniversary of Trinity Church on the Green, in New Haven, Connecticut. Leach says of his hymn: "Dancing has a very long association with the Trinity, going back to eighth century theologians who used the word perichoresis to speak of the interdependence of unity and Trinity. 'Dance around' is a literal translation of the word, but its sense is 'interweaving,' and I use that in the hymn." In his Hymnal Companion to Evangelical Worship (2010) Dr. Paul Westermeyer writes of this hymn: "What we get here, then, is the church in motion with a winsome welcome by and to the God of its being-an invitation to dance the Trinity's interweaving dance that 'began' before all worlds began, to see the Trinity's face in Christ's human flesh and bone, to speak aloud the Trinity's wind and flame that frees us to move, and then to shape the rising song in joy." The tune KINGSFOLD is an English folk tune named for the town in Surrey, England.

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# Worship & Music

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Kevin Feezor Committee Chairperson

## June Serving Schedule

### Crucifer/Acolyte

6/4 C/A: Brady Ferner  
6/11 C/A: Michael Lakeman  
6/18 C/A: Needed  
6/25 C/A: Michael Lakeman

### Prayer Assistants

6/4 Brooks Stevenson  
6/11 Dave Dunlap  
6/18 Bill Schwartz  
6/25 Tom Tolbert

### Greeters

6/4 Millie Cansler  
Jay Jacob  
6/11 Eileen Dunlap  
Charles & Susan Lakeman  
6/18 Gretchen Dodge  
Neil & Charlotte Dixon  
6/25 Joanne Marz  
Tom & Kay Sehorn

### Sound System

6/4 Kevin Feezor  
6/11 Alan Harms  
6/18 Neil Dixon  
6/25 John Brumbaugh

### Lectors

6/4 Brooks Stevenson  
6/11 Lisa Barnette  
6/18 Flora Chance  
6/25 Maddie Thompson

### Communion Assistants

6/4 Barbara Baker, Susan Lakeman  
Chris & Brooks Stevenson  
Janice Miller  
6/11 Nick Wartner, Janice Miller  
Kevin & Karen Feezor  
Gretchen Payne  
6/18 Ken Hazen, Lisa Barnette  
Rebecca Huang, Flora Chance  
Nick Wartner  
6/25 Barbara Baker, Ruth Barrett  
Charles & Susan Lakeman  
A.J. Pridgen

### Tabulators

6/4 Charles Lakeman  
Dianne Thomas  
6/11 Karen Feezor  
Meg Fielding  
6/18 Joe Barrett  
Alan Harms  
6/25 Charles Lakeman  
Karen Feezor

### Communion Helpers

6/4 Karen Covington  
6/11 Catherine Metze  
6/18 Sandy Rach  
6/25 Kay Finlon

### Video Streaming

6/4 Charles Lakeman  
6/11 A.J. Pridgen  
6/18 A.J. Pridgen  
6/25 Ron Wenzel

### Ushers

Team B: Doug Milheim, Marc Ginns, Susan Ginns, Eddie Goodall, A. J. Pridgen, Sean Fielding

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## June Birthdays

6/1 Melody Johnson  
6/3 Will Miles  
6/3 Sydney Payne  
6/4 Gene Ellington  
6/4 Elizabeth Wenzel  
6/7 Kevin Feezor  
6/7 Susan Johnson  
6/10 Janice Miller  
6/14 Judy Frye

6/14 Samuel Parrish  
6/14 Seth Parrish  
6/16 Mark Thornton  
6/17 Marilyn Graham  
6/17 Meg Fielding  
6/20 Michael Thompson  
6/21 Mari McKenzie  
6/21 John Simon

6/22 Vicki Holtz-Longshaw  
6/23 James Frazier  
6/23 Natalie Howarth  
6/23 Kelsey Smith  
6/24 Easton Foley  
6/24 Anna Kreps  
6/25 Kendal Ferner  
6/26 Avery Schwartz  
6/28 Brooks Stevenson