



*Our Mission
To Proclaim the Gospel
To Make Disciples
To Embody Christ's Love*

From The Pastors Desk

**Grace and Peace
Friends of St. Mark's Lutheran Church,**

I pray that you are all doing well as we enter the month of December. This is a groovy season to notice the many ways God is at work for us and through us every day. I want to share a few of the places where I've seen God at work recently, and what I'm looking forward to in the weeks ahead here at St. Mark's.

November was a full month, filled with love, service, and fellowship. Early in the month, I had a great time working with our youth to make candy-themed decorations for the Christmas Parade float. It was a joy to work alongside our youth and parents—plus, making a little mess with glue and glitter made it even more fun! A special thank-you to Gigi Sigmon, Wendy Hefner, and Judy Carpenter for leading that event as we prepare for the Claremont Christmas Parade this December.

Another highlight from November was our Gifts from the Heart ministry, where we hosted a free shopping day for people in the community with mental challenges. It was a beautiful time of fellowship and service. Thank you to everyone who helped make that day possible—you shared God's love in such a meaningful way.

We also had the joy of welcoming Bishop Emily Hartner of the NC Synod for Women's Sunday, who preached a powerful message for us and presided at the table for communion. I think it was a groovy celebration of women's leadership and the faithful work of our WELCA group.

As we move into December, I hope you'll join in the many ways we celebrate together in prayers or presence:

- Come see the St. Mark's float in the Claremont Christmas Parade.
- Join us for our Christmas Program and lunch on December 14th.
- Worship with us at our Christmas Eve services on December 24th at 4pm & 8pm.

As we enter this holy season of Advent, I invite us all to take time to pray and wonder: Where is God inviting us to come and see where God calls us to live out our mission—to proclaim the gospel, make disciples, and embody God's love. Again, I want to thank everyone who offered prayers and presence for our ministries in November. And thank you, friends of St. Mark's for the many ways you serve, love, and hope together. I am so grateful for all that God is doing among us and through us.

Peace and Blessings,
Fraternally Pastor Quentin



**ST. MARKS NEWSLETTER
DECEMBER 2025**



CONGRATULATIONS

Matthew and Elizabeth Watkins welcomed their daughter Julia on October 10th.

Dale and Sandy Sherrill announce the birth of their first granddaughter (second grandchild), Ellie Grace Sherrill, born on October 30th to Logan & Taylor Sherrill.

“every perfect gift, is from above, coming down from the Father of lights”
James 1:17 NRSVUE

The Annual Quilt Sale is ongoing, just in time for cooler weather and the coming holidays. Check out the beautiful handiwork of the Quilting Ladies and support their efforts. Quilts will be on display through Christmas.



**Preparations for the
Christmas parade
float**



**Children's Christmas Program
Sunday, December 14th
10:00 am Service**

**Practice and Lunch
Saturday, December 13th
10 am to 12:00 pm**

If your child would like to participate in the program, please contact Wendy Hefner at 828.270.6008. Also, let her know if they want a speaking part.





Thank you Pastor Quentin for all you have done and are doing for St. Mark's. We hope this will help you and Raye upgrade your transportation.



Temple Talk with Pastor Quentin
Tuesday mornings at 9:15 in the Sanctuary.



Science Center visit





Preschool Spotlight



Teacher Assistant for 4 & 5 yr. olds

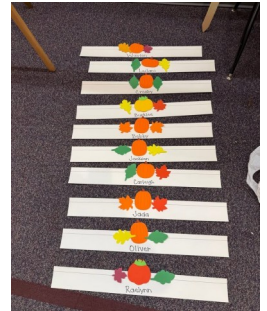


TEACHES 3 YR. OLDS

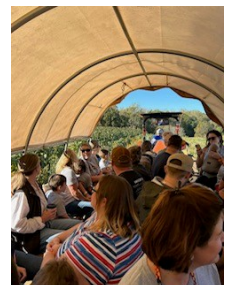
Thankful for teachers who create an atmosphere where every activity is a chance for discovery and growth. They ensure the children feel safe, valued and loved. We appreciate their patience, hard work and commitment to our families! We love you!



Playtime and art projects



Fireman Scott



Patterson Farms



Halloween Fun





Celebrate

St. Mark's Ladies will be celebrating Christmas at Jay & Deb's house (820 E. 24th Street, Newton, NC 28658) on **SUNDAY DECEMBER 7TH AT 3:00 PM.**

Spouses are welcome. We will have finger food to share, and you can bring your favorite beverage.

We will do a "Dirty Santa" gift exchange - Everyone is to bring an ANYBODY gift (wrapped) for UNDER \$10.

RSVP to Deb @ deb Crawford2017@gmail.com NO LATER than December 2, 2025.

PRAYER LIST—MEMBERS and EXTENDED FAMILY & FRIENDS			
Members: Mike Baker Libby Brown Gail Carpenter Gary & Susan Carpenter Jan Carpenter Alanna Dotson Bill Dotson Marlene Epps Kathy Gibson Rachel Hall Jo Marilyn Hewitt Linda & Willie Hewitt Pastor Bill Hollar Tammie Hoyle Ken Isenhour Pat Kale Miriam Keisler	Rudy Little Gaye Morrison Kelly Morrison Norman Morrow Betty Powell Kathy Ray Evelyn Setzer George Setzer Carolyn Sherrill Carolyn Sigmon Johnny Sigmon Elaine Simmons Larry & Judy Smyre Betty Williams Tony Williams Family & Friends: Zane Albert Brittany Bailey	Caleb Beatty Mike Benfield Barry & Sheila Brake Deanna Butcher Scott Campbell Jason Carpenter Jo Ann Fox Carson Hollar William Hampton Forrest Huret Julie Jones Mike & Alice Lawson Tonya Lawson Rita Ledbetter Bill & Laura McBrayer Nicole Nimrod Betsy Roberts Dana Roberts	Mark Sepulvador Emily Schuttenberg Jason Sharpe Kathleen Sigmon Loretta Stephenson Rich Surace Michael & Rachel Swink Jo Carol Thomason Phil Williams Emory Addison Woods Baby Adaline Yang Danny Young Dylan & McKenzie Active Military: Davis Tucker

Saint Mark's Lutheran Church Ministry Financial Analysis October 31, 2025		
10/31/2025	Month	Year
General Fund Offerings	18,969.86	215,658.29
Expenses	29,095.17	267,072.26
Balance	(10,125.31)	(51,413.97)

October's Noisy Offering was designated for Safe Harbor. A total of \$181.50 was received. November's offering will go to Greater Hickory Cooperative Christian Ministries. December's offering will help feed needy families during the holidays.

Special donations received:

~A donation was received in memory of William Hollar and Hal Sigmon by Libby Brown.

~A donation was received in memory of Pastor William Hollar by Mr. & Mrs. Robert Patrick.

~A donation was received in memory of Hazel Setzer by Kathy Goodson.

~A donation for the Blessing Box was received in memory of Clyde & Shirley Fisher's anniversary, Gary Arndt's birthday and all my loved ones by Denise Arndt.

~A donation for the Fellowship Team was received in memory of Eva Cloninger by Chris Cloninger.

~A donation was received in memory of Rev. William Hollar by Paul & Kathy Gibson.

~A donation was received in memory of Pastor Hollar from Hilka Cox, Donna Evans and Boyce Hollar, Jr.

~A donation in memory of William Hollar was received from David and Johnnie Bynum.



A belated **THANK YOU** to the person(s) who gave flowers for my birthday in September. They were beautiful and such a wonderful surprise. I appreciated them so much.

Judy Carpenter

Gifts From the Heart

A huge thank you to all who helped make the **‘Gifts From the Heart’** Shopping Day successful. We served over **70** clients who enjoyed the day Christmas shopping for family and friends.

Deepest sympathy to family and friends of

Rev. Dr. William (Bill) Kenneth Hollar Jr.

Pastor Bill passed away on November 1st. A Celebration of Resurrection was held at St. Mark's on November 9th.



October-November 2025 Worship Attendance		
	Present	YouTube
October 26	72	9
November 2	108	11
November 9	74	8
November 16	74	11
Total	328	39
Weekly Average	82	10

Dandy Don the Cowboy Singer entertained those attending the Western Themed lunch on October 26th.







Pastor Quentin will never email, call, or text you asking to purchase gift cards, give personal financial information, or wire money to him.

If you have received messages like these from quentinsurace@gmail.com asking you to do so, then please report them for phishing and notify Pastor Quentin and the Church office.

St. Mark’s Lutheran Church
P.O. Box 550
3216 W Main Street
Claremont, NC 28610
RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

NON-PROFIT ORG.
Permit #2
U.S. Postage
P A I D
Claremont, NC

<u>Church Staff</u>		<u>Congregation Council</u>			
Pastor Quentin Surace pastor@smarklc.org	(704) 280-9921	<u>2025</u> Jean Cloninger Terry Hefner Jonathan Ray Nicky Setzer	<u>2026</u> Carol Schaefer Matthew Watkins Nobia Summers Cathy Sigmon	<u>2027</u> Tim Carpenter Judy Craig Jerry Herman Susan Williams	
Wendy Hefner: Family Ministries Director wendy@smarklc.org	(828) 270-6008	<i>*The year denotes rotation off Council.</i>			
Emily Schuttenberg: Minister of Music emily205@icloud.org	(706) 248-3323	Congregation Council meets on December 15th at 6:30pm The next newsletter mailing will be December 17th.			
Maria Wright: Preschool Director mw9268@gmail.com	(828) 234-5943	<u>Church Office Hours</u> Monday - Thursday, 9:00am—2:30pm			
Randyl Abernathy: Preschool Director mimab@charter.net	(828) 781-1702	<u>Follow Us Online</u>			
Deanna Butcher: Finance Secretary deanna@smarklc.org	(828) 459-2161		St. Mark's Lutheran Church...Claremont, NC		
Patricia Hoke: Administrative Assistant secretary@smarklc.org	(828) 459-2161			 www.smarklc.org	
Larry Smyre: Church Sexton (828) 459-2161	(828) 459-2161			St. Mark's Lutheran Church, Claremont NC http://www.youtube.com/ @st.markslutheranchurchclar6483	



Vol. 15, No. 12
December 2025



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.