



St Mark's Newsletter

May 2026

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

Celebrating Easter at St Mark's



From The Pastors Desk

Grace and peace, friends of St. Mark's Lutheran Church, I pray that you are faring well in the fullness of spring around us. I want to take a moment to share where I have seen God at work among us this past month and what I am looking forward to in the month of May ahead.

Where We Saw God at Work in April

April was a full and holy month in the life of our congregation. During Holy Week, we journeyed together from Palm Sunday to Easter Sunday in a powerful week of worship. Our Good Friday service invited us to reflect on the hardness of our hearts and the way Christ breaks through that hardness with the grace and hope of Easter morning. I am deeply grateful to our Tech Team, Altar Guild, Worship and Music Team, and to all who joined us in worship and helped make these services so meaningful for our congregational life. I also had the opportunity to attend the Caffeinated Church Conference with colleagues from the NC Synod, where we explored new ways of being the church in the world today. I look forward to sharing how some of those ideas may shape our ministry together. Our ministry teams, including the Quilt Mission and Preschool, also took time during Easter week to rest and recharge. We give thanks for seasons of renewal, trusting that the Spirit continues to strengthen us for the work ahead.

Our Stewardship Team also met this month to begin planning for the stewardship campaign that will take place later this year in September. We give thanks for their thoughtful work and faithful leadership as they help us prepare for this important season in the life of our congregation. The Faith Challenge has also been a wonderful sign of generosity and stewardship in our congregation. By the middle of April, we had raised just over \$71,000, with four more weeks still to go.

What We Are Looking Forward to in May

I will be on vacation May 4–11 for rest and renewal, and I thank you for the gift of that time away. The Faith Challenge will officially conclude on May 10. I am excited to see how God continues to work through the generosity of this congregation in the days ahead. May is also an important month of preparation for our summer youth ministries. Our youth will soon begin preparing for Service Week in June, supporting local ministry and mission projects in the Claremont-Conover area. As a congregation, we are also invited to help prepare our campus for Summer Day Camp in mid-July. If you would like to be part of this meaningful work, please contact Wendy Hefner, our Youth and Family Director, to learn how you can help. Thanks be to God for the many ways God continues to move among us. As we enter the month of May, I invite you to come and see where God is calling you in the life of St. Mark's. Perhaps that call is found in worship, in serving our youth, in supporting our ministry teams, or in offering your gifts to the work that lies ahead. However God is stirring your heart, may we continue together in our shared mission: **to proclaim the Gospel, make disciples, and embody God's love.** Come and see where the Spirit is already at work among us. Come and see where Christ is calling you to proclaim the Gospel, make disciples, and embody God's love in the world.

Peace and Blessings, Pastor Quentin

Legacies of Love

Ladies Luncheon in honor of Mothers Day !

Saturday, May 2

11:00 AM- 1:00 PM

Preschool Highlights

St Mark's Preschool Graduation
will be held Monday, May 18th
beginning at 5:30 pm.

The congregation is invited to attend!



We appreciate all who can help and those who
have donated throughout the year. We are still
in need of **paper towels and Kleenex.**

Celebrating Easter!



St Mark's Summer Camp

Wonder Junction!

Saddle Up for God's Word!

July 13 - 17, 2026



The week will focus on scripture
that reminds us we are
Strong, Chosen, Loved, Forgiven and Led.

Rising 1st - Rising 6th Graders

Cost: \$60 per person, \$50 for second child

Deadline for registration: June 1st

Mt. Zion Lutheran Church, ELCA, will host the

Raleigh Ringers Handbell Choir

Sunday, May 17, 2026 4:00 PM

The concert will take place in the church sanctuary
at 4420 County Home Road, Conover

For Tickets go to:

<https://tithe.ly/event-registration/#/10947304>

or call 828-256-2123 for more information.

Birthdays

3 - Randy Sherrill
5 - Jean Cloninger
James Harrington
8 - Haley Sigmon
9 - Denise Arndt
Jessica Williams
11 - Korbin Nash
15 - Hope Brown
16 - Alex Kau
Chuck Watson
19 - Quentin Caudill
Heather Langan
John Pope
David Stephenson
Charles Walling, Jr.
24 - Edie Conner
27 - Paul Gibson
Rosemary Issac
28 - Thomas Schaefer
30 - Carolyn Sigmon
31 - Susanne Lincoln

Anniversaries

17 - Drew & Rachael
Theisen
18 - Michelle & Jeffrey
Hollar
20 - John & Tammy
Moore
24 - Araon & Jennifer
Carpenter
26 - Sawyer & Kendra
Hendren
31- Jerry & Melanie
Herman

Happy
Birthday



2026 Graduates

We would like to honor our gradu-
ates with well-deserved recognition.

If you have a child or grand-child
graduating from preschool, elementary, high
school, college or higher, please contact the church
office at 828.459.2161 or email:
wendy@smarklc.org with their name, school and
degree. You can also write the info on the back
of your attendance card Sunday morning.



A.R.I.S.E
for Christ!
Always Ready, Inspired,
Serving and Energetic



Youth Day Camp

June 15 - 19 9:00am - 3:00pm
\$10 per person

Rising 6th - 8th graders will spend the week
involved in service projects in various locations
around Catawba County. Monday we will be as-
sisting at **Highways and Hedges** and Wednesday
we will serve lunch at **The Corner Table**. Other
project sites will include **Walkin Roll** and **Trinity
Village Senior Living Community**. One day will
be a swim day at **Kool Park**.

Registration is open for a limited number of spots
available. Cost for the event is \$10 per youth and
participants MUST attend three of the four 'work
days' to attend Friday's Kool Park day. Lunch will
also be included each day.

Register by contacting

Wendy Hefner at 828.270.6008

or email: wendy@smarklc.org

Thank you for supporting our 'No Buy, No Bake'
fundraiser by continuing to choose envelopes off
the board, at the front of the church,
as you are able.

Celebrating Our Graduates

Christopher Thomas - CVCC
Assoc. in Engineering & Science

Braedon Fox - LRU
BA - Exercise Science

Nathaniel Carpenter
Bandy's High School

Zach Smyre
3rd Year Pharmacy Pin



PRAYER LIST—MEMBERS and EXTENDED FAMILY & FRIENDS			
Members: Mike Baker Libby Brown Gail Carpenter Gary & Susan Carpenter Jan Carpenter Alanna Dotson Bill Dotson Kathy Gibson Rachel Hall Jo Marilyn Hewitt Linda & Willie Hewitt Tammie Hoyle Ken Isenhour Pat Kale 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 Tony Williams Family & Friends: Zane Albert Carolyn Anderson Brittany Bailey Caleb Beatty	Jerry & Wanda Bolick Barry & Sheila Brake Ronnie Brown Jo Ann Fox Tom Graybeal Genesis Felts Family William Hampton Wayne Herman Patricia Hoke Forrest Huret Julie Jones The Kelley Family Loretta Kiesler Tonya Lawson Rita Ledbetter Bill & Laura McBrayer	Paul & Ginny Mulcahy Betsy Roberts Dana Roberts Mark Sepulvador Jason Sharpe Kathleen Sigmon Loretta Stephenson Jo Carol Thomason Phil Williams Caitlin Winters Emory Addison Woods Danny Young Child with brain tumor Active Military: Davis Tucker

Saint Mark's Lutheran Church Ministry Financial Analysis March, 2026		
3/_31_/2026	Month	Year
General Fund Offerings	\$24,653.46	\$61,691.45
Expenses	\$23,905.93	\$81,928.90
Balance	\$747.53	(\$20,237.45)

April's Noisy Offering was for BH - FCA Football Camp at LR and totaled \$189.00. Here is a list of the 2026 monthly Noisy Offering recipients:	
May—Highways and Hedges	Noisy Offering
June—Pregnancy Care Center	
July—Hickory Soup Kitchen	
August—Preschool Scholarship Fund	
September—Sipes Orchard Home	
October—Safe Harbor	
November—Rising Hope Farm	
December—Christmas meals for needy families	

Faith Challenge Update 
Thank you to everyone who has donated to the Faith Challenge Fund. As of April 20, total for the Challenge is \$74,367. Donations will be

Celebrating Unusual Holidays in May



- May 1 - 'Hug Your Cat' Day
- May 4 - 'Star Wars' Day
- May 5 - Cinco De Mayo
- May 7 - National Day of Prayer
- May 8 - 'No Socks' Day
- May 13 - 'Frog Jumping' Day
- May 16 - 'World Fiddle' Day
- May 17 - Stepmother Day
- May 25 - Cookie Monsters Birthday
- May 31 - National Smile Day



March/April 2026 Worship Attendance		
	Present	YouTube
March 18 (Lent)	34	3
March 22 (Worship)	64	12
March 25 (Lent)	23	5
March 29 (Worship)	71	7
April 1 (Maundy Thurs)	38	9
April 2 (Good Friday)	40	9
April 5 (8 am Worship)	78	6
April 5 (10 am Worship)	39	5
April 12 (Worship)	68	12
April 19 (Worship)	72	9

Blessing Box Reminders
Thank you to everyone who continues to keep our Blessing Box stocked with non-perishable food and household items. Your generosity is greatly appreciated. We do ask that you NOT DONATE GLASS JARS OR CONTAINERS. These can be a hazard to others and could crack under high temperatures in the box.

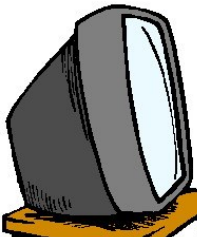
Closet Clean Out

Spring cleaning here at the church has revealed some older electronic items from classrooms downstairs. They are no longer needed and we would like to give members the chance to claim any of them if interested. They are located downstairs in the GRACE classroom (*mid-way down the hallway on the left*). If interested, please look at them before Friday, May 1st.

These items will be disposed of on Saturday, May 2nd.

Items available include:

- 4 - televisions (not flatscreen)
- 2 - radio/CD players
- 4 - VHS players
- 2 - cassette tape players
- 5 - CD players
- 2 - overhead projectors



TV Carts are **NOT** included in the giveaway.

Some items might need universal remotes or cords.

St. Mark's Lutheran Church
P.O. Box 550
3216 W Main Street
Claremont, NC 28610

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

Church Staff		Congregation Council		
Pastor Quentin Surace		2026	2027	2028
pastor@smarklc.org	(704) 280-9921	Carol Schaefer	Tim Carpenter	Jennifer Carpenter
Wendy Hefner: Family Ministries Director		Matthew Watkins	Judy Craig	Terry Hefner
wendy@smarklc.org	(828) 270-6008	Nobia Summers	Jerry Herman	Trey Hendren
Emily Schuttenberg: Minister of Music		Cathy Sigmon	Susan Williams	Tim Sherrill
emily205@icloud.org	(706) 248-3323	*The year denotes rotation off Council at year's end.		
Maria Wright: Preschool Director		Congregation Council meets on May 18th at 6:30pm.		
mw9268@gmail.com	(828) 234-5943	Items for the newsletter due by May 13th.		
Randyl Abernathy: Preschool Director		The next newsletter mailing will be May 20th		
mimab@charter.net	(828) 781-1702	Church Office Hours		
Deanna Butcher: Finance Secretary		Monday - Thursday, 9:00am—2:30pm		
deanna@smarklc.org	(828) 459-2161	Follow Us Online		
Patricia Hoke: Administrative Assistant		f	St. Mark's Lutheran Church....Claremont, NC	
secretary@smarklc.org	(828) 459-2161		www.smarklc.org	
Larry Smyre: Church Sexton	(828) 459-2161		St. Mark's Lutheran Church, Claremont NC	
			http://www.youtube.com/@st.markslutheranchurchclar6483	



Vol. 16, No. 5
May 2026



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