

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

NON-PROFIT ORG.
Permit #2
U.S. Postage
PAID
Claremont, NC



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

OPPORTUNITIES TO GATHER
AT ST. MARK'S

Sundays—Worship

10:00 Service in Sanctuary

9:00am Sunday Morning Learning

10:00 Drive-Up in Front for Radio
broadcast on FM 101.5

Anytime—online

www.smarklc.org
YouTube.com
Facebook.com - Links

Media

Christ in our Home devotional
Please call the church office.

A NOTE ON OUR WORSHIP

TOGETHER IN THE NAVE

MASKS ARE OPTIONAL

**WE ASK THAT YOU OBSERVE SOCIAL
DISTANCING FOR THE SAKE OF
YOURSELF AND YOUR NEIGHBOR.**

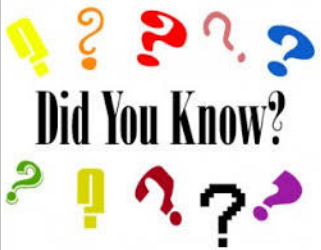
PLEASE NOTE:

Worship times and places are subject
to change for the sake of safety due
to COVID-19

**You may view our services live on St.
Mark's Lutheran Church's YouTube
page.** Become a subscriber by going
to the page and clicking on the
subscribe button. The service will
remain there after each service for
later viewing.

http://www.youtube.com/@st.marks
lutheranchurchclar6483

ST. MARKS NEWSLETTER
July 12, 2023



Have you ever wondered how our worship service is planned? This is a conversation I have had with a few people in that last few weeks including our Congregation Council.

Worship planning to done by our secretary , Debbie and myself along with music selection by Emily Schuttenberg. To help with the planning, the ELCA has a resource called Sundays and Seasons which

we are able to access via the internet. This resource is published yearly and is prepared by a team of people who compile the work of church musicians, preachers, biblical scholars, artists and designers, parish pastors, educators, and writers from across the ELCA church.

For each Sunday of the church year, and also for special services such as Christmas Day and Holy Week, each part of the worship service is written for use by the church. An explanation of the theme for that service is provided, and we print that on the side panel of our bulletin. Then the prayer of the day, scripture texts of the day based on the Revised Common Lectionary that is followed by the Roman Catholic and many Protestant churches, the Prayers of Intercession, the offering prayer, the prayer after communion, the blessing, and music and hymn suggestions are provided for publication and use. Occasionally such as during a special season of the church year or during a sermon series, we might use other resources to help us in the planning of worship. Otherwise, we use this wonderfully helpful resource of the ELCA printed by Augsburg Fortress.

One of the beautiful things about this resource is that as we pray, sing, and worship together, the same words and songs are being said by other ELCA churches throughout our church. This is one of the many ways in which all the disciples of Christ across our churchwide body are joined together with all the saints of the ELCA.

There are times that we have not used this resource or we might not like or agree with what this resource suggests for a worship service or even a part of a worship service such as in a prayer. I do try as I am proofreading the bulletin each week to be mindful of what is written and said. However, there are times I have missed something in my proofreading and preparation for worship each week. If you are interested in knowing more about worship planning or would like to look at this resource you are welcome to contact me or the church office.

The planning of each worship service is one of the most important components of each week in the life of the church. We do not take it lightly nor gloss over it as worship is central to the life of the church and to our community of faith.

If you have questions about how things are planned, done, or decided in other aspects of the life of the church, please ask or attend the team meeting for which that subject and question corresponds.

God's Peace be with You!

Pastor Heather

Church Staff

Pastor Heather Langan: Senior Pastor
hlangan519@yahoo.com (704-724-5991)
Wendy Hefner: Family Ministries Director
wendy@smarklc.org (828-270-6008)
Emily Schuttenberg: Minister of Music (828-459-2161)

Rachel Isaac: Nursery/children's Church Leader
(828-459-2161)

Maria Wright: Preschool Director
mw9268@gmail.com (828-234-5943)

Randyl Abernathy : Preschool Director
mimab@charter.net (828-781-1702)

Deanna Butcher: Finance Secretary
deanna@smarklc.org (828-459-2161)

Debbie Smith: Administrative Assistant
secretary@smarklc.org (828-459-2161)

Keegan Dixon: Interim Church Custodian (828-459-2161)

Congregation Council

<u>2023</u>	<u>2024</u>	<u>2025</u>
Terry Hefner	Kyle Sigmon	Jean Cloninger
Denise Arndt	Hilka Cox	Blake Sigmon
Marlene Epps	Kendra Hendren	Jonathan Ray
Carol Schaefer	Aaron Carpenter	Nicky Setzer




The year denotes rotation off Council.

Congregation Council meets on August 21st at 6:30pm
The next newsletter mailing will be July 26, 2023

Church Office Hours

Monday - Thursday, 9:00am—2pm

Follow Us Online

 StMarksLutheran...Claremont, NC  www.smarklc.org
 YouTube St. Mark's Lutheran Church, Claremont, NC



Vol. 13, No. 13
7-12-2023



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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Thank you St. Mark’s church family for all the prayers, messages, visits, and flowers received during my recent hospital stay and therapy while I was at CVMC and Trinity Ridge. I am home now and hope to be back in church soon.

Chris Cloninger

SAVE THE DATE!

All Ministry Teams, team members and council liaisons, are asked to attend a **Budget Planning meeting on Monday, August 7, at 6pm**. We will be putting together our requests for the ministries of 2024 for St. Mark's so the Finance Team may put together the proposed budget for the next calendar year. All congregation members are invited and encouraged to attend to have their voices heard as we work to plan for the future ministries of St. Mark's.



MEMORIAL/HONORARIUM GIFTS RECEIVED TO THE GLORY OF GOD

For St. Mark’s Preschool: Donation given by anonymous donor

THOSE PERSON AND FAMILIES WHO ARE GRIEVING, NAMED AND UNNAMED.



Family of Jerry Craig, especially his wife, Judy

Family of Chris Sigmon, especially his sister Tammy Moore, mother Celia Hollar & aunt Elaine Simmons

Family of Judy Little

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE FOLLOWING WITH ACUTE HEALTH CHALLENGES

Harley Brown Bailey Carpenter Gary Carpenter Chris Cloninger Eva Cloninger Jackie Devlin Keegan Dixon Alanna Dotson Mike Evans	Jerry Herman Jo Marilyn Hewitt Celia Hollar Tammie Hoyle Meredith Huret Exie Little Rudy Little Gaye Morrison Glenn Morrison	George Setzer Sandy Sherrill Brenda Sigmon Ryan Sigmon Tim Sigmon Bishop Tim Smith Larry Smyre Dee Stewart Susan Tucker	Please pray for COVID victims.
			Please pray for all front line Covid caregivers.
			Please pray for all those isolated, and those in Assisted Living Homes.

 <div>July Tabulators Dotty Isenhour & Chris Cloninger</div>	<div>July Altar Guild Gigi & Stan Sigmon, Denise Arndt, Marcheta Campbell</div> 
--	---

“Be faithful in small things because it is in them that your strength lies.”

MULTIPLE CHOICE QUIZ

The Parable of the Sower

Choose the word that best matches the definition.

- ___ 1. A person who owns or takes care of a farm
A. baker B. farmer C. butcher D. teacher
- ___ 2. To put seeds in the ground so that plants will grow
A. rocky B. farmer C. path D. sow
- ___ 3. A small, usually hard part of a plant from which a new plant can grow
A. thorn B. seed C. soil D. root
- ___ 4. A way made by or for people walking on the ground
A. path B. sow C. rocky D. soil
- ___ 5. Covered with stones
A. seed B. rocky C. path D. thorns
- ___ 6. Small, sharp, pointed growths on the stem of a plant
A. soil B. shallow C. thorns D. sow
- ___ 7. Not deep
A. rocky B. shallow C. sow D. soil
- ___ 8. The part of a plant which grows down into the earth
A. thorn B. rocky C. root D. leaf
- ___ 9. The upper layer of earth that may be dug or plowed and in which plants grow
A. rocky B. soil C. farmer D. path
- ___ 10. Plants such as grain, vegetables, or fruit grown by farmers
A. crop B. shallow C. sow D. soil



Children's Ministry Page

WORDSEARCH PUZZLE

PARABLE OF THE WEEDS

MATTHEW 13:24-29

M A V W H F Q B B E W G Q I S
H R M P S Y I U K D Y H O A J
C L G A T U A E F I F H E O B
J F R R E A P S L M N Y O A D
O H O A Q W K R O D M G P T T
T T W B M C S X O E V V D P A
D D E L F G J E N O B U T O D
X A H E V T C E E X T K R J M
B G J A V I U C A D D L N C H
M C W H R M X Z Q V V E M J A
G Q C E R V J M D P V W V B Y
L G A R E L E X P A U P D U Y
S O W J B D T S E A G L Z R K
J W O V U T S H T S X B L N O
O X T V D G V N L L C M T I H

SOW	FIELD	GOOD	UPROOT	HARVEST
WHEAT	ENEMY	PULL	KINGDOM	SEED
PARABLE	HEAVEN	BURN	GROW	WEEDS



We are collecting School supplies for two organizations. The first is for local children through the "We are One in Christ - Back to School Bash" which will be held on August 19. Please see the information about this event and what supplies are needed.

The second is supplies to assemble kits for Lutheran World Relief. There are very specific items needed for these kits. Please see the instructions with the specific types of items needed as included in this newsletter.

As you go shopping in the next few weeks, please consider taking your newsletter with these two lists with you and pick up a few items.

Thank you for serving our local and global neighbors who are working to help educate the children of the world.

We Are One in Christ

Back to School Bash!

Saturday, August 19th, 9am - 1pm

Newton Fairgrounds

Churches and organizations in the area are working together to sponsor this event. Donations of school supplies are needed to fill

2000 backpacks to be handed out at the event.

We need your help with donation of the following items:

- | | |
|----------------------------|-------------------|
| Washable Markers | Pencils |
| Erasers | Colored Pencils |
| Marble Composition Books | Highlighters |
| 1 Subject Spiral Notebooks | Large glue sticks |
| Headphones (no ear buds) | Crayons (24ct) |
| Blunt tip scissors | Dry erase markers |

You can also help monetarily. Donations can be given to the church office or designated in an offering envelope **clearly** marked as

BACK TO SCHOOL BASH DONATION!



LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF



SCHOOL KITS

INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING IN EACH SCHOOL KIT

- ☐ **FOUR** 70-sheet notebooks of wide- or college-ruled paper, approximately 8" x 10 1/2"; no loose leaf paper
- ☐ **ONE** 30-centimeter ruler, or a ruler with centimeters on one side and inches on the other
- ☐ **ONE** pencil sharpener
- ☐ **ONE** pair of blunt scissors (safety scissors with embedded steel blades work well)
- ☐ **FIVE** unsharpened #2 pencils with erasers; secure together with a rubber band
- ☐ **FIVE** black or blue ballpoint pens (no gel ink); secure together with a rubber band
- ☐ **ONE** box of 16 or 24 crayons
- ☐ **ONE** 2 1/2" eraser
- ☐ **ONE** sturdy drawstring backpack-style cloth bag, approximately 14" x 17" with shoulder straps (no standard backpacks)

HOW TO PACK YOUR PROJECT PROMISE KITS

- Place ruler between notebooks. Place all items neatly into the bag and draw the drawstring together.
- Pack completed Kits, like items together, in boxes. Label contents in LARGE, BLOCK LETTERS on the outside of the boxes.
- Use strong cartons secured with packing tape, not to exceed 40 pounds.
- Do not use plastic or paper bags to pack donations.
- Include the name and address of your group or congregation on each box and label the contents

SOME IMPORTANT GUIDELINES TO REMEMBER

- If you are looking to purchase backpacks, the preferred style is often used in the U.S. for youth to carry athletic equipment. Try your local sporting goods store or search online using the keywords, "buy drawstring backpacks."
- Before purchasing backpacks, make sure they meet the size requirements (14" x17") and General Assembly Instructions. You can download a list from our website of suppliers who have appropriate bags available for purchase in bulk.
- Please give new items only.
- Please do not donate items with any religious symbols, messages or your group's name.
- Please do not donate any items decorated with a U.S. flag, patriotic or military symbols, or references to the armed forces, including camouflage.
- Do not add other items or leave out any of the items listed.
- Do not enclose the Kit or any of its contents in plastic bags.

The Women of the ELCA 35th Annual Gathering



The Women of the ELCA held their 35th Annual Gathering at LRU, June 23-25, 2023. This was the first in-person gathering in four years. The theme for the gathering was “Renewed Day by Day.” The scripture verses were 2 Corinthians 4: (1, 8-10, 16), Psalm 103:1-5, Isaiah 40:29-31 and Matthew 11: 28-30. Our keynote speaker was Amanda Held Opelt from Boone, who is an author, speaker and songwriter. She has written two books, A Hole in the World-Finding Hope in Rituals of Grief and Healing and Holy Unhappiness-God, Goodness, and The Myth of the Blessed Life. Our gathering chaplain was Rev. Dr. Christy Lor Sapp who is the pastor of St. Andrew’s in Hickory. She was our bible study leader. Our churchwide executive board representative, Dawn Wicklund, came to us from Our Savior’s ELCA in Superior, Wisconsin. She served by representing the Executive Board and bringing greetings from our churchwide women’s organization. She also reminded us of the triennial gathering and convention for the Women of the ELCA held in September this year in Phoenix, Arizona. I will be one of eight voting members representing our North Carolina Synodical Women. The meeting opened with our first session Friday at 7:00pm by our NCSWO President, Lisa Philbeck. At this session, we opened our gathering by reciting the Purpose Statement, hearing greetings from LRU and Lutheran Men in Mission, president. A vote was held for Vice-President, Robin Stuart from Sardis, Hickory was elected. A vote for Secretary was held, Anita Sharpe from Sharon, Statesville was elected. The churchwide representative gave her report. There was an offering of \$1159.00 and an attendance of 45. The second session opened Saturday at 8:45am with bible study by Rev. Christy Lor Sapp. The keynote speaker, Amanda Held Opelt, gave her address. The offering was \$958.50 and attendance of 56. A new website will be launching in the next month for our NCSWO, www.ncwelca.com. A vote was held for five board members with a two year term. These were the results-Karen Overcash, Mt. Moriah, China Grove; Leta “Rosie” Schieber, Calvary, Concord; Marguerite Taylor, Redeemer, Gastonia; Lorri Monterose, St. Mark’s, Mooresville, and Karen Birkedal, Mt. Olive, Hickory, Pastor Birkedal’s wife. There were two people appointed to fill out a one year term-Linda Davis, Holy Trinity, Charlotte and Patricia “Patty” Schmid, St. Mark’s, Mooresville. The third session was held after lunch and reports were given by the President, Treasurer and Board Members. The adoption of the Budget for 2024 was approved. After this meeting, there was Awareness Session 1 in which you could choose to go to either “What is Lutheran Disaster Relief Carolinas” or “Justice-Renew Your Passion” for 45 minutes. Session 2 was either “Not a Scam!-Hope for Protecting our Young People” or “LED, Halogen, HID, Incandescent” for 45 minutes. Our last session on Saturday was enjoying our entertainment, Amanda Held Opelt with many hymns, songs and praise music. Sunday, a worship service was held with Susan Harris being the liturgy and Pastor Tim Smith preaching at Grace Chapel on LRU. I chose to come home and attend our service at St. Mark’s. This gathering will not be held again until next year in June. I appreciate going as a voting member and seeing old friends and meeting new ones. This is an opportunity for all women. Each year, we send a voting member but any women may attend as a visitor.

Submitted by Tamarah Hefner,
President of St. Mark’s Women of the ELCA



St Mark’s Lutheran Church
Vacation Bible School
Seeking God’s Treasure
Saturday, July 29th
9:00 AM - 2:00 PM

Come join the Adventure as we
Seek to Find God’s
most Important Treasure!

Bible Story time, Crafts and Games
will be included in our search in the morning and the after-
noon will
provide a hotdog lunch and waterslide inflatables.

There will also be a Bible study for
adults!

Contact the church office at
828.459.2161





Grieving a loss?

Find hope and healing after
the death of a loved one.

Join us at
GriefShare®
Weekly grief support group

When: Thursdays 6:30pm-8:30pm
August 24 – November 16, 2023

Where: St. Mark’s Lutheran Church Lounge
3216 W. Main Street, Claremont

Contact: Pastor Heather Langan
828-459-2161 for more information

Registration: \$20 (scholarships available)
Register online at www.griefshare.org/findagroup
Or by calling St. Mark’s

Youth Activities 6th - 12th grades
Save the Dates



July 25 & 28 - Prepare for VBS
August TBA - Pool Party

Youth will be able to come to the church early and stay till the af-
ternoon when a family member can pick them up.

Please make these arrangements with Wendy by the registration
deadline date for each activity.



As our home gardens
begin to produce crops,
if you have extra
produce and would like
to share it with others,
you are invited to bring
it to the church and
place it in the Blessing

Box for our community and/or bring it to worship
on Sunday to share with our faith family.

Beginning July 19, and on the subsequent
Wednesday nights when we have WOW (Wheels
on Wednesday) the Outreach team would like to
share additional food including fresh produce to
those who would like it or need it. With food prices
high and the lack of access for many people to
fresh healthy fruits and vegetables, this is one
way we can help our neighbors. May our gardens
grow and grow with abundance! Thank you!

WOW (Wheels on Wednesday) will be in
the back parking lot at St Mark’s on
Wednesday July 19, August 2, and
August 16 from 6:30-8:30p. Families are
invited to bring your lawn chairs and



children with their bicy-
cles/scooters/skateboards and a helmet
to safely play in the parking lot which we
will block off to traffic. Parents please
park in the front parking lot and you
were asked to stay with your children on

the church property. The playground will be also
available for children to enjoy. Come out with
your friends and neighbors and enjoy a flat shaded
parking lot in the evening for the chil-
dren to play safely. Sidewalk chalk, wa-
ter, and popsicles will also be available!



Pastor Heather Langan