

St. Mark's Lutheran Church
P.O. Box 550
3216 West Main Street
Claremont, NC 28610
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Our Mission
To Proclaim the Gospel
To Make Disciples
To Embody Christ's Love

ST. MARKS NEWSLETTER
July 26, 2023



Over the last few weeks we have had a few issues within our facilities. I wanted to keep you informed so that you are aware of these repairs and what is being done to resolve them.

On Friday, July 7, water was found in the sacristy and throughout the lower area outside of the sacristy. The source of the water was the small water heater that was in the sacristy cabinets. Unfortunately by the time the leak was found and the water was turned off, over an inch of water had filled this area including the bathrooms and storage closet near the sacristy. We are working with ServPro and our insurance company to have the repairs made quickly and covered financially through our insurance policy. To dry the area multiple fans and a dehumidifier have been placed in the area and a generator is being used to power these machines.

Because of the inability to use the sacristy, we have returned to using the prepackaged communion elements. When the sacristy is functional again we will begin using the trays and small communion cups again for communion. If you have any questions about these repairs, please speak with Terry Hefner, council president, or Nicky Setzer, team lead for the Property Team.

During this summer heat wave, we have also begun having issues with our Air Conditioning units for the sanctuary and the Family Life Center. The heating and air conditioning service company has worked to help keep one of the units running in the sanctuary and will be coming in the next week if not sooner to repair the other sanctuary unit and the one in the Family Life Center. We will be asking them to check all of our air units. We are also replacing the oil furnace that the Parish Hall Building has been using for many years and will be replacing it with a natural gas furnace. This replacement had already been approved by the Congregation Council a few months ago, and we are waiting for it to be scheduled and completed

Maintaining a facility as large as ours can be time consuming and sometimes comes at a high cost. Yet we are blessed by God to have the facilities we do and the opportunities to use these spaces while also sharing them with our community. Your financial support of St. Mark's helps to provide a space in which we can worship our Savior and Lord and serve our community in a variety of ways. Thank you!



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

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		
2023	2023	2024
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 21 at 6:30pm The next newsletter mailing will be August 9, 2023		
Church Office Hours		
Monday - Thursday, 9:00am—2pm		
Follow Us Online		
f StMarksLutheran...Claremont, NC www.smarklc.org		
YouTube St. Mark's Lutheran Church, Claremont, NC		



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

ANNOUNCEMENTS



On Monday, June 19, the Congregation Council voted to designate our Spring Thankoffering to our Playground. The playground is in need of trashcans, sand, and some updating of equipment including a slide. If you would like to give to the Spring Thankoffering to help us with updates and improvements to the playground, there is still time. Thank you to the members of St. Mark's and the Congregation Council for your support of the playground which our neighbors and St. Mark's preschool enjoy on a regular basis!

The Church Office hours will be moving for a trial period until the end of September to Monday through Thursday from 9am - 2pm.

If you have an emergency and need to reach the pastor on Friday, please call Pastor Heather directly, instead of the church office. Messages left on the church answering machine after 2pm on Thursday will be checked on Sunday mornings.



MEMORIAL/HONORARIUM GIFTS RECEIVED TO THE GLORY OF GOD

For St. Mark's: In memory of Jerry Craig given by Ted Sigmon, Barry Poovey, Celia Hollar & Penny Stafford
In memory of Chris Sigmon given by Susan Williams
In memory of JD Little given by Celia Hollar
In memory of Judy Little given by Susan & Tony Williams
Marchetta Campbell purchased 4 tables for the Parish Hall in honor of Ted & Sigmon, and in memory of Ed & Helen Brown

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

Family of Judy Little
Family of Elden Bojarski, brother of Pennie George
Family of Kathleen "Kat" Brown, aunt of Janet Sigmon

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE FOLLOWING WITH ACUTE HEALTH CHALLENGES

Harley Brown 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	Hal Sigmon Johnny Sigmon Ryan Sigmon Tim Sigmon Bishop Tim Smith Judy Smyre 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.
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August Altar Guild
Elaine Simmons, Vanessa Arndt
& Maria Wright

August Tabulators
Jean Cloninger, Cathy Sigmon
& Evelyn Setzer



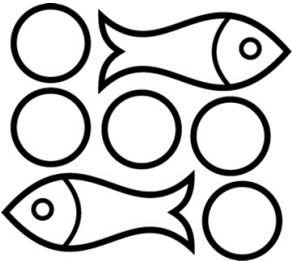
"Faith is not belief without proof, but trust without reservations."
Elton Trueblood

MULTIPLE CHOICE QUIZ

Feeding the 5000

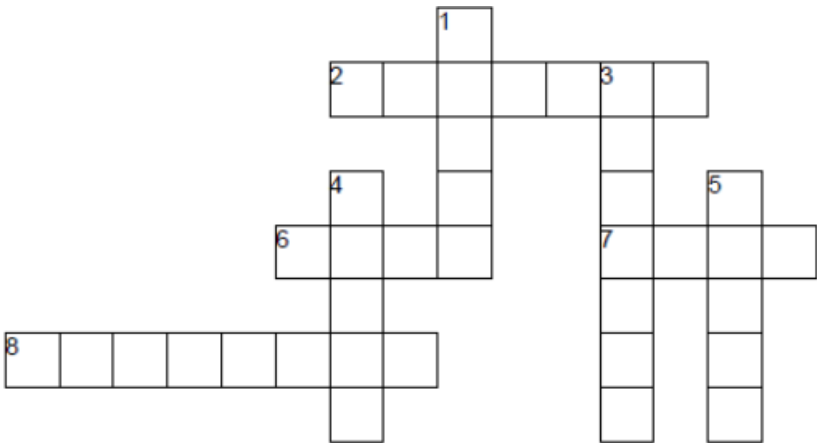
Choose the word that best matches the definition.

- 1. Pieces of bread shaped and baked in a single piece and sliced for eating
A. loaves B. food C. fish D. five
- 2. A basic food made from flour, water, and yeast mixed together and baked
A. fish B. two C. loaves D. bread
- 3. An animal without legs that lives in water
A. turtle B. fish C. hippopotamus D. dinosaur
- 4. To cure someone of illness or disease; to make someone well again
A. xray B. feed C. loaves D. heal
- 5. To take food into your mouth, chew, and swallow it
A. drink B. sip C. eat D. heal
- 6. What we eat to give us energy and to help us grow strong bodies
A. food B. water C. candy D. pizza
- 7. The number that comes after four and before six
A. three B. five C. two D. seven
- 8. The number equal to one plus one
A. eleven B. five C. three D. two



Children’s Ministry Page

WORDSEARCH PUZZLE MUSTARD SEEDS & WHEAT MATTHEW 13:31-33



ACROSS

- 2. A story told by Jesus to help explain his teachings
- 6. A small grain of a plant placed in the ground for growing another plant
- 7. To become larger; to increase in size or amount
- 8. Not as big as any of the others

DOWN

- 1. A food made from dough of flour or meal
- 3. Bigger than any of the others
- 4. A member of the fungus family used in baking to help make the dough rise
- 5. A mixture of flour, water, and other ingredients to make bread

LARGEST	YEAST	DOUGH	BREAD
SMALLEST	SEED	PARABLE	GROW



Carol Schaefer's
Parent's Service

Ann and Ray Steckenrider celebration of life will
be August 5,2023, 10:00am
at Grace Lutheran Church in Raleigh, NC

Thank you George Setzer for the
beautiful ferns you gave the members
of the congregation on July 9th.
Happy Retirement after 53 years!



The Calvin A. Sigmon family reunion
will be held on Sunday, August 13th
at 1:00pm in the Family Life Center.
It will be a covered dish lunch.

Please bring a framed labeled photos of your heavenly
loved ones to display on your table

St. Mark's Lutheran Church
Council Meeting 6/19/2023

- I. Call to Order: 6:36pm
- II. Opening Prayer and Devotion: Kendra, Nicky
- III. Roll Call: Pastor Heather, Blake, Denise, Terry, Nicky, Denise, Hilka, Jonathan, Carol, Kendra, Marlene, Jean, Aaron. Excused Absence: Kyle
- IV. Approval of Minutes: 5/22/23 as written
- V. Pastors Report: attached
- VI. Wendy's Report: attached
- VII. Action Items: Stewardship team needs people for Claremont Daze team
- VIII. Finance Report: attached
- IX. Team Reports:
 - A. Personnel: attached
 - B. Women of the ELCA: no report
 - C. Fellowship: no report
 - D. Worship and Music: attached
 - E. Property: no report, did not meet
 - F. Outreach: attached
 - G. Stewardship: attached
 - H. Youth and Learning: meeting 6/26
 - I. Congregation Care: attached
 - J. Preschool: attached
 - K. Technology: no report
 - L. Memorial: no report
 - M. Safety: installing key punch this week. Camera system is progressing.
 - N. Mutual Ministry: attached
- X. Old Business: update on sanctuary. The council will let President know their vote on Sunday for removing an extra pew during sanctuary renovations.
- XI. New Business: All teams budget night meeting 8/7 at 6pm. Spring Thank Offering is designated for the playground. Nicky 1st, Jonathan 2nd, passed. Pastor Heather reviewed the proposal from the ELCA to write a land acknowledgement ritual. Aaron made a motion to table the decision to the next meeting which was approved. Usher training will be held on 7/6 @ 6:30pm or 7/9 at 9:00am.
- XIII. Adjournment and Lord's Prayer: 8:44pm. 1st Motion: Aaron, 2nd: Jonathan.

WOW (Wheels on Wednesday) will be in the back parking lot at St Mark's on Wednesday August 2, and August 16 from 6:30-8:30p. Families are invited to bring your lawn chairs and children with their bicycles/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 are 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 children to play safely. Sidewalk chalk, water, and popsicles will also be available!



Pastor Heather Langan

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.



Summer Sunday School Bible Board Games
Each Sunday morning this summer, we will focus on a different board game or game and see how it reminds us that we **Always WIN with JESUS!**
9:00 AM every Sunday!
June 11–August 27

WOV Pool Party at Blake & Janet Sigmon's home
August 20th at 3:00pm (rain date 8/27)



There have been occasions in which members and visitors come to the church and need a wheelchair to help them while they are in the building. The two wheelchairs we have are become old and difficult to use. If you have a wheelchair that you would be willing to donate to the church, please contact the church office. Thank you!



Altar Flowers

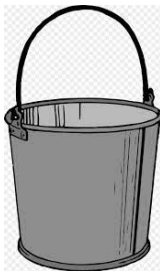
We have the following dates available if you would like to put flowers in the church in memory or in honor of someone please call the office to reserve a date. The cost is \$55.00

Available dates are:

August 20th, November 5th, December 3rd, 10th, 17th, 24th, and 31st.



Every Sunday, during our worship service, a milk pail is placed near the baptismal font. On the first Sunday of the month, the money collected in this pail is given to an organization in our community to assist them in their work. The other three or four Sundays of the month, the money collected in the milk pail is used for other service opportunities like helping families at Christmas and the purchase of food for the blessing box. We also like to use the money collected to purchase farm animals through the ELCA's Good Gifts campaign. Thank you for helping the milk pail ministry continue to be a gift to so many people.



Youth pool party
August 13th, 2:00pm at Tim & Judy Carpenter's home

ST MARKS CALENDAR –August 2023

August

- 8/1 Discernment Team 6:00pm
- 8/2 WOW (Wheels on Wednesdays) 6:30-8:30pm
- 8/6 Sunday Morning Learning/Coffee and Conversation 9:00am
- 8/6 10th Sunday of Pentecost 10:00am Worship Service in Sanctuary/Noisy Offering for Catawba County Humane Society**
- 8/7 All Team Budget Planning 6:00pm
- 8/7 Women's Bible Study 11:00am
- 8/8 Congregation Care 6:00pm
- 8/8 Property Team 6:30pm
- 8/9 Newsletter Mailed
- 8/13 Sunday Morning Learning/Coffee and Conversation 9:00am
- 8/13 11th Sunday of Pentecost 10:00am Worship Service in Sanctuary**
- 8/13 Youth pool party at Tim & Judy Carpenter's home 2:00pm
- 8/14 Outreach Team 10:00am
- 8/14 Worship/Music Team 6:00pm
- 8/14 Stewardship Team 6:30pm
- 8/16 WOW (Wheels on Wednesdays) 6:30-8:30pm
- 8/19 Back to School Bash at Newton Fairgrounds 9:00am—1:00pm
- 8/20 Sunday Morning Learning/Coffee and Conversation 9:00am
- 8/20 12th Sunday of Pentecost 10:00am Worship Service in Sanctuary/ECCCM Food Collection**
- 8/20 WOV Pool party at Blake & Janet Sigmon's home 3:00pm (rain date 8/27)
- 8/21 Executive Team 6:00pm
- 8/21 Congregation Council 6:30pm
- 8/23 Newsletter Mailed
- 8/24 Grief Share 6:30-8:30pm
- 8/27 Sunday Morning Learning/Coffee and Conversation 9:00am
- 8/27 13th Sunday of Pentecost 10:00am Worship Service in Sanctuary**
- 8/27 Pack the Pews and Picnic**
- 8/31 Grief Share 6:30-8:30pm

ANYTIME

www.smarklc.org
YouTube.com



- 8/05 Keith & Susan Tucker
- 8/16 Barry & Sheila Brake
- 8/20 Mike & Donna Evans / Greg & Tanya Stephenson
- 8/22 Bobby & Lorrie Catoe
- 8/24 David & Brandi Stephenson
- 8/29 Ken & Dottie Isenhour
- 8/30 Jim & Marlene Stewart
- 8/31 Kyle & Melanie Sigmon

- 8/01 Barry Whisnant
- 8/02 Zach Gardner, Lennon Miller
- 8/03 Betty Williams
- 8/04 Leigh Sigmon
- 8/05 Angela Frye
- 8/07 Marlene Epps, Johnny Sigmon, Butch Cloninger
- 8/08 Gaye Morrison, Mary Catherine Wepner
- 8/10 Jimmy Dale Sigmon, Rachel Theisen
- 8/11 Janet Sigmon
- 8/12 Melissa Clark Pope



- 8/16 Doug Brown
- 8/18 Carol Schaefer, Phyllis Brown
- 8/20 Terry Hefner
- 8/22 Larry Smyre
- 8/23 Cole Hayes, Kendal Hayes, Sky Hayes
- 8/26 Kathy Ray, Gina Schaefer
- 8/27 Janie Arndt, Weston Kau, Kenneth Summer
- 8/28 Jaretta Harrington, Brandon Van Horn
- 8/29 Jason Gardner, Ken Isenhour, Tracy Martin
- 8/30 Patricia Pope, Nora Blossom
- 8/31 Silas Carpenter



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.



August 2023



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
OFFICE HOURS: Monday—Thursday 9:00am-2:00pm Friday, 9:00am—12:00pm		1 6:00pm Discernment Team	2 6:30-8:30pm WOW Wheels on Wednesdays 	3	4	5
6 9:00am Sunday Morning Learning/Coffee and Conversation 10:00am 6th Sunday of Pentecost Worship Service/ Noisy Offering for Catawba Co. Humane Society	7 11:00am Women’s Bible Study 6:00pm All Team Budget Planning	8 6:00pm Congregation Care 6:30pm Property Team	9 Newsletter Mailed	10	11	12
13 9:00am Sunday Morning Learning/Coffee and Conversation 10:00am 11th Sunday of Pentecost Worship Service 2:00pm Youth pool party at Tim & Judy Carpenter’s	14 10:00am Outreach Team 6:00pm Worship/Music 6:30pm Stewardship	15	16 6:30-8:30pm WOW Wheels on Wednesdays 	17	18	19 Back to School Bash 9am-1pm, Newton Fairgrounds
20 9:00am Sunday Morning Learning/Coffee and Conversation 10:00am 12th Sunday of Pentecost Worship Service/ECCCM Food Collection 3:00pm WOV Pool party at Blake & Janet Sigmon’s home (rain date 8/27)	21 6:00pm Executive Team 6:30pm Congregation Council	22	23 Newsletter Mailed	24 6:30-8:30pm Grief Share	25	26
27 9:00am Sunday Morning Learning/Coffee and Conversation 10:00am 13th Sunday of Pentecost Worship Service Pack the Pews and Picnic	28	29	30	31 6:30-8:30 Grief Share		