

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
September 27, 2023

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

New Beginnings.

Throughout our lives God constantly gives us opportunities to begin again. As we move from one season in our lives to another, we have the chance to enjoy life from a different perspective. As we watch our children grow up and become adults, we experience the new beginning and new dynamics of a different relationship with them. If one job comes to an end, we begin a new career that opens doors we never thought possible. And with each change, each new perspective, each turn in the road on our journey in life, we know God is working things for His good.

St Mark's has experienced many changes over the past few years, particularly since January of this year. Calling a new pastor, hiring a Family Ministry Director, receiving the pastor's resignation, securing an interim pastor. All these at once can seem overwhelming, exciting, discouraging and disheartening, however, it is ALL working together in God's design for our congregation.

I've often referred to the changes and challenges in my life as bridges. These bridges are the situations God uses to move me from a challenge to a chance, a chance to step out from my comfort zone, a chance to see how God will use new talents, a chance to let go and let God lead. He already knows where we're going, we just need to let Him use us to get there.

My mother's favorite phrase throughout my life has been 'When God closes one door, He opens another'. I heard these words during difficult times, and during those times my vision for the future was clouded by the darkness of the moment. But God has always opened doors for me – and some twice. Stepping through those doors wasn't easy, but it was necessary and so much better than where I was.

The same goes for the congregation of St Mark's. God calls each of us to step out on this bridge, crossing over to the opportunities that await.

- The opportunity to grow new ministries.
- The opportunity to take on new leadership roles.
- The opportunity to find a pastor who shares our values.
- The opportunity to journey together on the road to God's plan for St Mark's.

The physical foundation of this congregation was forged over 135 years ago. But the Christian Foundation has constantly been added to those 135 years. Built on Biblical traditions, it has seen many changes, challenges and bridges throughout those years and will see many more. Right now, is our time to add to that foundation, building it stronger, expanding our membership and bringing people back to a church rooted in the Word of God.

God is guiding all of us as we begin anew!
Wendy Hefner, Family Ministry Director

Church Staff

Rev. Dr. Ted Rust: Interim Pastor (828-459-2161)

Wendy Hefner: Family Ministries Director
wendy@smarklc.org (828-270-6008)

Emily Schuttenberg: Minister of Music (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)

Larry Smyre: 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 October 16 at 6:30pm
The next newsletter mailing will be October 11, 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



Vol. 13, No. 18
9-27-2023



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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Thank you to everyone that participated in mom’s (Jackie Devlin’s) funeral service, it was greatly appreciated. Thank you to Sandy Tallant for playing and the choir for singing. Thank you to the ladies that provided the luncheon. Most of all thank you for your thoughts and prayers during this time.

Thank you
Debbie Shuford



The Noisy Offering amount collected for St. Mark’s Preschool in September was \$303.00

The October 1st Noisy Offering will be given to
Lutheran Disaster Response



MEMORIAL/HONORARIUM GIFTS RECEIVED TO THE GLORY OF GOD

For St. Mark’s: In memory of Mike Evan given by: Susan Bolick, Ken & Dotty Isenhour

In memory of Jackie Devlin given by: her 1952 Claremont High School graduation class, Ken & Dotty Isenhour, Tim & Kathy Lowrance, Kathleen Sigmon, Susan & Tony Williams, Harley & Libby Brown & Kermit Nash.

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

Family of Jackie Devlin

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE FOLLOWING WITH ACUTE HEALTH CHALLENGES

(Those with ongoing health challenges and extended friend and family members of St. Mark’s are listed weekly in our Sunday worship bulletin.)

Mike Benfield
Harley Brown
Gary Carpenter
Jan Carpenter
Chris Cloninger
Eva Cloninger
Keegan Dixon
Alanna Dotson
Jerry Herman

Jo Marilyn Hewitt
Celia Hollar
Tammie Hoyle
Forrest Huret
Meredith Huret
Exie Little
Rudy Little
Gaye Morrison
Glenn Morrison

George Setzer
Brenda Sigmon
Hal Sigmon
Johnny Sigmon
Ryan Sigmon
Tim Sigmon
Bishop Tim Smith
Dee Stewart
Tony Williams

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.

October Altar Guild

Tamarah Hefner
& Marlene Epps



October Tabulators

Dotty Isenhour
& Chris Cloninger



October Ushers

Jonathon Ray
Blake Sigmon



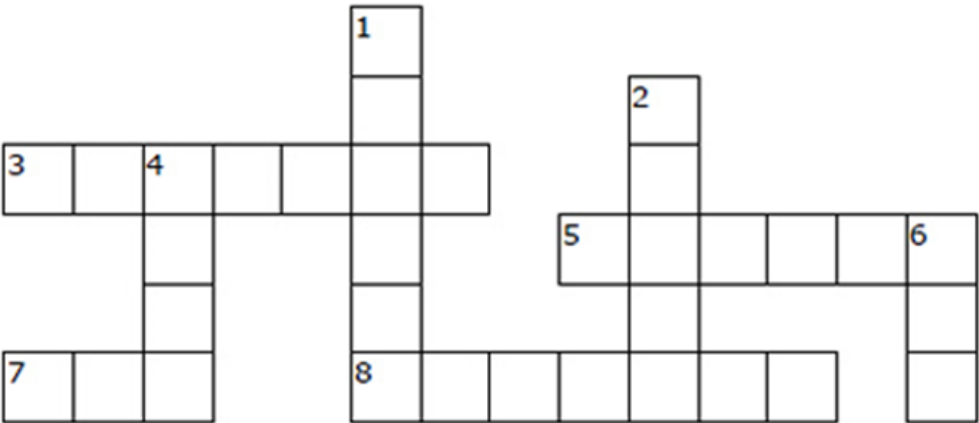
“The best thing about the future is that it comes only one day at a time.”

Abraham Lincoln

The Parting of the Red Sea

And when the Israelites saw the mighty hand of the LORD displayed against the Egyptians, the people feared the LORD and put their trust in him and in Moses his servant.
Exodus 14:31 (NIV)

Puzzle is based on Exodus 14:19-31



ACROSS

- 3. A two-wheeled horse-drawn battle vehicle used in war and races in ancient Egypt
- 5. a large animal with four legs which people ride on or use for carrying things or pulling vehicles
- 7. Something that has no water in it or on it
- 8. Separated into two or more parts

DOWN

- 1. The surface of the earth
- 2. A light puffy, or billowy formation floating in the air
- 4. The military land forces of a nation
- 6. A large body of salt water which is partly or completely surrounded by land

CHARIOT DRY	DIVIDED ARMY	CLOUD SEA	GROUND HORSES
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Children’s Ministry Page

The Parting of the Red Sea

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Exodus 14:31 (NIV)

The puzzle is based on Exodus 14:19-31



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

WATER	TRAVELING	GROUND	ARMY	CHARIOTS
DRY	SEA	SAVED	MOSES	HORSES
ANGEL	HAND	CLOUD	TRUST	ISRAEL



The Outreach Team will be packing Backpacks on November 15th at 10:00am, let Cathy Sigmon know if you’d like to join us.

The Backpack Program serves children in forty+ local schools who face hunger on the weekends in Catawba and Alexander County. Each week school is in session, over 1,200 children receive a bag full of food weighing up to 7 lbs. The food supplied is either purchased in bulk (at cost) or donated by various community members and local businesses. Through our calculations, it costs \$200 for one child to receive meals each weekend, all school year long.

The Backpack Program exists thanks to the constant support and continued dedication of our community. The program is driven by volunteers who give their time, talent and treasures. These special volunteers work hard packing bags, stocking shelves, organizing inventory, fundraising and seeking community support to secure financial contributions.

Help us fight local childhood hunger and reduce the barrier to a good education!
For more information on this program, please contact Amanda Drum, Backpack Program Coordinator, at backpack@thecornertable.org or 828-464-0355.

To sponsor a child or learn more about this opportunity, please call 828-464-0355.
*Please note the Backpack Program is located at a different location than our Community Kitchen.

Backpack Program Warehouse
1925 Tate Blvd SE
Hickory, NC 28602



September 1, 2023

St. Mark's Lutheran Church
PO Box 550
Claremont, NC 28610

Dear Friends at St. Mark's Lutheran Church,

Thank you for your recent donation to Humane Society of Catawba County. We are deeply thankful for your kindness and generosity towards the homeless animals of Catawba County.

2023 is an exciting year for HSCC! Adoptions are going very well as we continue to find loving homes for our shelter residents. Did you know adult cat adoptions are now free, thanks to our "Wildflower's Wish" program? Our Foothills Spay/Neuter Clinic is on track to perform over 10,000 spay and neuter surgeries in 2023, and our vaccine clinic is busy providing lifesaving vaccinations and testing to area pets. Our "Recue Retail" pet-friendly store in Courthouse Square in Newton features eclectic home goods, pet supplies and gifts. Please visit our website to learn about sponsorship opportunities and the many services we offer at www.catawbahumane.org.

Please know that every animal at HSCC is comfortably housed, fed nourishing food, spayed or neutered, vaccinated, and microchipped. Even more important is the fact that they are loved and cared for by our staff and volunteers as they wait until they find their forever home.

We received your gift of \$202.50 on 9/1/2023. Our shelter pets will have bright futures thanks to caring organizations like yours.

Sincerely,

Erin Hooks
Director of Development
erin@catawbahumane.org

Please retain this letter for tax verification. No goods or services were given in return for this donation. Consult your tax advisor regarding tax deductibility. Humane Society of Catawba County is a nonprofit 501(c) 3 organization.

Post Office Box 63 ~ Hickory, NC 28603 ~ 828-464-8878 ~ www.catawbahumane.org

Thank you



Church family,
We would like to thank you for your recent donation. As our members continue to grow daily, we thank you for your care and concern for those who are less fortunate. We are truly grateful for your support! Blessings,
The Corner Table



Thank You for much for your recent donation!
God provides for his life transforming work through generous folks like you!
Our promise to you is to steward your donation well and help as many women as we can.

May God Bless You!
Kicks

The new Christ in our Home is available for pick up at the church. Please call the office if you need one mailed to you.



Altar Flower Dates Available



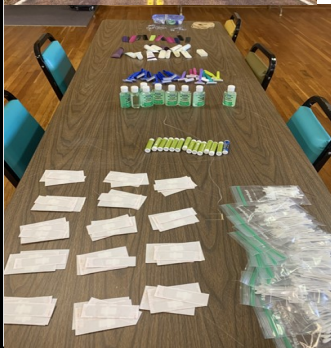
November 5th & 19th

December 10th, 17th, 24th and 31st.

Altar flowers are \$54.00, please let the office know if you would like to reserve one of these available dates.



Putting together Hygiene kits for Highways & Hedges
If you would like to help support this ministry, monetary donations may be made to St. Mark's or sent directly to 910 3rd Street Place, Conover, NC 28613



ECCHUNGERWALK.COM
SPONSOR START A TEAM
RAISE SUPPORT WALK
SPREAD THE WORD



REGISTER NOW

SUNDAY | 3PM
OCTOBER 15, 2023
DOWNTOWN NEWTON

BENEFITING



WHY WE WALK

To provide meals to the homes facing food insecurity in eastern Catawba County!

INFORMATION

2:00PM - Registration 2:45PM - Awards
(Top Team Fundraiser, Largest Team, Top Individual Fundraiser)

QUESTIONS

ECCCM **The Corner Table**
(828-465-1702 | ecccm.org) (828-464-0355 | thecornertable.org)



ST MARKS CALENDAR –October 2023

October

10/1 Sunday Morning Learning/Coffee and Conversation 9:00am

10/1 18th Sunday of Pentecost 10:00am Worship Service in Sanctuary/Noisy Offering/Fall Thank Offering

10/2 Women of the Vine Bible Study 11:00am

10/4 “One”derful Wednesdays 5:15pm dinner, 6:00pm Adult Bible Study & Children’s Activity, 6:30pm Music Rehearsal

10/6-7 Claremont Days

10/8 Sunday Morning Learning/Coffee and Conversation 9:00am

10/8 19th Sunday of Pentecost 10:00am Worship Service in Sanctuary

10/9 Worship/Music Team 6:00pm

10/9 Youth/Learning Team 6:00pm

10/9 Stewardship Team 6:30pm

10/10 Congregation Care 6:00pm

10/10 Property Team 6:30pm

10/11 “One”derful Wednesdays 5:15pm dinner, 6:00pm Adult Bible Study & Children’s Activity, 6:30pm Music Rehearsal

10/11 Newsletter Mailed

10/12 Prime Time Seniors Riverbend Creamery 12:30pm

10/15 Sunday Morning Learning/Coffee and Conversation 9:00am

10/15 20th Sunday of Pentecost 10:00am Worship Service in Sanctuary/ECCCM Food Collection

10/15 ECCCM Hunger Walk 2-4:00pm

10/16 Outreach 10:00am

10/16 Executive Team 6:00pm

10/16 Congregation Council 6:30pm

10/18 “One”derful Wednesdays 5:15pm dinner, 6:00pm Adult Bible Study & Children’s Activity, 6:30pm Music Rehearsal

10/19 Women of the Vine 6:00pm

10/22 Sunday Morning Learning/Coffee and Conversation 9:00am

10/22 21st Sunday of Pentecost 10:00am Worship Service in Sanctuary

10/22 Ministry Fair and Lunch following the Worship Service

10/25 “One”derful Wednesdays 5:15pm dinner, 6:00pm Adult Bible Study & Children’s Activity, 6:30pm Music Rehearsal

10/25 Newsletter Mailed

10/28 Trunk or Treat 5-7:00pm

ANYTIME

9
www.smarklc.org
YouTube.com



- 1 - Tony and Susan Williams
- 16 - Charles and Edie Connor
- 30 - Terry and Tamarah Hefner

- 2- Betty Cloninger
- 4- Mary Langan, Avery Breitzman
- 5- Hazel Setzer
- 7- Vance Moose
- 8- Noelle Sharpe
- 9- Ed Crowell
- 10- Rudy Little
- 12- Chris Cloninger, Nathan Sherrill, Randy Breitzman
- 14- Ron Sigmon



- 15- Carrie Brown, Joe Winters Sr.
- 16- Colin Ray
- 18- Logan Sherrill
- 22- Pat Kale, Donna Evans
- 24- Jeannie Deal
- 25- Liam Carpenter
- 26- Linda Hewitt, Mike Baker
- 28- Susan Bolick, Brenda Sigmon
- 29- Cindy Baker, Tamarah Hefner
- 31- Linda Lytton, Elijah Hedrick



Thank you to all who helped install the new slide at the playground

!! Candy Donations Needed !!

Halloween Trunk or Treat

Saturday, October 28th

5 pm—7pm

St Mark's Front Parking Lot

Get into the Halloween Spirit,



'One' derful Wednesdays September 13th -November 15th



5:15—6:00 PM Dinner

6:00 - 6:30 PM Adult Bible Study

6:30 - 7:30 PM Choir Practice

6:00 - 6:45 PM Children's Activity

Other Faith-Growth opportunities

may be offered as interest is shown



Prime Time Seniors Riverbend Creamery Thursday, October 12

We will meet at the church at 12:30 PM and carpool to the creamery on Ritchie Road for ice cream and fellowship.

St Mark's will treat for the treats!

Invite your friends to join us.

Volunteers needed to help fold and label Newsletter's.

2nd & 4th Wednesday's of each month, 30-45 minutes.

Please let the office know if you are willing and available to help with this.



Coat Closet Clean Out



St Mark's is collecting **coats, gloves, toboggans and earmuffs** to share with our neighbors.

Donation boxes will be set up at the doors **through October 29th.**

All sizes needed: Infant - Adult.





October 2023



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 9:00am Sunday Morning Learning/Coffee and Conversation 10:00am 18th Sunday of Pentecost Worship Service/ Noisy Offering for Lutheran Disaster Relief/Fall Thank Offering	2 11:00am Women’s Bible Study	3	4 “One”derful Wednesday 5:15pm Dinner 6:00pm Adult Bible Study & Children’s Activity 6:30pm Music Rehearsal	5	6 Claremont	7 Days
8 9:00am Sunday Morning Learning/Coffee and Conversation 10:00am 19th Sunday of Pentecost Worship Service	9 6:00pm Worship/Music 6:00pm Youth/Learning 6:30pm Stewardship Team	10 6:00pm Congregation Care 6:30pm Property Team	11 “One”derful Wednesday 5:15pm Dinner 6:00pm Adult Bible Study & Children’s Activity 6:30pm Music Rehearsal Newsletter mailed	12 Prime Time Seniors Riverbend Creamery 12:30pm	13	14
15 9:00am Sunday Morning Learning/Coffee and Conversation 10:00am 20th Sunday of Pentecost Worship Service ECCCM Food Collection ECCCM Food Walk 2-4:00pm	16 10:00am Outreach Team 6:00pm Executive Team 6:30pm Congregation Council	17	18 “One”derful Wednesday 5:15pm Dinner 6:00pm Adult Bible Study & Children’s Activity 6:30pm Music Rehearsal	19 6:00pm Women Of the Vine	20	21
22 9:00am Sunday Morning Learning/Coffee and Conversation 10:00am 21st Sunday of Pentecost Worship Service Ministry Fair and Lunch after Worship Service	23	24	25 “One”derful Wednesday 5:15pm Dinner 6:00pm Adult Bible Study & Children’s Activity 6:30pm Music Rehearsal Newsletter Mailed	26	27	28 5-7:00pm Trunk or Treat 
29 9:00am Sunday Morning Learning/Coffee and Conversation 10:00am 22nd Sunday of Pentecost/Reformation Sunday Worship Service	30	31 				