

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



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

ST. MARKS NEWSLETTER
January 10, 2024

“We know love by this, that Jesus laid down his life for us– and we ought to lay down our lives for one another.” 1 John 3:16

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

	Greet & Usher	Read Lessons	Carry Cross (Youth or Adult)	Acolyte (Youth of Adult)	Assisting Minister
Jan. 14th @ 10:00am	Jean Cloninger	Linda Hewitt	Rev. Dr. Ted Rust	Silas Carpenter	Linda Hewitt
Jan 21st @ 10:00am	Marlene Epps Linda Lytton	Tiffany Caudill	AJ Stephenson	Hadley Theisen	Rachel Theisen
Jan. 28th @ 10:00am	Dotty Isenhour	Carol Schaefer	Tamarah Hefner	Dale Sherrill	Dale Sherrill
Feb. 4th @ 10:00am	Marlene Epps	Kermit Nash	Kermit Nash	Carol Schaefer	Kermit Nash
Feb. 11th @ 10:00am	Blake Sigmon Nicky Setzer	Rachel Theisen	David Theisen	Silas Carpenter	Wendy Hefner
Feb. 18th @ 10:00am	Denise Arndt Marlene Epps	Jonathon Ray	David Theisen	Hadley Theisen	Rachel Theisen

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

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:

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

If you need to change Sundays or you need to be taken off the list of worship volunteers please call Pastor Ted Rust 252-675-5936

Church Staff

Rev. Dr. Ted Rust: Pastor (252) 675-5936
tedrust1@gmail.com (252) 675-5936
Wendy Hefner: Family Ministries Director (828-270-6008)
wendy@smarklc.org
Emily Schuttenberg: Minister of Music (828-459-2161)
Maria Wright: Preschool Director (828-234-5943)
mw9268@gmail.com
Randy Abernathy : Preschool Director (828-781-1702)
mimab@charter.net
Deanna Butcher: Finance Secretary (828-459-2161)
deanna@smarklc.org
Debbie Smith: Administrative Assistant (828-459-2161)
secretary@smarklc.org
Larry Smyre: Church Custodian (828-459-2161)

Congregation Council

2024	2025	2025
Kendra Hendra	Jean Cloninger	Carol Schaefer
Hilka Cox	Blake Sigmon	Matthew Watkins
Aaron Carpenter	Jonathan Ray	Nobia Summer
Bill Dotson	Nicky Setzer	

The year denotes rotation off Council.

Congregation Council meets on January 22nd at 6:30pm
The next newsletter mailing will be January 24, 2024

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

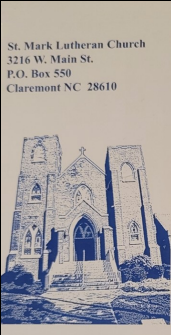


Vol. 14, No. 1
1-10-2024



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

Start a New Years Resolution in 2024
Come to Sunday School and learn from God's Word
9:00am to 9:45am
Adult Bible Study & Coffee with Rev. Dr. Ted Rust
Children's Lesson and Crafts with Wendy Hefner



Offering envelopes are ready for pickup in the sanctuary.

If you need yours mailed to you please call the office.

Annual Reports
due by January 31st
for the
2024 Church Yearbook.

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE FOLLOWING WITH ACUTE HEALTH CHALLENGES
(Those with ongoing health challenges and extended friends and family members of St. Mark's are listed weekly in our Sunday worship bulletin.)

Mike Benfield Gary Carpenter Jan Carpenter Betty Cloninger Chris Cloninger Eva Cloninger Keegan Dixon Alanna Dotson	Jerry Herman Jo Marilyn Hewitt Tammie Hoyle Rudy Little Gaye Morrison Glenn Morrison George Setzer Carolyn Sherrill	Brenda Sigmon Hal Sigmon Johnny Sigmon Ryan Sigmon Larry Smyre Dee Stewart	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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January Altar Guild
Blake & Janet Sigmon
Cathy Sigmon



January Tabulators
Kay & Steve Deal,
Dotty Isenhour

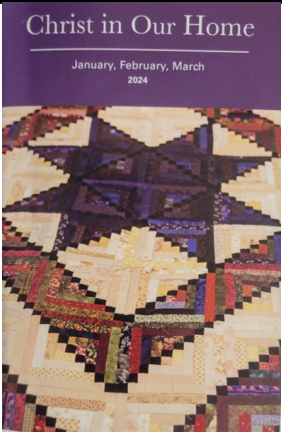


January Ushers
Jean Cloninger
Hilka Cox

"If God is your partner, make big plans"
D. L. Moody

Christ in Our Home available for pick up.

Please call the office if you need one mailed to you.



Word Search Puzzle
In the Shepherd's Arms

Isaiah 40:1-11

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

SHEPHERD	LEADS	SPEAK	CARRY	YOUNG
HEART	LAMBS	COMFORT	CLOSE	TEND
GATHER	PEOPLE	GENTLY	ARM	FLOCK



Children's Ministry Page

Decoder Puzzle

Each number represents a letter of the alphabet.
Substitute the correct letter for the numbers
to reveal the coded words.

T	J	C	P	V	A	E	B	I	Y	Z	D	W	F	X	M	K	S	Q	U	L	R	H	N	O	G
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26

1. 1-7-24-12 _____
2. 14-21-25-3-17 _____
3. 18-23-7-4-23-7-22-12 _____
4. 21-6-16-8-18 _____
5. 6-22-16 _____
6. 3-6-22-22-10 _____
7. 23-7-6-22-1 _____
8. 21-7-6-12-18 _____

FLOCK LEADS	HEART ARM	SHEPHERD LAMBS	TEND CARRY
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He gathers the lambs in his arms and
carries them close to his heart.
Isaiah 40:11

Responding To God Obediently

(This is a newsletter article by Rev. Dr. Ted Rust)

Grace to you and peace in the loving name of our Lord Jesus Christ. Happy New Year to all of our St. Mark's Lutheran Church family and friends! God loves you and so do I. I thank you very much for your generous Christmas gift to me and my family. I also thank you for your generous gifts and support to the rest of our talented and dedicated church staff. The staff of St Mark's Lutheran Church are incredible servants and leaders who bless and help our church grow every day. Please keep them all in your prayers.

One of the Bible readings for the Second Sunday after Epiphany is 1 Samuel 3:1-20. At a time when visions are rare and unexpected the Lord comes to young Samuel and calls him to speak the Word of God. Though just a boy, Samuel responds to the Lord obediently, as Eli the priest has taught him to respond. This marks the beginning of Samuel's faithful ministry.

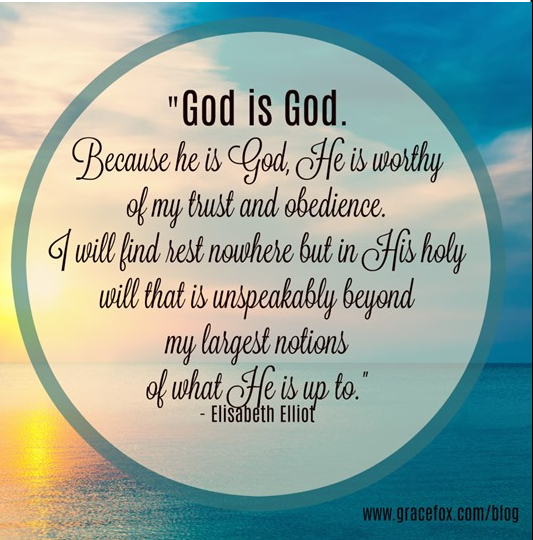
As we begin a new year my hope and prayer is that all of us in the St. Mark's Family would respond to the Lord obediently. This includes such thing as:

1. Remembering the Sabbath day. We all need to attend Sunday Worship celebrations more regularly if our church in going to grow and thrive.
2. Assist with Worship and serve on a team. We need more volunteers to carry the cross acolyte, read lessons, usher, etc. to have a healthy church. Call me at 252-675-5936 and I will put you on the schedule. I am looking for you—not somebody else.
3. Give your regular offerings to support Christ's mission. Give as God has blessed you. We have bills to pay like you do.
4. Give me names, addresses, phone numbers of people I could visit to ask them to come Church Worship Celebrations. These would include people who used to come or people who have no church home.
5. Find a "mess" in the church or a "weakness" and you and your family and friends take on a challenge to turn that weakness into a new strength or advantage for St. Mark's. I'm not talking about the building. I'm taling about the mission.

I look forward to seeing you in Church Worship this Sunday.

God expects our obedience.

Rev. Dr. Ted Rust





Altar Flowers

After much discussion with Worship and Music, we have decided to go with artificial arrangements of flowers for altar flowers. We will no longer have a standing order for flowers from.

It has been suggested for members that wish to have cut arrangements for sponsored flowers for a given Sunday, that you can still order through the Church or secure them for themselves, but the cost of those flowers will be much higher than in the past. The church office will need a notice of at least 2 weeks to order flowers for you. The Altar flower calendar has been posted outside the church office, you may also call the church office.

Also discussed was the possibility of asking members if they would like to make donations for the purchase of several other artificial arrangements to be used throughout the church year as the seasons change. We currently have one artificial arrangement donated to begin using for the first Sunday of 2024.



at St Mark's

July 22 - 26, 2024

St Mark's will be hosting Lutheroad, an on-site camp provided by Lutheridge, for rising K - 6th Graders.

Camp hours 9am - 4pm Mon—Thurs
and 9am - noon Friday

Before & After care will be available

7:30 - 9am & 4-6pm Mon—Thurs

7:30 - 9am & noon-6pm Friday

More Information to follow

on registration and cost.

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Faith Kids



Children and Youth (4 yrs - 6th grade) will be meeting at least two Sunday's a month for fellowship, service projects

and Faith Growth opportunities.



Look for information in the bulletins, newsletters and special mailings for information on meeting times and

Save the Date
St. Mark's Women's
Day will be



Saturday, April 27th

11:00am—1:00pm.

More details to come!!

2024 Spring Retreat

Friday-Saturday, March 1-3, 2024

Project Runway....Red Letter Bible Edition



An Interactive & Surprisingly Scandalous Bible Study

Featuring Women of the Word

Tamar, Rahab, Ruth and Bathsheba

What a Woman Wears Can Literally
Change the World!

Written and presented by

Anna Lisa Johannessen-Locke

1 Palm Blvd., Isle of Palms, SC

Costal Retreat Center Isle of Palms, SC

210Our NCSWO Spring Retreats have been a popular favorite with our women for many years! Many times we have reached full capacity. Join us!

We begin Friday evening at 4:00pm with your arrival and sign-in. A light supper will be enjoyed around 6:00pm

Our time concludes on Sunday at approximately 11:00pm. Come and enjoy a wonderful weekend of fellowship with your sisters in Christ while we learn about the women who came before us found in the Bible. Our last retreat received glowing reviews from participants. Bring a friend, your Bible, and snacks to share.

Due to the closing of our retreat center at Kure Beach, NC, this year's retreat will be held at the Coastal Retreat Center in Isle of Palms, SC.

REGISTRATION FEE: \$200 DEADLINE: JANUARY 31ST

This fee includes Friday supper, Saturday breakfast & lunch, Sunday breakfast and all supplies.
Dinner Saturday night will be on your own.

Registration form can be picked up at St. Mark's Office

ACCOMMODATIONS: Costal Retreat Center, Isle of Palms, SC 2101 Palm Blvd., Isle of Palms SC

Costal Retreat Center Link

<https://sclr.com/costalretreat/>

NC Women of the ELCA

Present 2024 Spring One Day Retreat

Saturday, February 10, 2024

Lord of Life Lutheran Church 2100 Buffaloe Rd, Garner NC

Saturday, February 17, 2024

Grace Lutheran Church, 3020 Grace Ch. Rd, Salisbury NC



Check-in/Fellowship begins at 8:30am

Program begins at 9am—1:30pm

\$10.00 Registration Fee

(Covers a light breakfast, lunch and program materials)

Kaleidoscope of Caring

In everyday life there is a kaleidoscope of opportunities to unite with God in prayer. As our lives are drawn to reflect God's love, new patterns of awe and expectations lead us into lives of caring adventures.

How can we trust that God's light shines in and through us during the twists and turns of life?
How can we become active participants in God's creative action for a hurting world?

During this retreat participants will discover new patterns of prayer and embrace time tested methods of drawing near to God. God will help Participants to reach out to neighbors in a kaleidoscope of caring. Some who think they are "not good" at praying may be surprised by what they learn about prayer at this retreat.

Come like a little child ready to play and be surprised by the view through a kaleidoscope for the first time. See how God's loving light reflected into your life through praise, comfort, confession, healing, and hope will use what you have been given o join with others in beautiful outreach to God's love.

Registration forms are available at the
St. Mark's Office

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