

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 24, 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

	1/28/24 @ 10:00am	2/4/24 @ 10:00am	2/11/24 @ 10:00am	2/18/24 @ 10:00am	2/25/24 @ 10:00am
Ushers	Jean Cloninger Hilka Cox	Aaron Carpenter Kendra Hendren	Aaron Carpenter Kendra Hendren	Aaron Carpenter Kendra Hendren	Aaron Carpenter Kendra Hendren
Greeters	Dotty Isenhour	Marlene Epps	Blake Sigmon Nicky Setzer	Denise Arndt Marlene Epps	Dotty Isenhour
Read Lessons	Carol Schaefer	Kermit Nash	Rachel Theisen	Jonathan Ray	Rev. Bill Hollar
Carry Cross (Youth or Adult)	Tamarah Hefner	Kermit Nash	David Theisen	David Theisen	A.J. Stephenson
Acolyte (Youth of Adult)	Dale Sherrill	Carol Schaefer	Silas Carpenter	Hadley Theisen	Denise Arndt
Assisting Minister	Dale Sherrill	Kermit Nash	Wendy Hefner	Rachel Theisen	Kermit Nash

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:

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

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: Interim Pastor (252-675-5936)

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)

Randy 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

2024	2025	2026
Hilka Cox	Jean Cloninger	Carol Schaefer
Kendra Hendren	Blake Sigmon	Matthew Watkins
Aaron Carpenter	Jonathan Ray	Nobia Summer
Bill Dotson	Nicky Setzer	

The year denotes rotation off Council.

Congregation Council meets on February 19 at 6:30pm
The next newsletter mailing will be February 14, 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



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1-24-2024



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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Saint Mark’s Lutheran Church
Ministry Financial Analysis

12/31/2023	Month	Year
General Fund	\$ 38,261.88	\$ 306,929.93
Expenses	\$ 29,638.46	\$ 353,773.32
	\$ 8,623.42	\$ (46,843.39)

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

December 2023
Worship
Attendance

12/10/23	63
12/17/23	52
12/24/23 10:00AM	71
12/24/23 4:00PM	51
12/24/23 8:00PM	62
12/31/23	54

MEMORIAL/HONORARIUM GIFTS RECEIVED TO THE GLORY OF GOD

For St. Mark’s: In memory of Exie Little given by Sue Karen Falls , Douglas L. Lawing

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 Gary Carpenter Jan Carpenter Chris Cloninger Eva Cloninger Keegan Dixon Alanna Dotson	Jerry Herman Jo Marilyn Hewitt Celia Hollar Tammie Hoyle Rudy Little Gaye Morrison Glenn Morrison	George Setzer Brenda Sigmon Hal Sigmon Johnny 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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February Altar Guild
Dale & Sandy Sherrill



February Tabulators
Jean Cloninger, Cathy Sigmon & Evelyn Setzer



“I have neither tongue nor pen to express to you the happiness of such as are in Christ.”
Samuel Rutherford

Jesus' Love Is Stronger

Mark 1:21-28

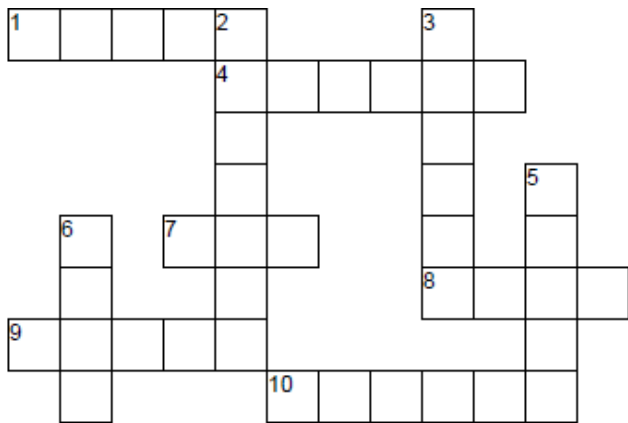
J N D Z J F M M Q R D H Q X G
F L A U T H O R I T Y I G L B
O I Q X J E S U S E C M D C J
B W U X Z Z N C P A P P T D D
E D I R S C B C R C J U D E L
Y F E U W P J I Q H W R I S D
S P T L L T R Z X Z I E O T N
Q H E A I S H E A E C C T R E
K Z O R Q T N Z A R W O Z O O
R I I O A Q U L A D H S D Y T
C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

OBEY	SHOOK	SABBATH	AUTHORITY	AMAZED
IMPURE	SPREAD	DESTROY	SPIRIT	PEOPLE
QUIET	COME	JESUS	TEACH	NEWS



Children’s Ministry Page

Crossword Puzzle



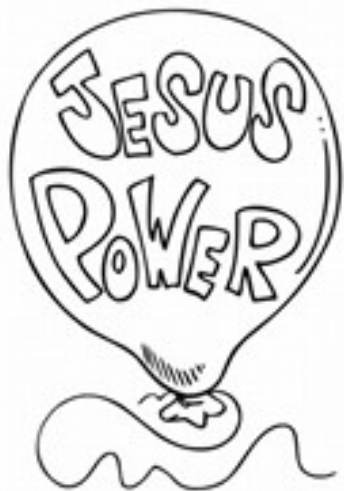
HORIZONTAL

- 1. The Son of God
- 4. To be extremely surprised
- 7. An adult male human being
- 8. Immoral, bad, or wicked
- 9. To instruct or train someone
- 10. A supernatural being such as a demon

VERTICAL

- 2. The day of the week set aside by some religions as a day of rest and worship
- 3. Human beings; men, women and children
- 5. Making very little or no noise
- 6. To do what you are told or expected to do

TEACH	PEOPLE	SABBATH	EVIL	QUIET
JESUS	MAN	AMAZED	OBEY	SPIRIT



Faith Kids

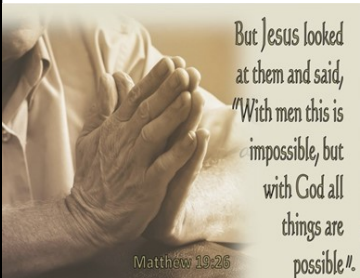
Children and Youth (4 yrs. - 6th grade) will be meeting at least two Sunday’s a month for fellowship, service projects and Faith Growth opportunities.



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

Ladies Day in honor of Mothers Day Saturday, April 27: 11am-1pm .

Our theme is “ *Gods Providential Hand* “. Get ready to be inspired by our Guest speaker Debbie Smith She will be sharing how Gods Providential Hand led them to adopt a child from Bulgaria



Lunch is provided. Please RSVP to the office by April 22 .

“ Love Your Neighbor “

The Stewardship Team would like to utilize the whole month of February in support of Highways and Hedges, a ministry which offers assistance to the homeless and needy. Ministry teams will be looking for creative ways to spread love and encouragement to those in need. Our noisy bucket offering will be designated as the kickstart! Special sermon on February 11th.

The Outreach team will provide a meal with free Will offering on February 18. Learning and youth along with our preschool children will decorate hearts to place in client bags while WELCA will make treat bags . Children’s Sunday school classes will package items from a Donation Box located in breezeway.

Suggested items are Laundry Detergent, dishwashing liquid, toilet paper, deodorant, and BAR soap. All of these items can be purchased at Dollar Tree. These are just a few ways to be a blessing.

We are challenging the congregation to help raise \$1000.00 with all proceeds going to Highways and Hedges. If you have any questions regarding volunteer opportunities or donations reach out to Nobia Summer at her cell 446-8233. Nobia's parents, Phil and Martha Williams began this ministry in 2013 . Remember we can all be Prayer Warriors so let’s pour out to others!

Matthew 25:40

Truly I tell you whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine you did for me !



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.*



Celebrating the Epiphany Season

What is it that makes for a good story? I like movies or novels that grabs and keeps our attention gradually, but then also eventually reveals that which is not known. Each turn of the page or new scene reveals the detail, truth, and progression of the story.

We are now in the season of Epiphany. It is not as “cool” or popular as Advent or Christmas, but it sill is a very important time. The word “Epiphany” means the “revealing” or “manifestation” of Christ to the Gentiles as represented by the Magi (Kings) in Matthew 2:1-12. One of the popular songs for the Epiphany Season is “We Three Kings.”

“We three Kings of Orient are; Bearing gifts we traverse afar.
Field and Fountain, moor and mountain; Following yonder star.
O-Star of wonder, star of night, star with royal beauty bright.
West-ward leading, still proceeding, guide us to the perfect light.”

Another word for “Epiphany” is manifestation or to uncover. The season of Epiphany is a time to uncover the truth about God, ourselves, and others. An “Epiphany” is usually a sudden manifestation or uncovering of the essential nature of something that is usually simple and striking.

What is an example of an epiphany? Here is one. In the middle of a typical argument with my wife Beverly, I realize that I have been the one causing most of our arguments and that in order to have a better marriage, I must stop being such an aggressive person. I must show more love and kindness to her. In this example, my epiphany is prompted by an everyday argument. Another word for Epiphany is “flash insight, vision, revelation, or sign. In the Bible the Greek word “Epiphany” comes from the Greek “epiphaneia.” It means “manifestation” or “appearance.” It refers to the manifestation of Jesus to the world. One of the great texts for this season is Isaiah 60:1 “Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you.” Epiphany begins with 3 weeks of call stories.

- First we have the call of Jesus at his Baptism.
- Secondly, we study John’s version of the call of 2 disciples.
- Finally on Epiphany 3 Jesus calls even more disciples.

If we think about our own calling to follow Jesus, attend weekly services, and love and serve God and others-how are we doing? Are we faithful? Are we letting our light shine? As we worship during the season of Epiphany, stories of the call to discipleship show us the implications of our baptismal calling to show Jesus to the world.

I need to share one more thing. On January 21st in worship I witnesses a wonderful Epiphany. A. J. Stepheson signed up on one of my clip boards while attending a Christmas Eve. Service. He served as a Crucifer on January 21st for the first time. Terry Hefner helped him but youth and adults like A. J. and Terry are helping us re-build and strengthen St. Mark’s Lutheran Church. You can help us too! We also had 9 youth come up for the Children’s Sermon.

The Lord is certainly blessing us right now. It will be another Epiphany this coming Sunday.
I hope to see you there. What will God reveal to us?

Newsletter article by Rev. Dr. Ted. Rust

ST MARKS CALENDAR –February 2024

February

- 2/4 Adult Bible Study & coffee with Pastor Rust 9:00am
- 2/4 5th Sunday after Epiphany Worship Service 10:00am/Noisy Offering**
- 2/5 Women of the ELCA Bible Study 11:00am
- 2/7 Music Rehearsal 6:30pm
- 2/11 Adult Bible Study & coffee with Pastor Rust 9:00am
- 2/11 Transfiguration of Our Lord 10:00am Worship Service**
- 2/11 Women of the ELCA & Women of the Vine Meeting at Nobia Summer’s home 3:00pm
- 2/12 Outreach 11:00am
- 2/12 Youth/Learning Team 6:00pm
- 2/12 Worship/Music 6:00pm
- 2/12 Stewardship Team 6:30pm
- 2/13 Congregation Care 6:00pm
- 2/13 Property Team 6:30pm
- 2/14 Ash Wednesday Worship services 12:30pm & 7:30pm
- 2/14 Backpack Packing
- 2/14 Music Rehearsal 6:30pm
- 2/14 Newsletter Mailed
- 2/18 Adult Bible Study & coffee with Pastor Rust 9:00am
- 2/18 1st Sunday of Lent Worship Service 10:00am/ECCCM Food Collection**
- 2/19 Executive Team 6:00pm
- 2/19 Congregation Council 6:30pm
- 2/20 Lent Worship Service 12:30pm
- 2/20 Lent Meal 1:00pm
- 2/21 Music Rehearsal 6:30pm
- 2/23 Senior Primetime Leap year lunch 12:00 noon please RSVP to the church office by 2/20
- 2/25 Adult Bible Study & coffee with Pastor Rust 9:00am
- 2/25 2nd Sunday of Lent 10:00am Worship Service**
- 2/27 Lent Worship Service 12:30pm
- 2/27 Lent Meal 1:00pm
- 2/28 Music Rehearsal 6:30pm
- 2/28 Newsletter Mailed



2/13 – William & Linda Hewitt
2/14 – Donald & Debbie Herman



2/1 – Jill Brown
2/2 – Susan Carpenter
2/3 – Kiersten Bohn
2/4 - Kim Sigmon
2/6 – Braeden Fox, Nicky Setzer
2/8 – Colene Hall
2/10 – Tammy Moore

2/11 Sandra Tallant
2/14 Elizabeth Azar Watkins
2/17 – Ty Hefner
2/24 – Ashlyn Grant, Dee Stewart
2/25 – Gary Arndt
2/29 – Bradley Langan

NATIONAL LUTHERAN CHOIR

My Song As I Journey

2024 Tour to North and South Carolina

Join us for a New Journey and leave refreshed for your own!

Friday, March 1 | 7:30pm
Grace Chapel at Lenoir-Rhyne University | Hickory, NC

Saturday, March 2 | 3:00pm
St. Stephen's Lutheran Church | Lexington, SC

Sunday, March 3 | 3:00pm
Duke University Chapel | Durham, NC

Tickets at [NLCA.com/Tour](https://www.nlca.com/Tour)

Rising Hope Farms

3775 Bethany Church Rd.
Claremont NC

Volunteers Needed

RHF is a therapeutic riding center offering FREE therapeutic horse riding lessons to individuals with special needs. We have ZERO paid staff and rely entirely on volunteers like YOU!

Volunteer Training

Sat. March 9, 2024	Sat. March 16, 2024	Sat. March 23, 2024
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. Returning volunteers only Annually required, brief refresher class 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Anyone age 15+ Side Walker Training ZERO horse knowledge or prior experience required! 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Anyone age 15+ Side Walker Training ZERO horse knowledge or prior experience required!

Register for training here:

Scan me!

For More Info Visit
www.risinghopefarms.com

Call Wartner
Executive Director
828-638-0879

Sandy Sherrill Volunteer
Coordinator
828-302-7240



2024 Altar Guild and Council Members



Choir Practice will resume on Wednesday, February 7th at 6:30pm. Please come and join us, we would love to fill the choir loft up and sing Praise to



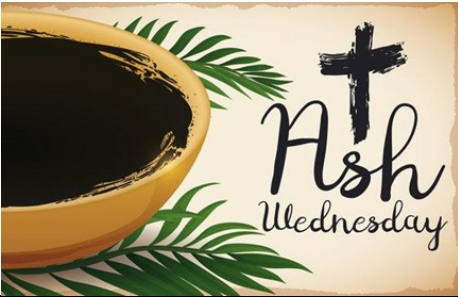
Tornado RELIEF

If you would like to help the tornado victims in our area monetary donations can be mailed or dropped off at the church office. Thank you to those who have already helped.

Volunteers are needed to help restock and maintain the blessing box. Please see Cathy Sigmon to sign up for a particular week.





Thank you for those who have already committed to help.



February 2024



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2 	3
4 9:00am Adult Bible Study & coffee with Pastor Rust 10:00am 5th Sunday of Epiphany Worship Service/ Noisy Offering for Highway & Hedges	5 11:00am Women of the ELCA Bible Study	6	7 6:30pm Music Rehearsal	8	9	10
11 9:00am Adult Bible Study & coffee with Pastor Rust 10:00am Transfiguration of Our Lord Worship Service 3:00pm Women of the ELCA & Women of the Vine meeting at Nobia Summer’s home	12 11:00am Outreach 6:00pm Youth/Learning 6:00pm Worship/Music 6:30pm Stewardship Team	13 6:00pm Congregation Care 6:30pm Property Team	14 Ash Wednesday worship services 12:30pm & 7:30pm Backpack Packing 6:30pm Music Rehearsal Newsletter Mailed	15 6:00pm Women of the Vine	16	17
18 9:00am Adult Bible Study & coffee with Pastor Rust 10:00am 1st Sunday of lent Worship Service/ECCCM Food Collection	19 6:00pm Executive Team 6:30pm Congregation Council	20 12:30pm Lent Worship Service 1:00pm Lent Meal	21 6:30pm Music Rehearsal	22	23 12:00 Noon Primetime Seniors Leap year lunch 	24
25 9:00am Adult Bible Study & coffee with Pastor Rust 10:00am 2nd Sunday of Lent Worship Service	26	27 12:30pm Lent Worship Service 1:00pm Lent Meal	28 6:30pm Music Rehearsal Newsletter Mailed	29		