

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

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Claremont, NC



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

ST. MARKS NEWSLETTER  
October 11, 2023

Dear Partners in Ministry

Grace to you and peace in the powerful name of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. My name is Pastor Ted Rust and I am very excited to be your new Interim Pastor. I began my work on October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2023, and I am already very impressed with all the members of St. Mark's Lutheran Church that I have met. You have a very talented team of staff members serving you in various ways and your church council leaders are hard at work each week helping our congregation recover and move forward with the current blessings and challenges we face.

I understand that all of you very much miss your last Pastor Heather Langan along with Bradley and Mary. You should miss her! She did outstanding work and ministry here at St. Mark's Lutheran Church. She was a tremendous instrument of Christ as she loved and served you so faithfully for many years. What a blessing God gave us through her life, leadership, and strong witness for Christ. It's always sad and hard to say farewell to an excellent Pastor, leader, and friend like Heather. Please keep Pastor Heather in your prayers in the weeks and months ahead as she and her family deal with changes and new challenges just like all of us. You did good work here at Claremont Pastor Heather. Well done faithful preacher of the Gospel! We miss you here.

As I begin my ministry in your church and community, I look forward to meeting each of you. I'm here to love and serve you in the spirit of Jesus Christ. I'm very happy and excited about the church and the beautiful area where you are located. There are a few things that will please God and help us grow and build up the church that I really need your help with.

1. Attend Sunday worship regularly as often as possible, this is top priority.
2. If you have children or young adults who are willing to serve as acolytes, carry the cross, or read prayers please call me at 252-675-5936.
3. If you are willing to visit another St. Mark's homebound member, please call me at 252-675-5936. You could visit 1 person a week or 4 persons a month or any combination. I will train you and help you get started. We have many wonderful seniors in our church family who need to be visited.
4. Could you sing in our choir? We have a very talented and amazing choir director and minister of music who needs more singers. I'm joining this week, what about you? The choir meets on Wednesdays at 6:30pm. Think about it, Emily Schuttenberg needs our support and prayers.
5. One last thing is to please invite and bring your friends and family members to Sunday worship at 10:00am. I ask you to really try to invite others to our wonderful church. There's no place like St. Mark's on a Sunday morning.

Jesus says this in John 5:24; "Very truly, I tell you, anyone who hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life, and does not come under judgement, but has passed from death to life."

I look forward to seeing you this Sunday as I proclaim God's word and we all celebrate the Lord's Holy Supper.

Rev. Dr. Ted Rust (252-675-5936)

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

Rev. Dr. Ted Rust: Pastor (252) 675-5936  
tedrust1@gmail.com (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

2023	2024	2025
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 16th at 6:30pm  
The next newsletter mailing will be October 25, 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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10-11-2023



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

MEMORIAL/HONORARIUM GIFTS RECEIVED TO THE GLORY OF GOD

For St. Mark’s Preschool: In memory of Jackie Devlin given by Hilka Cox  
For St. Mark’s: In memory of Jackie Devlin given by Celia Hollar  
In memory of Mike Evans given by Celia Hollar




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

Family of Tim Sigmon  
Family of Edna Punch (sister of Janie Arndt)

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE FOLLOWING WITH ACUTE HEALTH CHALLENGES

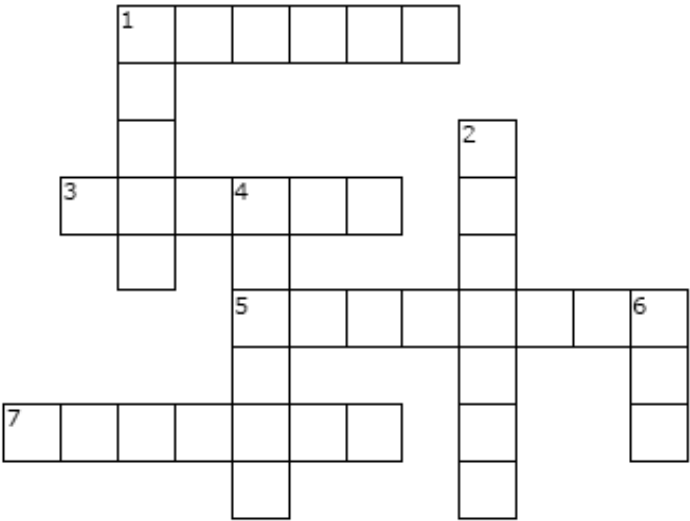
(Those with ongoing health challenges and extended friends and family members of St. Mark’s are listed weekly in our Sunday worship bulletin.)

Mike Benfield 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 Carolyn Sherrill Brenda Sigmon Hal Sigmon Johnny Sigmon Ryan 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.
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 <b>October Altar Guild</b> Tamarah Hefner & Marlene Epps	 <b>October Tabulators</b> Dotty Isenhour & Chris Cloninger	 <b>October Ushers</b> Jonathon Ray Blake Sigmon
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“I have always found that mercy bears richer fruits than strict justice.”  
Abraham Lincoln

Crossword Puzzle



ACROSS

- 1. A person who works with plants and flowers
- 3. To put to death
- 5. People employed to perform services for another person
- 7. The time or season for gathering crops

DOWN

- 1. The part of a vine or tree which is eaten
- 2. A simple story teaching a moral or religious lesson
- 4. To hear or pay attention to something
- 6. A parent's male child

PARABLE SERVANTS	LISTEN SON	KILLED FRUIT	HARVEST FARMER
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the stone that the builders rejected has become the **corner stone ...**  
Matthew 21:42

# 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

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

1. 2-22-1-24-20-4 \_\_\_\_\_
2. 1-17-4 \_\_\_\_\_
3. 25-7-5-7-9-2-20 \_\_\_\_\_
4. 14-5-15-22-24 \_\_\_\_\_
5. 19-22-2-2-20-10 \_\_\_\_\_
6. 3-7-5-18-20-1-24 \_\_\_\_\_
7. 1-20-5-18-7-4-24-1 \_\_\_\_\_
8. 14-7-5-21-20-5-1 \_\_\_\_\_

FRUIT FARMERS	KILLED HARVEST	SON SERVANTS	LISTEN PARABLE
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## !! Candy Donations Needed !!



Halloween Trunk or Treat

Saturday, October 28th

5 pm—7pm

St Mark's Front Parking Lot

Get into the Halloween Spirit,



### ECCCM Hunger Walk

Sunday, October 15th

2:00 PM - 4:00 PM

Newton, NC

The purpose of the walk is to raise funds for the hunger relief efforts in Eastern Catawba County, and to heighten awareness of the hunger issues within our community.

Join together with others in St Mark's Family as we

Walk A Few Miles So Others Can Eat!



### 'One' derful Wednesdays Beginning September 13th



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.



Supper for the Bunker Hill Bear's Football Team

Friday, October 20th in the Family Life Center

Come out and help us support this team!!

The Stewardship Team will be giving away a board game on October 22nd. Make sure and get your name in for the drawing. You can put your name in the box at either entrance.



## 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.



Wedding and household shower for

Matthew and Lisa Watkins

Sunday, November 12th immediately following the worship service in the Family Life Center



Hole in the parking lot has been temporary fixed. This was created by an old stump that had rotted. Permanent fix will need to happen in the near future.







### 2024 Altar Flowers

If you would like to go ahead and reserve a Sunday in 2024 for Altar flowers please email or call the church office and reserve your Sunday before it gets taken.

secretary@smarklc.org

828-459-2161

The Altar Flower calendar will also be posted right outside the church office, you can sign up for a particular Sunday there also.

### Veterans Day Service November 12th.

If you have additions or changes that need to be made to the Veterans Day slide please send email them to the church office no later than Tuesday, November 7th.



### Report of the 12th Triennial Convention of the Women of the ELCA Phoenix, Arizona-September 18-21, 2023

Seven voting members from North Carolina Synodical Women's Organization were included in the more than 251 Women of the ELCA voting members who worshiped together, conducted business and elected new officers and churchwide executive board members during the Twelfth Triennial Convention, Sept. 18-21, in Phoenix, Arizona. The voting members were Jane Cadwallader, Terri Brown, Susan Harris, Lisa Philceck, Debra Weinell, Maxine Amos and Tamarah Hefner. Denise Arndt went as a visitor.

The voting body elected Myrna Wells-Ulland, Phoenix, Arizona (Grand Canyon Synodical Women's Organization), as president. Other elected officers are: Lorie Garcia, Corpus Cristi, Texas (Southwestern Texas Synodical Women's Organization), vice president; Gwen Edwards, Bellevue, Nebraska (Nebraska SWO), secretary; and Jennifer Armstrong-Schaefer, Latrobe, Pennsylvania (Southwestern Pennsylvania SWO), treasurer. Jean Pishaw, Forest Grove, Oregon (Oregon Synodical Women's Organization).

Executive board members elected are Maria Lokensgard, St. Peter Minnesota (Southwestern Minnesota SWO); Jennifer Ackerman, Elyria, Ohio (Northeastern Ohio SWO); Julia Sabella, Hillsborough Township, New Jersey (New Jersey SWO); Sheena Foster, Silver Spring, Maryland, (Metropolitan Washington, DC, SWO); Anna Jetson, Spring Grove, Minnesota (Northeastern Iowa SWO); Tracy Williams, Long Beach, California (Southwest California SWO); Yma Mulero, Carolina, Puerto Rico (Caribbean SWO); Ginger Cutrell, Manchester, Tennessee (Southeastern SWO); Joyce Brooks, Detroit, Michigan (Southeast Michigan SWO); Merrily Burmeister, Bemidji, Minnesota (Eastern North Dakota SWO). Officers and churchwide executive board members will serve the 2023-26 term.

In a range of actions during plenary sessions, voting members: Encouraged Women of the ELCA participants to participate in the Truth and Healing Movement and to ask their congregations to create their own land acknowledgment statements.

Recommended that Women of the ELCA participants engage in *Now Is the Time: A Study Guide for ELCA Declaration to People of African Descent*, which "stresses realism, self-examination and accountability as the church acknowledges and apologizes for the history and impact of slavery and systemic racism," according to [www.elca.org/Resources/Racial-Justice](http://www.elca.org/Resources/Racial-Justice).

Rejected two attempts to reduce future triennial convention costs, via a memorial and a proposed by law change that would have set the number of voting members to three per synod in addition to synodical presidents.

Adopted a 2024 churchwide budget of \$1.9 million.



Working the  
St. Mark's Booth at  
Claremont Days  
2023



Thank you

St. Mark's Lutheran Church 9.20.23

Thank you all for your support for the "We are one in Christ" event. With your help, we were able to pass out much needed school supplies to children in our area.

We are already planning our next event which will take place August 3, 2024. Thanks Again!

We are one in Christ team

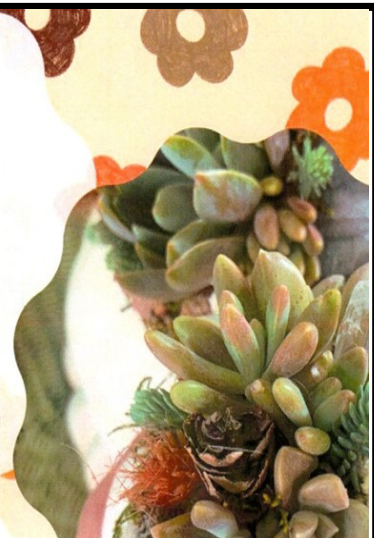
**Congregational  
Hayrides and Hotdog Dinner  
Sunday, October 29th  
4:00pm - 6:00 pm**

**The Heritage Barn,  
2575 Emmanuel Church Rd, Conover**

**Join the fun as we celebrate Fall with old  
fashion Hayrides and Hotdog roast over  
the fire.**

**Corn Hole and Crafts  
also available  
for all ages.**

**Mini  
Succulent  
Pumpkin  
Workshop**



**Women of Vine**

**Thursday, October 19th @ 6:30pm**

**Life Doesn't Succ**

**270 Union Square NW, Hickory NC 28601**

**Cost is \$35.00**

**Real pumpkin with assortment of décor and succulents  
with step by step instructions.**

**RSVP to Gigi no later than Oct. 12th**

**828-292-0101**