

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
November 22, 2023

Sharing Good News

I greet you in the loving name of our Lord Jesus Christ and hope you are doing well. Every Sunday morning I teach an Adult Bible Study beginning at 9:00am. We are reading the entire New Testament and also studying the components of Healthy Congregations. I hope you will consider joining us on a Sunday. Last Sunday we discussed the gospel of Mark. Mark begins with the statement that it is “the good news about Jesus.” Our Lord Jesus is pictured in Mark as a man of “action” and “authority”. The authority of Jesus is seen in his teaching, in his Power over evil and demons, in his miracles and in forgiving the sins of people. Jesus speaks of himself as the “Son of Man”, who came to give his life to set people free from sin and death.

I have learned that the Gospel of Mark is most likely the earliest written account of our Lord’s life, death, and resurrection. Mark was written between 60-70 A.D. shortly before the destruction of Jerusalem in A.D. 70. Mark the Gospel was finalized a generation after the resurrection. It is easy to visualize a humble gathering of early followers of Jesus hearing these opening words read aloud the first time.

“The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the son of God. (Mark 1:1)

When Mark was written times were difficult. Persecution haunted the earliest Christians. The Romans’ destruction of Jerusalem was underway. The people of Mark’s day may have felt like they were living in the dangerous wilderness of ancient Israel, or the wild space along the Jordan River. This is where the Gospel of Mark’s first characters lived and did their witnessing. John the Baptist was a strange kind of a Prophet as he preached and challenged people to repent and turn away from sin and selfishness and be baptized and follow God.

What does this mean for us? I believe most of us also live in our own “wilderness.” We have days that are difficult. We experience pain and darkness that doesn’t go away. Like the people John the Baptist preached to we also seek God. We need God and his loving Word. And God finds us and gives us new life, faith, hope, and eternal love. There is no place the Lord won’t go to find us and lift us up. God even shows up in a dirty manger and in a bloody cross. God shows us his ultimate power in an empty tomb and a glorious resurrection. Wherever we are and whatever we have to deal with “the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God” is ours!

Albert Einstein once said; “Strive not to be a success, but rather to be of value.”

St. Mark's is a great place to be on Sunday morning. I look forward to seeing you then. You are very valuable and precious to God and me.

Rev. Dr. Ted Rust

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: 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

2023	2023	2024
Terry Hefner	Hilka Cox	Jean Cloninger
Denise Arndt	Kendra Hendren	Blake Sigmon
Marlene Epps	Aaron Carpenter	Jonathan Ray
Carol Schaefer		Nicky Setzer

The year denotes rotation off Council.

Congregation Council meets on December 18 at 6:30pm
The next newsletter mailing will be December 13, 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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11-22-2023



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

ANNOUNCEMENTS



Advent Lunch & Devotions
Wednesday, Dec 6, 13, 20



A light lunch will be served from 12:30pm—1:00pm
Advent Devotional/Bible Study 1:00 pm—1:30 pm




MEMORIAL/HONORARIUM GIFTS RECEIVED TO THE GLORY OF GOD

For St. Mark’s Preschool: In loving memory of Melanie Stewart Cranford, she of the tender heart and generous spirit, given by her parents Jim and Marlene Stewart
In loving memory of Melanie Stewart Cranford given by Tracy Martin Family
For St. Mark’s ELCA: In loving memory of Melanie Stewart Cranford and Christine Sigmon Stewart given by James and Marlene Stewart
For St. Mark’s: In loving memory of Chris Sigmon given by William, Linda & Jo Marilyn Hewitt
In loving memory of Tim Sigmon given by Dee Stewart
In loving memory of Harley Brown given by Bobbie Miller, Lisa Travis, Billy Ray Brown, Richard Brown, Larry Brown, Maxine Killian, Patsy Elder & Ella Lee Brown
For St. Mark’s Choir: In loving memory of Jackie Devlin given by Tracy Martin Family

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 Exie Little Rudy Little Gaye Morrison	Glenn Morrison George Setzer Brenda Sigmon Hal Sigmon Johnny Sigmon Ryan Sigmon 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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December Altar Guild Ken & Dotty Isenhour	 December Tabulators Hilka Cox, Elaine Simmons & Jan Carpenter	 December Ushers Kyle Sigmon & Nicky Setzer	
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“In order to renew your mind, you need to change your thinking to God’s perspective.”
Amy Hagerup

Giving Thanks

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

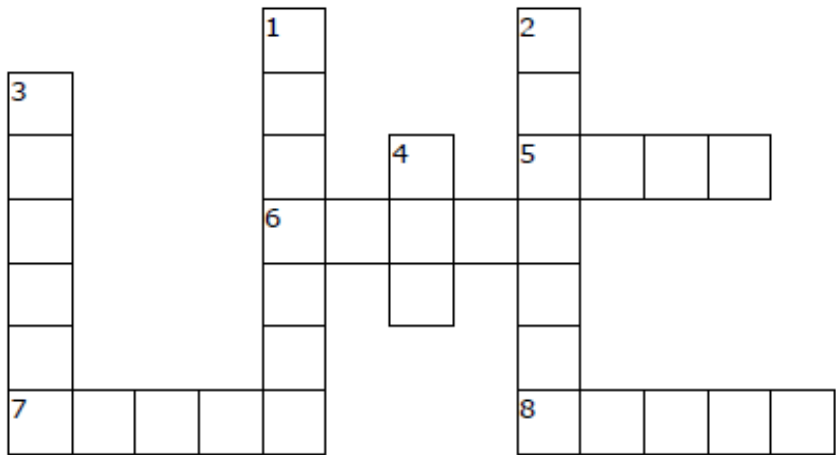
WORSHIP ENDURES SONGS	EARTH FOREVER PASTURE	JOY SHEEP GLADNESS	LOVE THANKS GATES	ENTER SHOUT PRAISE
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Giving
Thanks

Children’s Ministry Page

Crossword Puzzle



ACROSS

- 5. A short piece of music that is sung
- 6. To talk or exclaim in a very loud voice
- 7. A small animal with a wooly coat
- 8. The planet where people live

DOWN

- 1. To express one's love and adoration for God
- 2. A field covered with grass where animals eat
- 3. An expression of appreciation
- 4. A feeling of great happiness

WORSHIP	SONG	JOY	THANKS
PASTURE	EARTH	SHOUT	SHEEP



“I wish you Jesus “
Children’s Christmas Program
Sunday, December 10th at 4:30pm in the Sancutary
(Congregational Covered Dish Meal following the program in the FLC)

Enjoy participating in activities
you would find in a Christmas movie including:

- *Decorating Gingerbread Houses*
- Decorating the Christmas Tree- Building a Snowman*
- Christmas crafts- and Games for kids of all ages.*



Thank you to everyone who came to the shower for Elizabeth and Matthew Watkins



Altar Guild Meeting Saturday, December 2nd @ 9:00am



Congratulations New Council Members

- Carol Schaefer
- Nobia Summer
- Matthew Watkins

City of Claremont's Annual

Senior Citizen BREAKFAST

Saturday
December 2nd
8:30am
At St. Mark's Lutheran Church

You must register by Nov 24 to receive a meal.
Registrations are available at City Hall or call 828-466-7255



ATAWBA VALLEY COMMUNITY CHORUS

Sunday,
December
3rd

St Mark's Lutheran
Performance at 3:00 PM

Admission is free
But donations are
welcomed



December
noisy bucket
offering will



Sipe's Orchard Home

Preparing children and youth for their BEST FUTURES!

go to Sipes Orchard Home . They have been
serving children for 80 years with various
programs providing a safe home .

Dear St. Mark's Family,
Thank you all for the thoughts,
prayers, and well-wishes during
this difficult time for our family.
We appreciate each one of you
who prepared for and participated
in Harley's service, especially
Pastor Rust for the wonderful
message, all the choir members
and the team who prepared and
served refreshments following
the service. We would also like
to thank each person who gave
a memorial in Harley's memory.
Thank you all so much
and God bless you!

During a time
like this we realize how
much our family and
friends really mean to us...

Your expression
of sympathy will always
be remembered.

The Family of
Harley Ross Brown
Libby, Susan, Tony,
Sara, Travis & Jessica



Ladies save the date!

Saturday, April 27
our annual women's
celebration in honor of
Mothers Day !

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Pastor Rust
having chapel
time with
St. Mark's
Preschool



Christmas Eve Worship

4:00 pm will be our Children Friendly
Service with Communion and Candle
lighting.

Our Traditional Christmas Eve Service
will be at 8:00 pm with Communion and
Candle lighting.



Ushers and Worship
Assistants are
needed for both.

Sunday Worship
Attendance Cards



A reminder to please fill
out a attendance card
when you attend Sunday morning worship
service so the church secretary can count
you present. If you do not fill out a card she
has no way of knowing whether or not you
were present and you will not get counted
present for that day.

Thank you

ST MARKS CALENDAR –December 2023

December

12/1 Senior Breakfast 8:00am

12/2 Altar Guild 9:00am

12/2 Decorate Parade Float 10:00am

12/2 Claremont Christmas Parade 4:00pm

12/3 Adult Bible Study & coffee with Pastor Rust 9:00am

12/3 1st Sunday of Advent 10:00am Worship Service in Sanctuary/Noisy Offering

12/3 CVCC Choral Concert 3:00pm

12/4 Women of the Vine Bible Study 11:00am

12/6 Advent Lunch & Devotions 12:30-1:30pm

12/6 Children's Play Practice (All cast including younger children) 6:00pm

12/6 Music Rehearsal 6:30pm

12/9 Children's Play Practice (All cast including younger children) 10:00-11:00am

12/10 Adult Bible Study & coffee with Pastor Rust 9:00am

12/10 2nd Sunday of Advent 10:00am Worship Service in Sanctuary

12/10 Christmas Play 4:30pm

12/10 Congregational Covered Dinner 5:15pm, (following the Christmas play)

12/11 Youth/Learning Team 6:00pm

12/11 Worship/Music Team 6:00pm

12/11 Stewardship Team 6:30pm

12/12 Congregation Care 6:00pm

12/12 Property Team 6:30pm

12/13 Advent Lunch & Devotions 12:30-1:30pm

12/13 Music Rehearsal 6:30pm

12/13 Newsletter Mailed

12/17 Adult Bible Study & coffee with Pastor Rust 9:00am

12/17 3rd Sunday of Advent 10:00am /ECCCM Food Collection

12/18 Executive Team 6:00pm

12/18 Congregation Council 6:30pm

12/20 Advent Lunch & Devotions 12:30-1:30pm

12/20 Music Rehearsal 6:30pm

12/20 Newsletter Mailed

12/24 Adult Bible Study & coffee with Pastor Rust 9:00am

12/24 4th Sunday of Advent 10:00am Worship Service in Sanctuary

12/24 Christmas Eve Worship Service 4:00pm & 8:00pm

12/25 MERRY CHRISTMAS!

12/27 Newsletter Mailed

12/31 Adult Bible Study & coffee with Pastor Rust 9:00am

12/31 1st Sunday after Christmas 10:00am Worship Service in Sanctuary

ANYTIME

9

www.smarklc.org
YouTube.com



- 12- Dale and Sandy Sherrill
- 16- Gary and Susan Carpenter
- 19- Trent and Maria Wright
- 27- Tiffany and Scott Caudill



- 1- Sawyer Hendren
- 9- Gail McConnell, Sheila Yount, Janine Van Horn
- 11- Gloria Sigmon
- 12- Connie Sigmon, Leanne Smith
- 13- Michelle Hollar
- 17- Michael Pope, Ashley Carpenter, Easton Sigmon
- 22- Crystal Pharr
- 26- Vanessa Arndt
- 28- Tanya Stephenson



*Children's Christmas Play
Practice
November 29th
December 6
(All cast including younger children)
Saturday, December 9th 10:00-11:30am*

Children's
Christmas Program

In the spirit of Thanksgiving we would like to express our sincere gratitude and appreciation to Andrea Ramsey (Healthsmart Pharmacy) and Trent Wright (Coley Homes) for their donations to the Highroad Concert ! It was truly Amazing!!!



Christmas Parade Float Decorating

Saturday Dec. 2 at 10 o'clock
In the church parking lot.

Our theme is **JESUS** sweetest name I know.

If any questions call Gigi Sigmon 828-292-0101.



The City of Claremont presents: The 39th Annual

CHRISTMAS PARADE

DECEMBER 2nd 4PM

Family Fun Before the Parade: 2:00PM

*Santa Meet n Greet *Pop-Up Holiday Market *Food Vendors
*Train Rides *Inflatables *Face Paint *Balloons

Tree Lighting to follow the Parade



THE HOPE PROJECT

Community Outreach Event

Saturday December 16, 2023 | 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

We do not require applications or your children to be present. However, we must do our best to bless as many children as possible. Please bring a valid driver's license or valid photo ID. Grandparents will need to provide proof of custody.

- **FREE** Community Event
- **FREE** New Toy for Kids (ages 0-18)
- **FREE** To-Go-Meal

Providence Road Baptist Church
3283 Providence Mill Road,
Maiden NC 28650

For any questions about this event feel free to call us at
(828)-428-2518

St. Mark's has Poinsettias for the Christmas Season. If you would like to order Poinsettia's in Honor or Memory of a loved one, please fill out the form below and leave in the collection plate with payment by Sunday, December 17th.

Name: _____ # of Poinsettias _____ X \$10 \$ _____

In honor of: _____

In memory of: _____



December 2023



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2 8:00am Senior Breakfast 9:00am Altar Guild 10:00am Float Decorating 4:00pm Claremont Parade
3 9:00am Adult Bible Study & coffee with Pastor Rust 10:00am 1st Sunday of Advent Worship Service/Noisy Offering 3:00pm CVCC Choral Concert	4 11:00am Women’s Bible Study	5	6 12:30-1:30pm Advent Lunch & Devotions 6:00pm Childrens Play Practice 6:30pm Music Rehearsal	7	8	9 10:00-11:00am Children’s Christmas Play Practice (all cast including younger children)
10 9:00am Adult Bible Study & coffee with Pastor Rust 10:00am 2nd Sunday of Advent Worship Service 4:30pm Children’s Christmas Play 5:15pm Congregational Covered Dish Dinner	11 6:00pm Worship/Music 6:00pm Youth/Learning 6:30pm Stewardship Team	12 6:00pm Congregation Care 6:30pm Property Team	13 12:30-1:30pm Advent Lunch & Devotions 6:30pm Music Rehearsal Newsletter Mailed	14 6	15	16
17 9:00am Adult Bible Study & coffee with Pastor Rust 10:00am 3rd Sunday of Advent Worship Service/ ECCCM Food Collection	18 6:00pm Executive Team 6:30pm Congregation Council	19	20 12:30-1:30pm Advent Lunch & Devotions 6:30pm Music Rehearsal	21 	22	23
24 9:00am Adult Bible Study & coffee with Pastor Rust 10:00am 4th Sunday of Advent Worship Service 4:00pm & 8:00pm Christmas Eve Worship Service	25 	26	27 Newsletter Mailed	28	29	30
31 9:00am Adult Bible Study & coffee with Pastor Rust 10:00am 1st Sunday after Christmas Worship Service						