

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

NON-PROFIT ORG.
Permit #2
U.S. Postage
P A I D
Claremont, NC



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

ST. MARKS NEWSLETTER
February 14, 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

	2/18/24 @10:00am	2/25/25 @10:00am	3/3/24 @10:00am	3/10/24 @10:00am	3/17/24 @10:00am
Ushers	Aaron Carpenter Kendra Hendren	Aaron Carpenter Kendra Hendren	Nicky Setzer Carol Schaefer	Nicky Setzer Carol Schaefer	Nicky Setzer Carol Schaefer
Greeters	Denise Arndt Marlene Epps	Dotty Isenhour	Judy Carpenter Jennifer Carpenter	Marcheta Campbell Cheryl Brown	Susan Williams Dotty Isenhour
Read Lessons	Jonathan Ray	Rev. Bill Hollar	Tim Carpenter	Rev. Bill Hollar	Cheryl Brown
Carry Cross (Youth or Adult)	Pastor Ted Rust	A.J. Stephenson	Larry Smyre	Dale Sherrill	Tamarah Hefner
Acolyte (Youth or Adult)	Terry Hefner	Denise Arndt	Silas Carpenter	Kermit Nash	Terry Hefner
Assisting Minister	Dale Sherrill	Kermit Nash	Tim Carpenter	Dale Sherrill	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:

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 February 19th at 6:30pm
The next newsletter mailing will be February 28, 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. 3
2-14-2024



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

Saint Mark’s Lutheran Church Ministry Financial Analysis

1/31/2024	Month	Year
General Fund	\$ 36,015.49	\$ 36,015.49
Expenses	\$ 24,984.56	\$ 24,984.56
	\$ 11,030.93	\$ 11,030.93

MEMORIAL/HONORARIUM GIFTS RECEIVED TO THE GLORY OF GOD

For St. Mark’s: In loving memory of Exie Little given by Celia Hollar, Libby Brown, Elaine Simmons
In loving memory of Tim Sigmon given by Libby Brown, Elaine Simmons
In loving memory of Mike Evans given by Libby Brown
In loving memory of Judy Little given by Elaine Simmons
In loving memory of Harley Brown by Elaine Simmons

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 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.
---	--	---	---



February Altar Guild

Dale & Sandy
Sherrill



February Tabulators

Jean Cloninger, Cathy Sigmon
& Evelyn Setzer

Lent Worship Service at 12:30pm led by Rev. Dr. Ted Rust
Lunch to follow at 1:00pm
2/20, 2/27, 3/5, 3/12, 3/19
Please join us for Worship!



Thrivent Contribution

St. Mark’s received an contribution from Thrivent with no name included in the contribution. Please contact the office or Deanna if you sent the contribution in so you can be given credit for it.
Thank you



February 23rd at 12:00 Noon Primetime Seniors Leap year lunch, please RSVP to the church office by February 20th.



Word Search Puzzle

The Rainbow of Promise

Genesis 9:8-17

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

REMEMBER APPEARS SIGN	COVENANT CREATURES CLOUDS	WATERS EARTH LIFE	BIRDS FLOOD RAINBOW	DESTROY ANIMALS LIVESTOCK
-----------------------------	---------------------------------	-------------------------	---------------------------	---------------------------------

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

Decoder Puzzle

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

COVENANT FLOOD	DESTROY ANIMALS	NOAH BIRD	CLOUD ARK	RAINBOW EARTH
-------------------	--------------------	--------------	--------------	------------------

LENT AND HOLY WEEK 2024—GUIDED TO THE CROSS

To: Members of St. Mark’s Lutheran Church
From: Rev. Dr. Ted Rust and the Worship Team

Grace to you, peace, and joy in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. I want to inform you about some of our plans for Lent and Holy Week this year. **“GUIDED TO THE CROSS”** is our theme. During the season of Lent we are guided by faith to the cross of Jesus where he died to save us from sin and death forever. We are guided to many things when we go to the cross. Forgiveness, hope, love, peace, trust, and perseverance are some of the most treasured blessings we receive when we reach the foot of the Lord’s cross. So much of the Christian life is centered around these concepts that propel us ever forward in our Christian faith. Devotions for each family will be handed out at the Ash Wednesday Services and these are special Devotions for youth.

- 1. February 14-Ash Wednesday Services at 12:30pm and 7:30pm. Lunch serve t 1:15pm. The Sermon Title is **“Guided to Forgiveness.”** (Colossians 1:13-14). When we confess our sins, we find forgiveness in the cross of Christ and empowered to forgive others.
- 2. February 20-Tuesday Service at 12:30pm. Lunch served at 1:15pm. The Sermon Title is **“Guided to Hope.”** (Corinthians 1:10) When we are uncertain about what the future holds, we discover in the cross the sure hope of heaven.
- 3. February 27-Tuesday Service at 12:30pm. Lunch served at 1:15pm. The Sermon Title is **“Guided to Love.”** (Timothy 1:13-14) When we are separated from others and from God by our sin, the cross brings us together through its love.
- 4. March 5-Tuesday Service at 12:30pm. Lunch served at 1:15pm. The Sermon Title is **“Guided to Peace.”** (Colossians 1:19-20) With wars waging within and without, the Cross settles them all with peace to body, mind, and soul.
- 5. March 12-Tuesday Service at 12:30pm. Lunch served at 1:15pm. The Sermon Title is **“Guided to Trust.”** (Timothy 1:15) Plagued by doubt and competing voices, we turn to the Cross to put our trust fully in salvation won for us there.
- 6. March 19-Tuesday Service at 12:30pm. Lunch served at 1:15pm. The Sermon Title is **“Guided to Perseverance.”** (Ephesians 6:18) When we are faced with hardship, we look to Jesus on the Cross who endured to the end so that we might carry on.
- 7. March 28-Maundy Thursday Service at 6:30pm. Sermon Title is **“Guided to Service.”** (Romans 7:6) With water and basin and wine and bread, Jesus shows that he is a servant who gives his all for us, even death on the Cross.
- 8. March 29-Good Friday Service at 6:30pm. Sermon Title is **“Guided to Sacrifice.”** (Hebrews 10:12) Jesus took our place on the cross, offering himself for us that we might offer ourselves as living sacrifices to him.
- 9. March 31-Easter Sunday Service at 10:00am. The Sermon Title is **“Guided to New Life.”** (Romans 6:4) The empty tomb reveals the power of the crucified Christ to break through the bonds of death to live again that we might live forever.

We will need volunteers to help prepare the meals and also to assist with the Worship Services. Please sign up on the clip boards I will pass around soon or call me at 252-675-5936

I love each one of you very much and thank God for the many ways you continue to help St. Mark’s Lutheran Church move forward in mission and ministry. We can accomplish so many positive things when we all keep our focus on loving and serving Jesus Christ and his precious people.

Let’s make Lent and Easter something very special this year by taking advantage of these wonderful worship celebrations and gatherings. I look forward to seeing you soon. You are a valuable and important member of this Congregation.

Thank you to all who helped raise the funds for the new quilting machine.



Our March noisy bucket offerings will go to The Pregnancy Care Center . They provide free and confidential services to women and men experiencing an unexpected pregnancy. Educational classes , community referrals, clothing and baby supplies along with mental health counseling are among the various programs offered .



Woman of the Year

Do you have a special lady in your life you would

like to acknowledge and nominate for Woman of the Year 2024? Maybe it’s your mother or someone fulfilling the role of mom, someone courageous, someone who makes a difference in the world or who loves fiercely and makes you feel valued? Who is your hero or champion you are blessed to know?

Let’s celebrate her !!! Turn in your handwritten letter to the office or Elaine Simmons no later than April 2 .

St Mark’s Lutheran Church

SUMMER CAMP

July 22-26, 2024
3216 West Main Street



Scan Code to Register

Camp Hours:

Monday–Friday 9am–4pm

Before and After Care is available

Daily meals and snacks included.

Camp Activities:

- Fun
- Friends
- Games
- Crafts
- Water day

LIMITED SPACE!

828.459.2161

To register, call or email: wendy@smarklc.org



PER PERSON

Church members receive a \$20 discount

Second child in same family receives a \$20 discount

Second child discount does not apply to members.

Our preschool children had a wonderful Chapel Time with Pastor Ted . They enjoyed looking at the Beautiful stained glass window of Jesus knocking at the door, talking about how old it is and all the colors they saw . .





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 the Florist.

If you would like to place fresh flowers in the church in memory or honor of someone on a particular Sunday you may do so through the church office. The cost will be \$80.00, we have an account set up with Abundant Life Florist in Newton.

You may sign up for a particular Sunday by calling the church office or the flower calendar is on the wall right outside the church office, you may sign up there. Any questions please call the office.

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 the Florist.

If you would like to place fresh flowers in the church in memory or honor of someone on a particular Sunday you may do so through the church office. The cost will be \$80.00, we have an account set up with Abundant Life Florist in Newton.

You may sign up for a particular Sunday by calling the church office or the flower calendar is on the wall right outside the church office, you may sign up there. Any questions please call the office.

SUMMER CAMP

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.

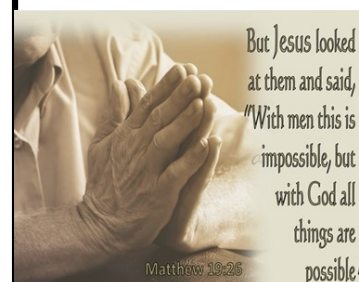
Faith Kids

Children and Youth
(4 yrs. - 6th grade)
will be meeting
Sunday the 18th at 3:00pm
At Highways and Hedges
to help pack kits.



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 .

We need your help!

If you are in the hospital
or have a scheduled
surgery or just need a visit
from Pastor Ted,
please notify the church
office. You may also call
him directly at
252-675-5936.

We can't visit you or pray
for you if we're not aware
there's a need.

Thank you.



St. Mark's Youth at Crowder's Mountain Snowless Tubing

The Women of the ELCA and Vine met at Nobia and Ken Summer's house on Sunday, February 11th at 3pm for a Christmas, New Year and Valentine's Day Celebration. The group brought candy and we stuffed Valentine's bags for Highway and Hedges. We revealed our last year's prayer sisters and drew names for this year of seniors 90 and over and nursing home residents. Thanks to Nobia and Ken for all the food and their hospitality.



3775 Bethany Church Rd.
Claremont NC

Rising Hope Farms

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

- 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.
- Returning volunteers only
- Annually required, brief refresher class

Sat. March 16, 2024

- 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.
- Anyone age 15+
- Side Walker Training
- ZERO horse knowledge or prior experience required!

Sat. March 23, 2024

- 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

**ANNUAL
REPORTS
ARE DUE
FOR THE
2023 YEAR-
BOOK. PLEASE SUBMIT THESE
TO THE OFFICE.**

5

secretary@smarklc.org

"Tell God all you worries and let him take the charge of your life."

Susan Macwan