

St. Mark's Lutheran Church
P.O. Box 550
3216 West Main Street
Claremont, NC 28610
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Our Mission
To Proclaim the Gospel
To Make Disciples
To Embody Christ's Love

**OPPORTUNITIES TO GATHER
AT ST. MARK'S**

Sundays—Worship

10:00 Services in Sanctuary

9:00am Sunday Morning Learning

**10:00 Drive-Up in Front
Parking Lot Service**

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.**

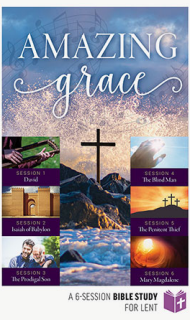
PLEASE NOTE:

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

**ST. MARKS NEWSLETTER
February 22, 2023**



Beginning Sunday, February 26, and each Wednesday and Sunday that follows, a Lenten Bible Study will be offered to further our study of God's Amazing Grace. The Sunday 9am morning study will be repeated on Wednesday evenings at 6pm. We will be studying people who received God's grace as told in the scriptures despite the sinful actions of the people. A book will be provided for each participant.

The word *grace* sometimes refers to prayer, as when we "say grace" before a meal. We may speak of an athlete or dancer moving with grace. People who remain calm in difficult circumstances are said to show grace under pressure. These uses of the term *grace* suggest things that we do. In the biblical understanding of the term, grace is about God. Grace is God's favor for sinners - favor that we, as sinners, do not deserve. Sometimes the letters in the word *grace* have been used as an acronym for this definition: **God's Riches At Christ's Expense**. We do not deserve God's love and forgiveness or the glory of eternal life in his presence. but these rich gifts were purchased for us with the blood Christ shed on the cross. The gifts are ours because Jesus paid the price for them. That is God's undeserved favor for sinners, his amazing grace.



CHURCH WERKES

As part of Pastor Heather's call as Senior Pastor, we, as a congregation, agreed to work with a consultant to help St. Mark's and Pastor

Heather intentionally discern, seek to recognize, and respond to the activity and call of God as they explore questions such as: What should be our emphasis now in our mission and ministry? What is happening in the wider community to which God is calling us to respond? How has the giftedness of our congregation changed, and what are our present gifts, passions, and resources for ministry? Is our leadership structure effective for what is emerging now? A process through which the community gathers for prayer, conversation, listening, and reflection enables it, with the help of the Holy Spirit, to 'listen with the ear of the heart' to what God is calling the community to be and do. These are the questions and also the conversations that we had hoped to have and answer with the assistance of an intentional interim. Because that did not happen, we are beginning this work now with the participation of the people of St. Mark's in the months ahead. The first part of this process is to train a group of people who have agreed to work with our consultant, Cathy Cowling of ChurchWerkes, who will help guide us through this process. The members of this leadership team are Pastor Heather, Kendra Hendren, Tamarah Hefner, Nicky Setzer, Melanie Sigmon, Dale Sherrill, and Matthew Watkins. They will be trained the first week of March. Following the training, we will move into small group conversations with the congregation. Please keep this team in your prayers and also the people of St. Mark's as we all listen for God's call to each one of us as disciples being called to be the church today.

Church Staff

Pastor Heather Langan: Senior Pastor
hlangan519@yahoo.com (704-724-5991)
Emily Schuttenberg: Choir Director/Organist
Praise Team Leader/Keyboardist (828)-459-2161
Maria Wright: Preschool Director
mw9268@gmail.com (828-234-5943)
Randyl 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 Interim: Church Custodian (828-459-2161)

Congregation Council

2023	2023	2024
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 March 20 at 6:30pm
The next newsletter mailing will be March 8, 2023

Church Office Hours

Monday - Thursday, 9:00am—2pm; Friday, 9:00-12:00pm

Follow Us Online

 StMarksLutheran...Claremont, NC  www.smarklc.org
 YouTube St. Mark's Lutheran Church, Claremont, NC



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2-22-2023



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

ANNOUNCEMENTS


40
days
of
Lent

40 Days of Lent Campaign
kick's off 2/22

This year's goal is \$3500

The offering will go to the
Turkey and Syrian
Earthquake victims


One Blood Drive on
February 1st
collected 6 units,
that will help 18
people.



The next Blood Drive will be April 12th, 2-6:00pm.

Thank you St. Marks for the generous donations on our noisy bucket offering in February. We were able to send 175.50 to the Council on aging !!!!





Noisy bucket milk pail funds for March will go to The Pregnancy Care Center of Catawba Valley . They provide free and confidential services to women and men experiencing an unexpected pregnancy. They provide educational classes , community referrals, clothing and baby supplies and so much more !!! Please consider donating on Sunday March 5 !!!

MEMORIAL/HONORARIUM GIFTS RECEIVED TO THE GLORY OF GOD

For St. Mark's Preschool: In honor of Caleb and Rory Abernathy, given by Jo Marilyn Hewitt.
In honor of Preschool children and staff, given by Denise Arndt.

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

Family of Howard Gene Little

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE FOLLOWING WITH ACUTE HEALTH CHALLENGES

Harley Brown Gary Carpenter Eva Cloninger Jerry Craig Jackie Devlin Andy Dison Keegan Dixon Alanna Dotson Mike Evans	Celia Hollar Tammie Hoyle Meredith Huret JD Little Rudy Little Glenn Morrison Hazel Setzer Tom Schaefer Kaye Shaffer	Sandy Sherrill Brenda Sigmon Tim Sigmon Bishop Tim Smith Dee Stewart Richard Tallant Brian Waters Chuck Watson Susan Williams	<p>Please pray for COVID victims.</p> <p>Please pray for all front line Covid caregivers.</p> <p>Please pray for all those isolated, and those in Assisted Living Homes.</p>
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Multiple choice Quiz

1.

To feel a need or desire for food

A. hungry B. thirsty C. tired D. tempt
2.

A small rock

A. boulder B. mountain C. world D. stone
3.

A food made of flour and water, shaped into loaves, and baked

A. pizza B. pie C. bread D. stone
4.

To try to get someone to do wrong

A. worship B. tempt C. angel D. hungry
5.

To show a strong feeling of love and respect for God

A. devil B. angel C. worship D. tempt
6.

A heavenly being, often shown as a human figure with a halo and wings

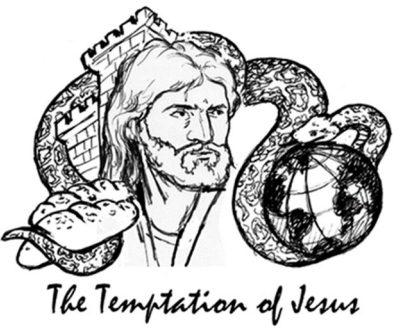
A. fairy B. devil C. temple D. angel
7.

The evil ruler of Hell, and enemy of God

A. angel B. world C. devil D. hungry
8.

The entire Earth and all the places and things on it

A. space B. moon C. world D. galaxy

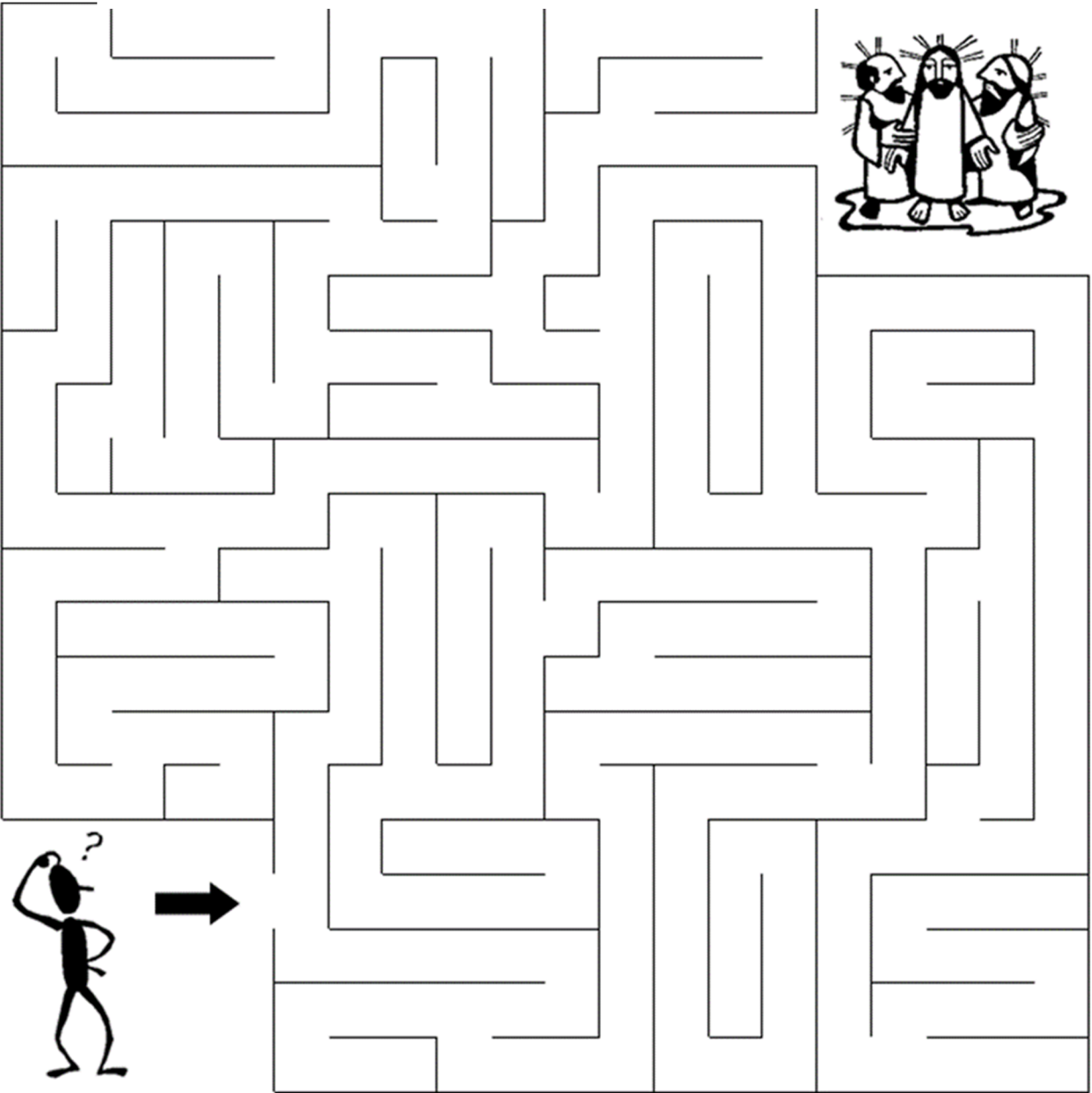


² “The greatest lesson for enduring happiness is to serve others.” - Justin Jepsen

Children’s Ministry Page

A MAZE PUZZLE FORGIVING AND FORGIVEN MATTHEW 5:21-25

Can you find the way to Jesus, Moses, and Elijah on the mountain?



You're
invited

To the Installation of our Senior Pastor, The Reverend Heather Ann Langan
When: Sunday, March 5, 2023 **Time:** 4:00 **Where:** St. Mark's Sanctuary

Festivities will continue with a **catered meal at 5:30 in the Family Life Center**
RSVP required for the meal only
Free Will Offering available

Menu includes: Choice of Pork Roast with gravy or Baked Chicken quarter
Mashed potatoes, Green Beans, Macaroni and Cheese,
Rolls, butter & honey butter, Cheese Cake (gluten free)
Tea, water, lemonade, and coffee

RSVP for the meal by Sunday, February 26 one of 3 ways:
1) Call the office at 459-2161
2) Email Debbie at secretary@smarklc.org
3) Deposit the form below in the offering plate

RSVP FORM FOR INSTALLATION DINNER

5:30pm after the installation service in the Family Life Center

_____ Number of Adults _____ Number of Children under 10

Name (s): _____

“One”derful Wednesdays

We will be having a meal on each Wednesday in March which will only consist of soup and salad. We need two people to prepare the soup and salad for each meal. If you would be willing to help with a meal, please call the office. The dates are March 1, March 8, March 15, March 22, and March 29.



<div>  <p>Woman of the Year</p> </div> <div> <p>Woman of the Year!</p> <p>Calling All Members !!!! If you have someone you would like to nominate for “Woman of the Year” please send in your written letter to the office or give to Elaine Simmons no later than Monday , April 17 . We have so many special ladies who are deserving of this award so think about who inspires you and who you would like to honor and show special recognition !!!!!</p> </div>	
<p>Church Family,</p> <p>On behalf of the Corner Table we would like to thank you for caring about our mission to feed those in need in our community. Your monetary support allows us to provide warm meals to our quests. Through your support we can continue our mission in 2023.</p> <p>Blessings</p> <p>The Corner Table</p> <div>  </div>	<div>  <p>We have received a donation through Thrivent with no name. If you made this donation please contact Deanna Butcher and let her know.</p> <p>Thank you</p> </div> <div>  <p>The quilting mission packed up 60 quilts, 67 scarves, coats, shoes, sweaters and towels to be sent to the Turkey & Syrian Earthquake victims. If you'd like to be a part of this St. Mark's mission, please contact Jean Cloninger. God's work our hands.</p> </div>
<div>  <p>NC Women of the ELCA One-Day Retreat</p> <p>March 18, 2023</p> <p>Check-in/Fellowship— 9:00am</p> <p>Program—9:30am— 2:30pm</p> <p>\$10.00 Registration Fee—Includes: Continental Breakfast, lunch and the Program materials.</p> <p>Please bring your Bible!</p> <p>Registration Deadline: March 8, 2023</p> <p>Location: Salem Lutheran Church 3410 Startown Rd. Lincolnton, NC 28092</p> <p>Registration Forms can be picked up at the church office or see Tamarah Hefner for more information</p> </div>	<p>Thank you to all who participated in our Souper Bowl of Caring on February 12. We collected a total of 145 non-perishable food items and \$75 which will help feed many people in our area who are experiencing food insecurity. The money and food donations will be passed along to ECCCM for their work. As for the teams, the Eagles collected more than the Chiefs with the "I do not care who wins the game but I do care about those who are hungry" receiving the most items/votes. It was a good football game and a good day to serve God through our service to our neighbors.</p> <div>  <p>tacklehunger.org</p> </div> <div>  <p>The quilt mission would appreciate any gently used sheets and pillow cases anyone has to offer. Size and color is not important. Thank you.</p> </div>
<p>WORSHIP</p> <p>Worship Leaders needed for April, please let the office know if you can assist for one of the following services.</p> <p>4/2 @ 10:00am</p> <p>4/6 @ 6:30pm Maundy Thursday,</p> <p>4/7 @ 6:30pm Good Friday</p> <p>4/9 Easter @ 7:00am & 10:00am</p> <p>ASSISTANTS</p> <p>4</p> <div>  </div>	<p>March Altar Guild</p> <p>David & Lisa Tucker</p> <div>  </div> <p>March Tabulators</p> <p>Hilka Cox, Elaine Simmons, Jan Carpenter</p> <div>  </div>

ST MARKS CALENDAR –March 2023

March

- 3/1 “One”derful Wednesday Soup & Salad 5:15pm, Bible Study 6:00pm
- 3/5 Sunday Morning Learning/Coffee and Conversation 9:00am
- 3/5 **2nd Sunday of Lent 10:00am Worship Service in Sanctuary/Noisy Offering (Pregnancy Care Center)**
- 3/6 Women’s Bible Study 11:00am
- 3/7 Worship/Music Team 6:00pm
- 3/7 Discernment Team Training 6:00pm
- 3/8 “One”derful Wednesday Soup & Salad 5:15pm, Bible Study 6:00pm
- 3/8 Newsletter Mailed
- 3/8 Discernment Team Training 6:00pm
- 3/9 Congregation Care 2:00pm
- 3/11 Turn your clock forward 1 hour before bed...Daylight Savings
- 3/12 Sunday Morning Learning/Coffee and Conversation 9:00am
- 3/12 **3rd Sunday of Lent 10:00am Worship Service in Sanctuary**
- 3/13 Learning/Youth Team 6:00pm
- 3/13 Support Team 6:30pm
- 3/14 Property Team 6:30pm
- 3/15 “One”derful Wednesday Soup & Salad 5:15pm, Bible Study 6:00pm
- 3/16 WOV paint party at Hip Hip HooWray 6:00pm
- 3/18 NC Women of the ELCA Retreat, Salem Lutheran Church 9:00am—2:30pm/Registration required
- 3/19 Sunday Morning Learning/Coffee and Conversation 9:00am
- 3/19 **4th Sunday of Lent 10:00am Worship Service in Sanctuary/ECCCM Food Collection**
- 3/20 Witness Team 10:00am
- 3/20 Executive Team 6:00pm
- 3/20 Congregation Council 6:30pm
- 3/22 “One”derful Wednesday Soup & Salad 5:15pm, Bible Study 6:00pm
- 3/22 Newsletter Mailed
- 3/26 Sunday Morning Learning/Coffee and Conversation 9:00am
- 3/26 **5th Sunday of Lent 10:00am Worship Service in Sanctuary**
- 3/29 “One”derful Wednesday Soup & Salad 5:15pm, Bible Study 6:00pm

ANYTIME

www.smarklc.org
YouTube.com



3/3 – Jonathan & Kathy Ray
 3/6 – Pete & Judy Sink
 3/16 – Alex & Whitney Kau

3/1 – Tenley Sigmon, Tim Sigmon
 3/2 – Nathaniel Carpenter
 3/5 – Ticia Goble, Jonathan Ray
 3/6 – Keegan Dixon
 3/10 – Kay Deal, Steve Deal, Bill Dotson, Richard Tallant, Sara Williams
 3/19 – Christian Thomas
 3/21 – Stan Sigmon
 3/22 – Sheila Brake, Gigi Sigmon
 3/23 – Steven Little



3/24 – Mike Evans, Telicia Hefner
 3/25 – Greg Stephenson
 3/26 – David Theisen
 3/30 – Alison Lytton-Caldwell
 3/31 – Dotty Isenhour

St. Marks Women, April 29: 11 o'clock

St. Marks women, mark your calendars : Saturday, April 29 : 11'oclock . We will be celebrating Ladies' Day in honor of Mother's Day . Our guest speaker is Mrs. Susan Harris, certified Lay Preacher and a member of the First Cohort of Synodically Authorized Ministers in the NC Synod. She is currently serving as the secretary of the NC Women of the ELCA. You do not want to miss out on the message she will deliver. Light lunch will be provided. Please RSVP to the office no later than Thursday, April 20 . Our theme this year is " His Eye Is on the Sparrow ."



Easter Breakfast

The Fellowship Team as received a contribution from Thrivent to help with our Easter Breakfast on April 9th. Proceeds from donations for the breakfast will go to Earthquake Relief in Turkey/Syria. We will be preparing breakfast with bacon, eggs, grits, sausage gravy and biscuits. Any additional help will be appreciated.



Installation of New Council and members and Altar Guild

Church COUNCIL



Thank you to our council members for completing their time of service.



Rising Hope Farm

Fun, Hope and Healing for the Special Needs Community

VOLUNTEER TRAINING

We need you!!



When: March 11 or March 18, 2023
 Where: Rising Hope Farms Arena
 3775 Bethany Church Road
 Claremont, NC 28610

*You only need to attend one training event.

For more information contact
 Sandy Sherrill, Volunteer Manager

828-302-7240




sandybs310@yahoo.com





MARCH 2023



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
OFFICE HOURS: Monday—Thursday 9:00am-2:00pm Friday, 9:00am—12:00pm			1 “One”derful Wednesday 5:15pm Soup & Salad 6:00pm Bible Study	2 10:00am Grief Share	3	4
5 9:00am Sunday Morning Learning/Coffee & Conversation 10:00am 2nd Sunday of Lent Worship Service/Noisy Offering (Pregnancy Care Center) 4:00pm Pastor Heather’s Installation Service 5:30pm Dinner following service (reservations required)	6 11:00am Women’s Bible Study	7 6:00pm Worship/Music Team 6:00pm Discernment Team Training	8 “One”derful Wednesday 5:15pm Soup & Salad 6:00pm Bible Study 6:00PM Discernment Team Training Newsletter Mailed	9 10:00am Grief Share 2:00pm Congregation Care	10	11 
12 9:00am Sunday Morning Learning/Coffee and Conversation 10:00am 3rd Sunday of Lent Worship Service	13 6:00pm Learning/Youth Team 6:30pm Support Team	14 6:30pm Property Team	15 “One”derful Wednesday 5:15pm Soup & Salad 6:00pm Bible Study	16 10:00am Grief Share 6:00pm Women of the Vine paint party at Hip Hlp HooWray	17  St. Patrick’s Day	18 9:00am—2:30pm NC Women of the ELCA Retreat Salem Lutheran Church Registration Required
19 9:00am Sunday Morning Learning/Coffee and Conversation 10:00am 4th Sunday of Lent Worship Service ECCCM Food Collection	20 10:00am Witness Team 6:00pm Executive Team 6:30pm Congregation Council 	21	22 “One”derful Wednesday 5:15pm Soup & Salad 6:00pm Bible Study Newsletter Mailed	23 10:00am Grief Share	24	25
26 9:00am Sunday Morning Learning/Coffee and Conversation 10:00am 5th Sunday of Lent Worship Service	27	28	29 “One”derful Wednesday 5:15pm Soup & Salad 6:00pm Bible Study	30 10:00am Grief Share	31	