

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
March 27, 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

	4/7/24 @ 10:00am	4/14/24 @ 10:00am	4/21/24 @ 10:00am	4/28/24 @ 10:00am	5/5/24 @ 10:00am
Ushers	Jean Cloninger Matthew Watkins	Jean Cloninger Matthew Watkins	Jean Cloninger Matthew Watkins	Jean Cloninger Matthew Watkins	Jonathan Ray Nobia Summer
Greeters	Steve & Kay Deal	Steve & Kay Deal	Susan Bolick Donna Evans	Janice Sigmon Judy Craig	Dotty Isenhour Susan Williams
Read Lessons	Elaine Simmons	Rev. Dr. Bill Hollar	Nicky & Evelyn Setzer	Rev. Dr. Ted Rust	Rev. Dr. Bill Hollar
Carry Cross (Youth or Adult)	Larry Smyre	Rev. Dr. Ted Rust	Tim Carpenter	Terry Hefner	Larry Smyre
Acolyte (Youth of Adult)	Tamarah Hefner	Sadie vHendren	Silas Carpenter	Youth Volunteer Needed	Kermit Nash
Assisting Minister	Dale Sherrill	Kermit Nash	Tim Carpenter	Dale Sherrill	Wendy Hefner

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)
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: 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 April 22 at 6:30pm
The next newsletter mailing will be April 10, 2024

Church Office Hours

Monday - Thursday, 8:00am—3pm
Friday 8:00am-12:00pm

Follow Us Online

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



Vol. 14, No. 6
3-27-2024



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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

New Ministry "Complete Support Group"

"Complete Support Group" will meet Sunday, April 14th at 4:00pm. This group will help anyone going through a difficult loss, transition, or issue that is causing pain or sadness and will be led by Dr. Rev. Ted Rust.

Everyone is welcome to attend—no exceptions.

For more information or to let Ted know you will be attending please call him at 252-675-5936.

We will meet in the Family Life Center at 4:00pm on April 14th.

Please consider attending to receive support and give support to others.



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

Family of Dee Stewart
Family of Jack Whitener

MEMORIAL/HONORARIUM GIFTS RECEIVED TO THE GLORY OF GOD

For St. Mark's: In loving memory of Harley Brown given by Donna Evans
In loving memory of Dee Stewart given by Libby Brown, Paul & Kathy Gibson, Claremont Rescue Squad, Kermit Nash

For St. Mark's Preschool: Melanie T. Stewart Cranford, On earth a Warrior in the courtroom protecting women and children; now a Soul set free amongst the stars to inspire goodness and hope.
In loving memory of their daughter Melanie T. Stewart Cranford given by her parents Jim and Marlene Stewart.

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 Chris Cloninger Eva Cloninger Alanna Dotson Jo Marilyn Hewitt	Celia Hollar Tammie Hoyle Rudy Little Gaye Morrison Glenn Morrison George Setzer	Brenda Sigmon Hal Sigmon Johnny Sigmon Elaine Simmons Larry Smyre	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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2 April Altar Guild

Hilka Cox, Carol Schaefer & Linda Hewitt



April Tabulators

Dotty Isenhour, Steve & Kay Deal



The Case of the Empty Tomb

John 20:1-18

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

CRYING	STRIPS	HEAD	DEAD	STONE
WEEK	ANGELS	FIRST	BURIAL	LORD
RISE	REMOVED	TOMB	FOLDED	MARY
BELIEVED	LINEN	DAY	DARK	CLOTH

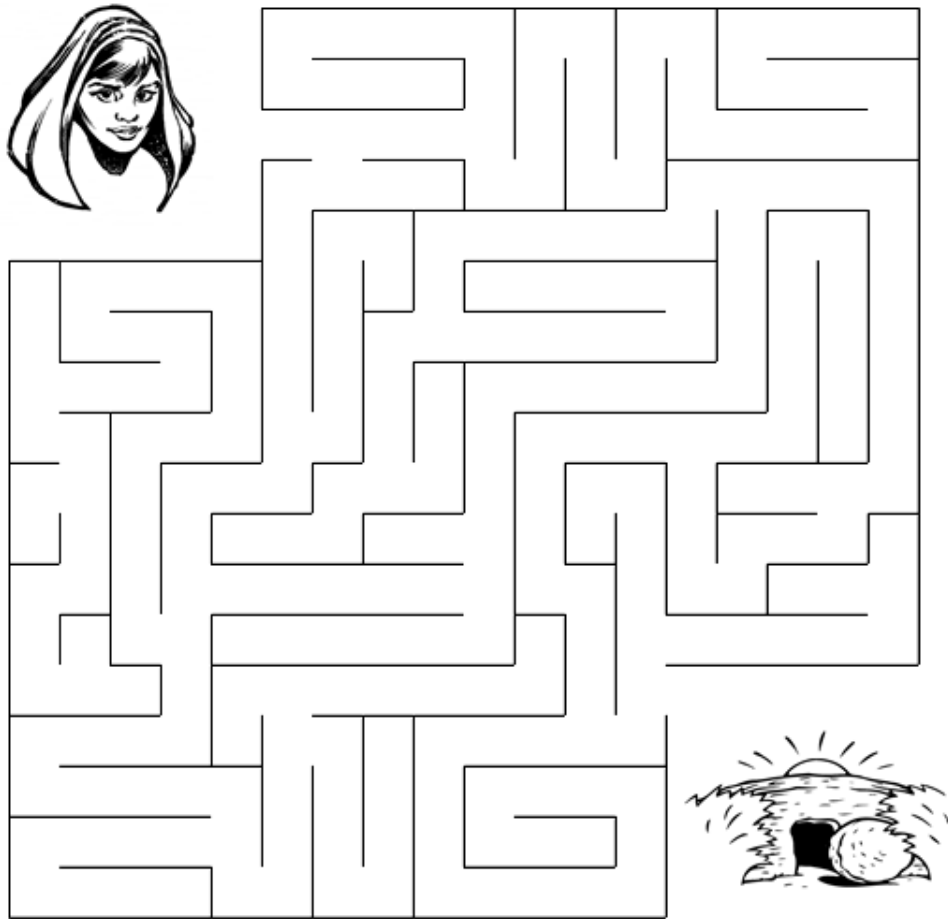


"They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we don't know where they have put him!"
John 20:2 (NIV)

Children’s Ministry Page

Maze Puzzle

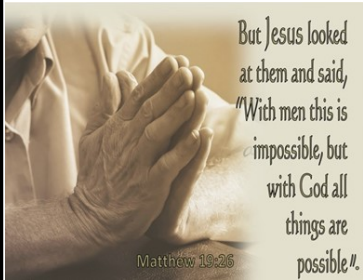
Can you help Mary find the way to the empty tomb?



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 .



Please bring one item
for the blessing box.

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 .

*Woman
of the Year*

Blessing Box Schedule

3/31-4/6 Carol Schaefer
4/7-13 Hilka Cox
4/14-20 Hilka Cox
4/21-27 Nicky & Evelyn Setzer



God Can! Summer Camp Week

July 22-26, 2024
3216 West Main Street
Claremont, NC

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



Scan Code
to Register



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.

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

*St. Mark's Church Family,
Much thanks to all
of you for the beautiful
service. Our family wants
to thank you for the
beautiful music and the
delicious meal.*

*Most of all we want to
thank you for your
prayers, calls and
cards during dad's
illness. He loved
St. Marks and his
church family.
With love,
The De Stewart Family*

*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
Harold Delane Stewart
"Dee"*

When God’s work is done God’s way, in obedience to God’s truth,
it will never lack God’s blessings.



Guided to the Cross

We have spent the last few weeks on our Journey to the Cross. We have been guided to Forgiveness, Hope, Love, Peace, Trust, Perseverance and Service, and this Friday we will be guided to sacrifice as we gather for Good Friday Service for our last steps to Easter Sunday.

I often think of the Easter Journey as a parallel to the various seasons of our lives.

At the beginning of Lent, we begin to **SEARCH** our Hearts as we prepare for a 40 day, internal-reflection of how our lives are NOT reflecting the Christ we claim to serve.

The parallel being how a child might search for Easter Eggs at an organized egg hunt. Some of our faults are easy for us, and others, to see, while other faults are more difficult to find – hidden underneath years of suppression, guilt, and regret. These obstacles make it hard for us to find forgiveness within ourselves, forgiveness that Christ has already given.

As we move further into Lent, we have become either more penitent in our search for Christ, or we have become more complacent to our surroundings and our search for internal-reflection falls out of top priority.

The parallel being how a teenager often struggles with ‘finding their own way’ in the world. They glance back to see the importance of connection with family but become lost in the moment of searching as they lose sight of a Future of Faith in Christ.

Just past the middle of the Lenten journey, one might ‘jump back on track’ after being distracted by daily responsibilities that clouded judgment or caused us to take our eyes off of Christ.

The parallel being how younger adults are often pulled in so many directions by family, work, schedules, personal commitments and more. ‘I’ll do it tomorrow’ is a commonly used phrase that pushes the important ‘Search for Self’ to another day causing it to get lost in the worries of tomorrow, which can hinder us from finding Christ.

As we begin Holy Week our focus on the Cross intensifies and we are faced with the importance of the events leading up to Easter. There are two worship opportunities, for deeper reflection, that often force us to face our own earthly mortality – as Christ did. These deeper reflections not only bring thoughts of regret for past mistakes, but somehow also bring thoughts of the Forgiveness, Grace, and Mercy that only God can give us.

The parallel being how older adults begin to face the reality of their age. They may look back to their past, reminiscent of not only the regrets, but also the greats. The great time they had in childhood, the great time they had as teens, the great family memories they recall and EVERYTHING that brought them to where they are now – at the foot of the Cross. Their focus isn’t so much looking at how they need to change, as it is looking at their eternity with Christ in heaven. Looking at the Cross now brings to reality the fact that no matter what regrets a person has, Christ death and resurrection HAS MADE ALL THINGS NEW.

Easter is this Sunday, and the Good News of Christ’s Resurrection will be celebrated. But just as we rejoice in the gift of Christ’s Sacrifice, we can use each day for inner-reflection and always search for ways to reflect Christ as we live and work in His earthly Kingdom.

Wendy Hefner

ST MARKS CALENDAR –APRIL 2024

- April**
- 4/1 Office Closed-Easter Monday
 - 4/3 Music Rehearsal 6:30pm
 - 4/7 Adult Bible Study & coffee with Pastor Rust & Children’s Sunday School 9:00am
 - 4/7 4th Sunday Of Easter Worship Service 10:00am/Noisy Offering for Outreach Team Scholarship**
 - 4/8 Women of the ELCA Bible Study 11:00am
 - 4/8 Youth/Learning Team 6:00pm
 - 4/10 Music Rehearsal 6:30pm
 - 4/10 Newsletter Mailed
 - 4/14 Adult Bible Study & coffee with Pastor Rust & Children’s Sunday School 9:00am
 - 4/14 3rd Sunday of Easter 10:00am Worship Service**
 - 4/14 Worship/Music 11:30am
 - 4/14 Complete Support Group 4:00pm
 - 4/15 Outreach 11:00am
 - 4/15 Stewardship Team 6:30pm
 - 4/16 Congregation Care 6:00pm
 - 4/16 Property Team 6:30pm
 - 4/17 Music Rehearsal 6:30pm
 - 4/18 Women of the Vine 6:00pm
 - 4/21 Adult Bible Study & coffee with Pastor Rust & Children’s Sunday School 9:00am
 - 4/21 4th Sunday of Lent Worship Service 10:00am/ECCCM Food Collection**
 - 4/22 Executive Team 6:00pm
 - 4/22 Congregation Council 6:30pm
 - 4/24 Music Rehearsal 6:30pm
 - 4/24 Newsletter Mailed
 - 4/27 St. Mark’s Ladies Day 11:00am –1:00pm
 - 4/28 Adult Bible Study & coffee with Pastor Rust & Children’s Sunday School 9:00am
 - 4/28 5th Sunday of Easter 10:00am Worship Service**



4/21 Timothy & Deborah Sherrill

4/23 Linda & Benny Lytton

4/1 Glenn Morrison

4/6 David Tucker

4/6 Ginger Carpenter

4/8 Emma Blossom, Mia Claire Loza

4/10 Hilka Cox

4/13 Remy Kau

4/14 Melissa Fields, Christy Pope, Jack Whitener

4/16 Ryan Sigmon, Marlene Stewart



4/20 Celia Hollar, Evelyn Setzer, Catie Hedrick

4/21 Amy Fox, Morgan Loza, Barret Hendren

4/22 Bailey Carpenter

4/23 Kody Nash

4/24 Libby Brown

4/26 Kermit Nash

4/28 Joni Harrington, Kim Breitzman

4/30 Kyle Sigmon, Brandi Stephenson

Annual Gathering of the NC Women of the ELCA

June 21-23, 2024

Lenoir Rhyne University



SHOP WITH
Leap of Faith
10,000 villages

Women ^{of the} **ELCA** 

ELECTIONS

President
Treasurer
Board Members



LEARN ABOUT

Sleep in Heavenly Peace
Mothers and Their Children
Lutheran Services Carolinas
What's Happening in the WELCA
Lutheran Disaster Response



IMPORTANT PEOPLE THIS WEEKEND

Chaplin—Rev. Denise Henry
Keynote—Dr. Jacquelin Bussie
Entertainment—Paul & Sophia
Chandley
WELCA Churchwide Representative

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Lodging in Fritz/Conrad
Meeting in Belk Centrum
Sunday Worship in Grace Chapel
Golf carts available as needed


"Dr. Jacqueline Bussie is an award-winning author, professor, public theologian, and student of life in all its messy beauty, as well as a much sought after speaker and workshop facilitator. Her first book, *The Laughter of the Oppressed* won the national Trinity Prize. Her 2nd book, *Outlaw Christian: Finding Authentic Faith by Breaking the Rules* won the 2017 Gold Medal Illumination Award for Christian Living and received a coveted starred review from Publishers Weekly. Her 3rd and latest book, *Love Without Limits: Jesus' Radical Vision for a Love with No Exceptions* won the Reader's Favorite Bronze Medal International Book Award for Christian Living, the 2020 IAN Outstanding Religion Book of the Year Award, and 3rd Place IAN Non-Fiction Book of the Year Award. Also, Publisher's Weekly named *Love Without Limits* "a must-read for all Christians interested in inclusivity for their communities." An active servant-leader in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, Jacqueline spent the last twenty years teaching religion to undergraduates at ELCA colleges and serving as the founding Director of the Forum on Faith and Life at Concordia College. Jacqueline's favorite things to do are walk on the beach, read good books, ride in the front car of roller coasters, spend time with friends, and travel to any place she's never been before."





April 2024



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	<div>1</div> <div>Offices Closed Easter Monday</div> <div></div>	<div>2</div>	<div>3</div> <div>6:30pm Music Rehearsal</div>	<div>4</div>	<div>5</div>	<div>6</div>
<div>7</div> <div>9:00am Adult Bible Study & coffee with Pastor Rust & Children’s Sunday School</div> <div>10:00am 2nd Sunday of Easter Worship Service/Noisy Offering for Outreach Team Scholarship</div>	<div>8</div> <div>11:00am Women of the ELCA Bible Study</div> <div>6:00pm Youth/Learning</div>	<div>9</div>	<div>10</div> <div>6:30pm Music Rehearsal</div> <div>Newsletter Mailed</div>	<div>11</div>	<div>12</div>	<div>13</div>
<div>14</div> <div>9:00am Adult Bible Study & coffee with Pastor Rust & Children’s Sunday School</div> <div>10:00am 3rd Sunday of Easter Worship Service</div> <div>11:30am Worship/Music</div> <div>4:00pm Complete Support Group</div>	<div>15</div> <div>11:00am Outreach</div> <div>6:30pm Stewardship Team</div>	<div>16</div> <div>6:00pm Congregation Care</div> <div>6:30pm Property Team</div>	<div>17</div> <div>6:30pm Music Rehearsal</div>	<div>18</div> <div>6:00pm Women of the Vine</div>	<div>19</div>	<div>20</div>
<div>21</div> <div>9:00am Adult Bible Study & coffee with Pastor Rust & Children’s Sunday School</div> <div>10:00am 4th Sunday of Easter Worship Service/ ECCCM Food Collection</div>	<div>22</div> <div>6:00pm Executive Team</div> <div>6:30pm Congregation Council</div>	<div>23</div>	<div>24</div> <div>6:30pm Music Rehearsal</div> <div>Newsletter Mailed</div>	<div>25</div>	<div>26</div> <div></div>	<div>27</div> <div>11:00am-1:00pm St. Mark’s Ladies Day in Honor of Mother’s Day</div>
<div>28</div> <div>9:00am Adult Bible Study & coffee with Pastor Rust & Children’s Sunday School</div> <div>10:00am 5th Sunday of Easter Worship Service</div>	<div>29</div>	<div>30</div>				<div>30</div>