

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

**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  
@ Both Services

**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  
March 8, 2023**

**40  
Days  
OF  
GIVING**

During the Season  
of Lent until Easter  
we will be collecting  
money to assist with  
earthquake relief  
efforts through  
Lutheran World

Relief. You may use the purple Lent offering  
envelopes or designate on another  
envelope or check your gift to assist those  
of Turkey and Syria who have been affected  
by multiple earthquakes. Thank you.

**EARTHQUAKE IN TURKEY**

- 7.8 magnitude quake struck early February 6
- Thousands of lives lost and buildings destroyed
- Urgent needs include food, shelter and water

**YOU CAN  
HELP NOW!**

LUTHERAN  
WORLD RELIEF



On Saturday, April 1, the City of Claremont will be having a community Easter Egg Hunt. St. Mark's will be hosting a craft table for the children to do a craft. We will also be sharing information about our congregation. If you are interested in helping us tell others about our congregation, please contact the church office or Wendy Hefner, Family Ministries Director.

In preparation of our Easter Egg Hunt, we are collecting individually wrapped candy that will fit into small plastic eggs (please no small pieces of hard candy as they can create a choking hazard.). Collection boxes for the candy will be available at the entrances to the sanctuary. Thank you for helping us prepare for a wonderful egg hunt for the children.



**Prime Time Ministry Group Lunch**

Friday, March 24<sup>th</sup> – 11:30 AM  
Catered Meal provided. Contact the church office to make  
reservations by Monday, March 20<sup>th</sup>.

**Church Staff**

**Pastor Heather Langan: Senior Pastor**  
[hlangan519@yahoo.com](mailto:hlangan519@yahoo.com) (704-724-5991)  
**Emily Schuttenberg: Choir Director/Organist** (828-459-2161)  
**Wendy Hefner: Family Ministries Director**  
[wendy@smarklc.org](mailto:wendy@smarklc.org) (828-270-6008)  
**Praise Team Leader/Keyboardist** (828-459-2161)  
**Maria Wright: Preschool Director**  
[mw9268@gmail.com](mailto:mw9268@gmail.com) (828-234-5943)  
**Randyl Abernathy: Preschool Director**  
[mimab@charter.net](mailto:mimab@charter.net) (828-781-1702)  
**Deanna Butcher: Finance Secretary**  
[deanna@smarklc.org](mailto:deanna@smarklc.org) (828-459-2161)  
**Debbie Smith: Administrative Assistant**  
[secretary@smarklc.org](mailto:secretary@smarklc.org) (828-459-2161)  
**Larry Smyre: Interim 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 March 20th at 6:30pm  
The next newsletter mailing will be March 22, 2023

**Church Office Hours**

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

**Follow Us Online**

StMarksLutheran...Claremont, NC [www.smarklc.org](http://www.smarklc.org)  
 YouTube St. Mark's Lutheran Church, Claremont, NC



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3-8-2023



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

ANNOUNCEMENTS



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.

MEMORIAL/HONORARIUM GIFTS RECEIVED TO THE GLORY OF GOD

For St. Mark’s Preschool: In honor of Caleb and Roy 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
- Family of Don Killian, uncle of Sandy Sherrill
- Grandfather of Rachel Isaac’s fiancé
- Family of Ron Huffman, brother of Jan Carpenter
- Family of Mark Yount
- Family of Kaye Shaffer husband of Barbara Shaffer

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 Exie Little JD Little Rudy Little Gaye Morrison Glenn Morrison	Hazel Setzer Sandy Sherrill Brenda Sigmon Tim Sigmon Bishop Tim Smith Dee Stewart Richard Tallant Chuck Watson	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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March Tabulators

Hilka Cox, Elaine Simmons &  
Jan Carpenter

Worship Leaders needed. Please let the office know if you are available for one of these.  
3/26, 4/2, 4/6 6:30pm Maundy Thurs.,  
4/7 6:30pm Good Fri. 4/9 7:00 & 10:00am



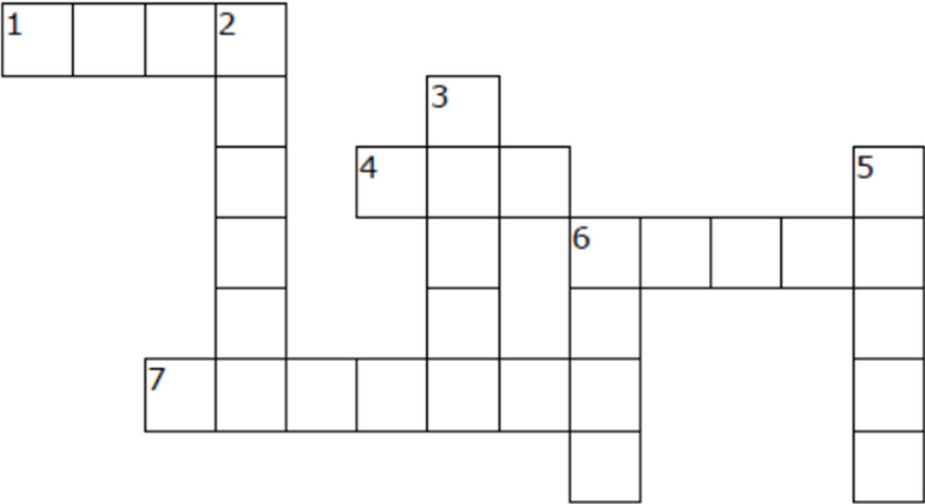
March Altar Guild  
David & Lisa Tucker

“Faith sees the invisible, believes the unbelievable, and receives the impossible.”  
Corrie Ten Boom

DECODER PUZZLE

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

John 4:5-13



ACROSS

- 1. A present; something given without cost
- 4. The creator of heaven and earth; our Heavenly Father
- 6. A clear, colorless, odorless, and tasteless liquid; H2O
- 7. Continuing forever

DOWN

- 2. To feel the need for a drink
- 3. An adult female person
- 5. The act of taking liquid through the mouth
- 6. A deep hole or shaft dug or drilled to obtain water

WELL GIFT	WOMAN DRINK	WATER GOD	THIRST ETERNAL
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# Children's Ministry Page

## WORDSEARCH PUZZLE

### Measuring God's Love

John 3:14-21

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

SON	ONLY	BELIEVES	MOSES	WHOEVER
PERISH	HIM	WORLD	DESERT	LIFTED
CONDEMN	SNAKE	LOVED	ETERNAL	LIFE
THROUGH	GAVE	SEND	GOD	SAVE



## WELCOME

We would like to welcome Wendy Hefner as our new Family Ministry Assistant. Wendy may seem familiar to many of you. She served as Director of Christian Education/Youth Ministry at St Mark's from 1990 – 1999 and is excited to be back in this ministry opportunity. After a tour of the facility Wendy stated, 'As I walked around the facility, a flood of memories came rushing back as I recalled nine years of children's gatherings, youth activities, family gatherings, and more'.

Following her time here, Wendy's passion and dedication to ministry led her to serve as an Associate In Ministry at both St James Lutheran, Concord and Zion Lutheran, Hickory. She continued her Faith journey, serving for the past 12 years at Trinity Ridge Nursing Care facility as the Life Enrichment Director.

Her family has also grown since her time here. She is still married to Mark Hefner, still has four children, (*Tyler and wife Kasey, Kathryn, Jessica and Matthew*), but now has eight grandchildren (*Reese, Riley, Noah, Jonathan, Hadleigh, Lucas, Jaxson, and Hudson*) who call her Nana.

As our Family Ministry Assistant, Wendy will assist Pastor Heather with visitation, work with various teams to plan activities for our children, youth, families and seniors and work to strengthen community involvement.

If you would like to volunteer your help with strengthening these and other ministries, contact Wendy at [wendy@smarklc.org](mailto:wendy@smarklc.org).



## "One"derful Wednesdays

We will be having a meal on each Wednesday in March which will 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 or Cathy Sigmon. The dates are March 15th, 22, and 29.



## Woman of the Year!



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 !!!!!

## St. Marks Women, April 29 at 11 o'clock

St. Marks women, mark your calendars, Saturday, April 29 at 11 o'clock. 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."







*Pastor Heather's  
Installation Service  
March 5, 2023*



Welcome to the new disciples of St. Mark's as of Sunday, February 26. Kim Sigmon, Rosemary Isaac, Rachel Isaac, and Macie Hefner.

We are so glad to have you as a part of our family.

**Amazing Grace Race**

Wednesday Night Children's Program During Lent

5:15 Dinner , 6 - 7:00 Activity

Join us as we race through the Bible meeting people who showed the power of God's Amazing Grace in their lives.

Music, Crafts, Games and more!



St. Mark's Lutheran Church

Council Meeting 1/16/2023

- I. Call to Order: 6:08pm
- II. Opening Prayer: Terry
- III. Roll Call: Terry, Kendra, Blake, Kyle, Nicky, Denise, Hilka, Jonathan, Marlene, Pastor Heather, Jean, Aaron, Carol
- IV. Approval of Minutes from 12/12/2022
- V. Pastors Report: attached.
- VI. Action Items: none
- VII. Finance Report: Attached. Raised \$1000.00 for a family in need from 1/1/23 and 1/8/23.
- VIII. Team Reports:
  - a. Learning: attached. No meeting
  - b. Witness and Social: Met today. Working on cards. Valentine's day. \$200 for Blessing Box
  - c. Support: attached
  - d. Technology: new camera up and running. No more Zoom.
  - e. Youth: attached. No meeting
  - f. Congregation Care: attached
  - g. Property: attached. Trees coming down. \$70,000 for sanctuary updates. Color and materials picked.
  - h. Worship and Music: attached
  - i. Fellowship: no report
  - J. Preschool: Meeting on 2/2/23
  - k. Memorial: no team
  - l. Personnel: attached
  - m. W-ELCA: attached
- IX. Old Business: Change verbiage from Deacon to Usher. Retreat 2/3-2/4. ChurchWerkes initial meeting coming up. Need team of 7-8. Nicky and Kendra will represent council.
- X. New Business:
  - a. Council members voted for Executive Team: Terry Hefner: President; Kendra Hendren: Secretary; Nicky Setzer: Vice President; Kyle Sigmon: Treasurer
  - b. Team Liasons established
  - c. Usher schedule completed
  - d. Annual reports are due 2/20/2023
  - e. February will begin the Executive Team meeting with Pastor Heather at 6pm and Council at 6:30pm
- XI. Adjournment and Lord's Prayer: 7:48pm