

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

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PAID  
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** 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

**ST. MARKS NEWSLETTER  
April 12, 2023**



In 1 Corinthians 12, it says, "Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone. To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. To one is given through the Spirit the utterance of wisdom, and to another the utterance

of knowledge according to the same Spirit, to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit, to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another the discernment of spirits, to another various kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues. All these are activated by one and the same Spirit, who allots to each one individually just as the Spirit chooses. For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. "

Over the last few months I am have been encouraged by the movement of the Spirit within the people of St. Mark's. I have witnessed people, disciples, trying new things and doing new things for our faith community. People who did not sing in the choir before sang on Good Friday and Easter morning. People have answered yes to serving on ministry teams including congregation council and our new Safety team. Others have begun helping to take communion and contact our homebound members and those at assisted living facilities. The parts of the body of Christ are working and moving and making a difference not only within the walls of the church but also outside the walls within our community.

This next Sunday, April 16, and in the weeks to come, we will be taking a closer look at what part of the body of Christ each of us is being called and have already been given the abilities to serve our Lord. As we discern, which means to be attentive to God so we might come to sense God's heart and purpose so we may align ourselves to whatever God is doing and calling us to do and be, we will be having conversations and spending time in prayer listening to God's call to us. God spoke to Moses through the burning bush, and God has already and will continue to talk to us in the way in which we will best be able to hear God's voice.

I ask that you prayerfully consider spending time in prayer and reading scripture each day over the next 4 weeks listening and looking for the movement of the Holy Spirit around you. Come to worship which is where as disciples and believers we can be in community learning and listening to God in the scriptures, songs, prayer, and silence. You are a part of the body of Christ and each part of the body is needed for the body to function and live as it was designed. Know that I am praying for you and asking God to make God's self known to you and to what purpose God is calling and asking of you. Together the Body of Christ called St. Mark's Lutheran Church is alive, breathing, and moving by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Pastor Heather

Church Staff		Congregation Council		
<b>Pastor Heather Langan: Senior Pastor</b> <a href="mailto:hlangan519@yahoo.com">hlangan519@yahoo.com</a>	(704-724-5991)	<b>2023</b> Terry Hefner Denise Arndt Marlene Epps Carol Schaefer	<b>2024</b> Kyle Sigmon Hilka Cox Kendra Hendren Aaron Carpenter	<b>2025</b> Jean Cloninger Blake Sigmon Jonathan Ray Nicky Setzer
<b>Emily Schuttenberg: Choir Director/Organist</b> <a href="mailto:wendy@smarklc.org">wendy@smarklc.org</a>	(828-459-2161)	<i>The year denotes rotation off Council.</i>		
<b>Wendy Hefner: Family Ministries Director</b> <a href="mailto:wendy@smarklc.org">wendy@smarklc.org</a>	(828-270-6008)			
<b>Praise Team Leader/Keyboardist</b> <a href="mailto:mw9268@gmail.com">mw9268@gmail.com</a>	(828-459-2161)			
<b>Maria Wright: Preschool Director</b> <a href="mailto:mw9268@gmail.com">mw9268@gmail.com</a>	(828-234-5943)			
<b>Randyl Abernathy : Preschool Director</b> <a href="mailto:mimab@charter.net">mimab@charter.net</a>	(828-781-1702)			
<b>Deanna Butcher: Finance Secretary</b> <a href="mailto:deanna@smarklc.org">deanna@smarklc.org</a>	(828-459-2161)			
<b>Debbie Smith: Administrative Assistant</b> <a href="mailto:secretary@smarklc.org">secretary@smarklc.org</a>	(828-459-2161)			
<b>Larry Smyre: Interim Church Custodian</b>	(828-459-2161)			



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

ANNOUNCEMENTS



Graduations are just around the corner.

If you have a child or grandchild that is a member of St. Mark's who is graduating from high school, college, or graduate school, please share their information with us.

We would like to recognize them in worship on Sunday, May 14. We would like their name, parents' names (if St. Mark's members), grandparents' names (if St. Mark's members), school graduating from, degree (if applies), and future plans, please include a picture of them. Please share this information with the church office by May 8.

Email: [secretary@smarklc.org](mailto:secretary@smarklc.org)

April noisy bucket offering fund total was \$251.00. It was given to Claremont Friends of the Library to help with books, toys and educational materials.



MEMORIAL/HONORARIUM GIFTS RECEIVED TO THE GLORY OF GOD

**For St. Mark's Sanctuary Pews:** In memory and honor of our past and present loved ones of St. Mark's Lutheran Church given by St. Mark's Women of the ELCA

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

Family of Andy Dison husband of Diane Dison

Family of Kathy Sigmon, wife of Ron Sigmon

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE FOLLOWING WITH ACUTE HEALTH CHALLENGES

Harley Brown Gary Carpenter Eva Cloninger Jerry Craig Jackie Devlin Keegan Dixon Alanna Dotson Mike Evans Jerry Herman Linda Hewitt	Willie Hewitt Celia Hollar Tammie Hoyle Meredith Huret Exie Little JD Little Rudy Little Gaye Morrison Glenn Morrison	George Setzer Sandy Sherrill Brenda Sigmon Tim Sigmon Bishop Tim Smith Dee Stewart Marlene 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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**April Tabulators**

Dotty Isenhour &  
Chris Cloninger

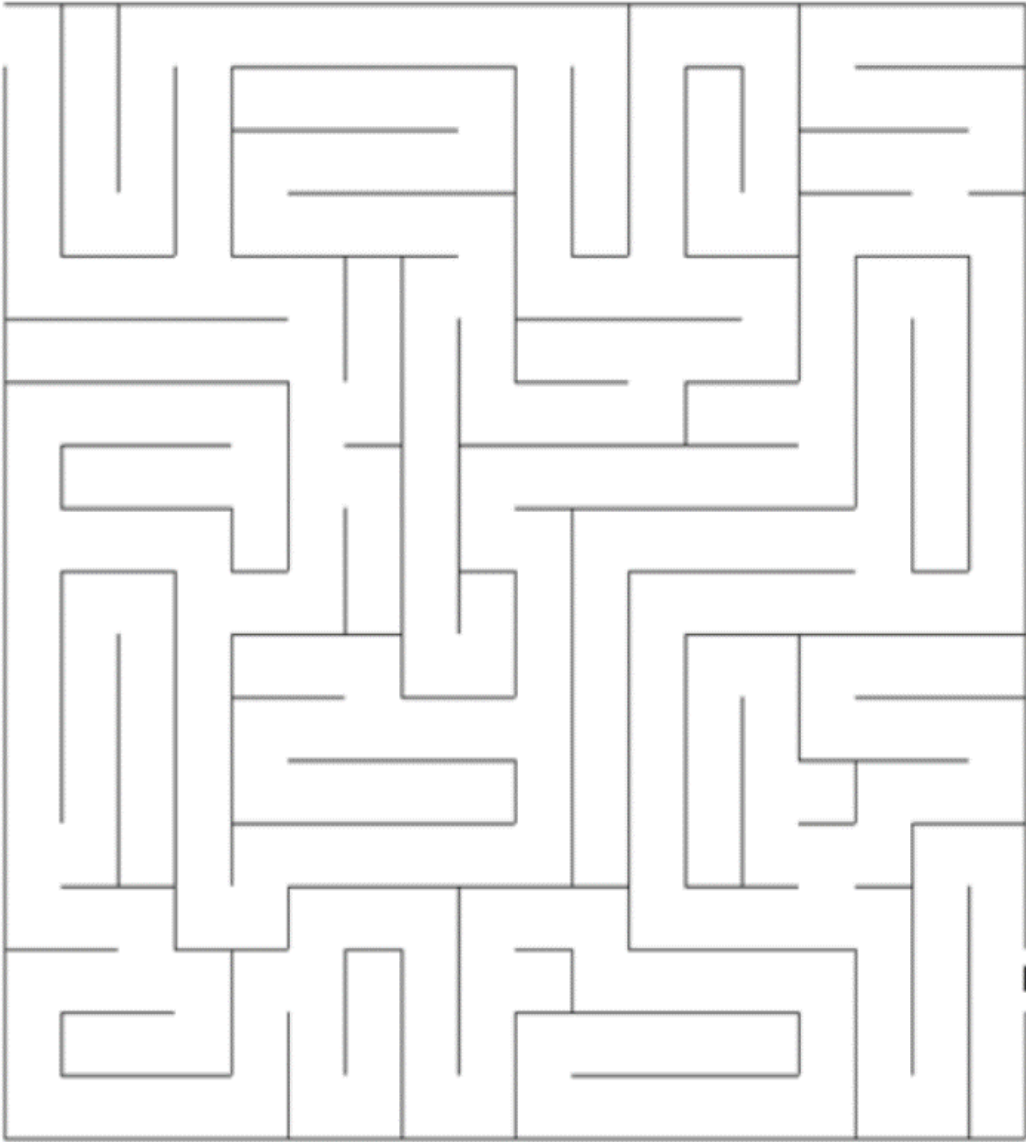
**April Altar Guild**

Hilka Cox, Carol Schaefer &  
Linda Hewitt



MAZE PUZZLE

Luke 24:13-35



Emmaus



The Road to Emmaus



# Children's Ministry Page

## WORDSEARCH PUZZLE

### Believe It or Not

John 19:20-31

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

JESUS	TOGETHER	DOUBTING	RECORDED
MIRACLES	SIGNS	SHOWED	BELIEVED
DOORS	LIFE	HANDS	DISCIPLES
TOUCHED	THOMAS	SIDE	LOCKED



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'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 ." Family and friends are welcome.



Melanie Sigmon our 2022 Woman of the Year recipient will be providing us with music. Our colors will be coral, gold, cream, and white. Ladies let's pack the Family Life Center to celebrate each other.

**Vacation  
Bible School  
July 28—29  
More Info Soon!**

In honor of National Military Appreciation Month our Noisy bucket offering for May will go to Purple Heart Homes in Statesville. Founded in 2008 by Veterans John Gallina and the late Dale Beatty . The two served together in Iraq and suffered life changing injuries during combat. Returning home the community provided a warm welcome celebrating their return which sparked many questions. Why don't all veterans receive the same level of support? As time wears on do people forget ? What happens when injuries prevent them from going back to normal? They decided to start a non profit organization with the mission of providing housing solutions, helping with repairs and are now building tiny homes to qualifying veterans. This gives veterans peace of mind and a higher quality of life. Thank you to all who are currently serving and have served in our military. You are true heroes!



Women of the Vine will have Stretch and Balance Class

Thursday, April 20th at 6:00pm in the Family Life Center.

  
**Thank You**  
from the North Carolina Synod Council

Thank you for the generous Mission Support that your congregation shared with the NC Synod in 2022. Your generosity means that we continue to walk together. Your gifts made possible one new mission start in North Durham, a new campus ministry in Wilmington, and allowed us to rejoice as five new ministers were ordained in our church. Also, our Synod Authorized Ministers program is beginning to fill the pastoral needs in many of our very small congregations!

We know there is grief and uncertainty as the church landscape is changing quickly, and yet, hope in Christ abounds. God has been and will continue to be faithful in our midst. You are often in our prayers and we continually rejoice in the ministry we share.

Thank you for all you do as Christ's church in the NC Synod.

*God's Peace, Grateful for your ministry!*  
Rev. Garin Overbaugh, NC Synod Council

2023  
YEAR BOOK  
"A GLANCE AT 2022"

ST. MARK'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH  
3216 West Main Street  
P.O. Box 550  
Claremont, NC 28610  
828-459-2161

St. Mark's Evangelical Lutheran Church is a member congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.



2022 Yearbooks are available for pickup at the church.

Please call or email the office if you need one mailed to you.

828-459-2161

secretary@smarklc.org



## Grieving the death of a spouse?

*Or do you know someone who is?*

Your life has changed forever. The daily emotions and challenges can seem too hard to bear.

Find help at a **Loss of a Spouse** seminar.

## GRIEF SHARE LOSS OF A SPOUSE

Join us for this encouraging seminar.

Call today for more information  
828-459-2161 or go to  
[www.griefshare.org](http://www.griefshare.org) for dates and times  
Sponsored by St. Mark's  
Lutheran Church

## LOSS OF A SPOUSE

### Every person experiences grief and loss in their own unique way.

This seminar features video interviews with counselors, grief experts, and widowed men and women. They offer suggestions and assurances to help deal with widowhood no matter how recent or how long ago you experienced the loss of your spouse. Grief is a journey and we are here to walk with you.

Thursday, May 11, 2023 6:30-8:30pm  
Thursday, May 25, 2023 6:30-8:30pm (Men's group)  
Thursday, June 15, 2023 6:30-8:30pm  
Thursday, July 13, 2023 6:30-8:30pm

This is a one time, 2-hour seminar.  
The seminar will take place in the Parish Hall Building lower level in the lounge of St. Mark's Lutheran Church  
3216 W. Main Street, Claremont, NC

[www.griefshare.com](http://www.griefshare.com) to register  
\$5 fee for book/journal  
(Scholarships are available)

GRIEF SHARE  
[griefshare.org/loss](http://griefshare.org/loss)



Happy Birthday to Glenn Morrison and David Tucker. Their names were inadvertently left off of the birthday list in the last newsletter.

The Outreach Team (formerly Witness) will not have their monthly meeting on April 17th. Instead

we will be feeding Claremont workers on April 21st at 12 noon.

Anyone willing to make a pot of spaghetti sauce (church will furnish the ingredients) or help serve please contact Cathy Sigmon at 828-455-1180.



### St. Mark's Lutheran Church Representing at the Claremont Park Easter Egg Hunt



## Discernment Team Update

Our call to communal discipleship

**LORD, COULD WE PLEASE JUST  
HAVE A BURNING BUSH?**



If you heard the Temple Talks the last two Sundays, you are aware of our need for a Burning Bush. But maybe, just maybe, there are burning bushes everywhere around us. Why don't we see them? Why don't we feel the heat radiating from their presence? Why don't we hear them popping and cracking and smell the smoke that wafts in the air? Maybe we aren't looking, listening, or even praying for them.

Somehow we aren't getting the memo from God who speaks through our neighbors, who sends signs and smoke signals every moment of our lives, and who gives us holy surprises. If we can quiet the personal agendas in our minds to see how our mission can play out in the world, if we ask the right questions without anticipating the answer we think it "should" be, if we *"seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, then all these things will be added to you."* (Matthew 6:33)

How? We will grab onto Easter's coattails and ride the wave of **RESURRECTION!** Come and **JOIN** us as we search for Burning Bushes within our congregation. To do this, we have planned 4 joyous and fun filled weeks of Sunday **WORSHIP** focused on congregational discernment. Keeping in mind to Whom we belong, we will **DISCERN** together who we are as individuals, and how we **SERVE** as a congregation.



**Sunday, April 16:** Recognize and Explore Your Assets

Step 1: We will focus on 3 foundational truths:

- Everyone has **GIFTS**.
- Everyone has something to **CONTRIBUTE**.
- Everyone cares about something and that **PASSION** is their **MOTIVATION** to **ACT**.

Step 2: Connect the Dots: Discovering that our own gifts and assets are made valuable by connecting them to the gifts of others.



**The next 2 Sundays, April 23 and 30:** Discussion Round Tables. We will continue our **WORSHIP** series on congregational discernment/development as we discuss in smaller groups what this all means for us.



**Sunday, May 7: REDEFINE, REDEVELOP, and CELEBRATE REBIRTH.** We'll have a catered lunch where we can **FELLOWSHIP** and feast with **THANKFUL** hearts. You are **WELCOME** to bring a dessert and **COMMUNITY GUESTS** and **FRIENDS**; the rest will be provided. We will wind up our initial tasks by offering an **OPPORTUNITY** for further input if you missed a session or if your own discernment has you thinking of additional ways the **SPIRIT** moves and works throughout our congregation.