



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

From The Pastors Desk

**Grace and Peace
Friends of St. Mark's Lutheran Church,**

I pray you're all doing well as we do our best to stay warm in this Fall season and look for the many ways God is at work among us each day. In this short time together, I want to share some of the places I've seen God at work — and what I'm excited for in the coming month at St. Mark's!

October was a full and groovy month! A place that I saw God at work was at Claremont Daze with our great group of volunteers helping at our table. I want to offer a special thank you to them for giving their time, talents, and gifts. We handed out popcorn, St. Mark's merch, sold baked goodies, and met many people from the community. One groovy thing I saw God doing there was connecting us with people who help support our Blessing Box. Over the last few months, I've met several of these generous neighbors who give their time and gifts to help care for others. At Claremont Daze, I learned that even more people in town help keep this ministry going. I'm so thankful for all who support it — especially those in our congregation who make sure it's filled each day. God truly works through your kindness!

As we look to November, we have a lot to look forward to. On November 2, We'll be preparing the decorations for our float for the Claremont Christmas Parade in December. I'm sure when we gather on November 2 after worship, it will be a fun time of fellowship and creativity together. Later in the month, on November 23, we'll celebrate Women's Sunday with Bishop Emily Hartner of the NC Synod as our guest preacher. I know she will share an inspiring message with us! Also, on that same day, we'll also join our neighbors for the Community Thanksgiving Service at Bethlehem United Methodist Church. This will be my first time attending, and from what people have told me, I'm sure it'll be a groovy afternoon of worship, gratitude, and fellowship.

With all these blessings, November is shaping up to be another busy and joyful month of God's work among us. Thank you, St. Mark's, for serving together in love and hope. God is truly at work — for us, through us, and around us.

Peace and Blessings,
Fraternally Pastor Quentin

**THE HOLY LAND CHRISTIANS ARE GOING TO
BE OUR GUESTS. HEAR THEIR STORY AND SEE
THEIR BEAUTIFUL OLIVEWOOD CRAFTS**

On Nov. 16 2025 and during the services, we will be hearing about the Christians of the Holy Land. After the service we will be hosting at the church Narthex a nice display of handmade olive wood religious articles from Bethlehem available for purchase. These carvings include olivewood Nativity sets, crosses, Christmas ornaments, candle holders, angels and many other religious crafts that could make a nice wedding, baptism, confirmation, Easter and Christmas gifts. The carvings are handmade by Christian families from Bethlehem who rely on it for their daily bread.

**ST. MARKS NEWSLETTER
NOVEMBER 2025**

PRAISE BAND/BLENDED SERVICES

The next Sunday for the Praise Band and blended worship service will be November 23 at 10am.



The Annual Quilt Sale is happening *NOW*, just in time for cooler weather and the coming holidays. Check out the beautiful handiwork of the Quilting Ladies and support their efforts.



Gifts From the Heart

'Shopping Day'

***Saturday, November 22nd
10 am — 1 pm***

- Men's (toolkit sets/car care items/gloves/flashlights with batteries/socks/wallets
Ladies (nail care kits/stationary/pen sets/gloves/inspirational items/keychains)
Christmas Mugs (also candy canes, marshmallows, large treat bags)
Blankets - Home Goods - Candles
Kitchen (towel sets/cookie mix - cookie cutter - oven mitt sets/spatulas/insulated cups)
Bath and Body (lotions/body wash/loofah/soaps/men and women)
and Christmas Knick Knacks.*

November 23rd will be Women's Sunday.
Preaching and presiding will be Bishop Emily Hartner of the NC Synod.



Sharon Elliott presented St. Mark's with a plaque of appreciation from Walkin' Roll for supporting their 2025 T-Ball program with our donation.



Thank you Troutman Plumbing for finding and repairing a water leak. Hopefully this will correct the excessive water usage issue.



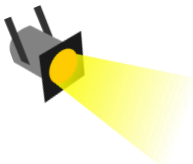
Christmas at the Reynolda House Friday, December 12th

Nothing sparks Joy for the Christmas season like the sights and sounds at the Reynolda House Museum, in Winston-Salem. We will tour the museum, eat lunch, then join in singing along with some of the season's most beloved songs played on the 1917 Aeolian organ to get in the holiday spirit.



Museum tickets are \$18
Lunch will be \$15 - \$20

Call the church office by November 16th
to make your reservation.



Preschool Spotlight

St. Mark's Preschool



Bachelor of Arts Degree in early education at LR
Taught Kindergarten and first grade at south
Newton Elementary and at Claremont until God led
me open St Mark's Preschool in 2002. It's been a
wonderful journey.
Married my high school sweetheart, Danny
Abernathy. We have 3 sons and 2 grandchildren

PRESCHOOL CO-DIRECTOR
And Founder



I am Co- Director of the preschool and I taught
elementary education for 30 years
at Claremont Elementary. I have 2 beautiful
grandchildren. My hobbies include golf,
hiking, traveling, and attending concerts
with friends.

PRESCHOOL CO-DIRECTOR
Teaches 4 and 5 yr. olds

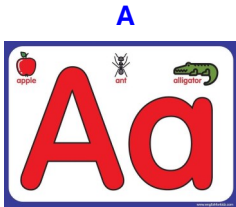
Thank you to this Dynamic Duo !!!! Your hard work and dedication serve as a powerful example of serving GOD with your gifts ! St Marks and the community are blessed to have a preschool where children are nurtured, educated and shown the love of Christ every day !!! We love you !!!!



Temple Talk with Pastor Quentin is held every Tuesday morning at 9:15 in the Sanctuary.



Catawba Science Center teaching about the human body.



PRAYER LIST—MEMBERS and EXTENDED FAMILY & FRIENDS			
Members: Mike Baker Libby Brown Gail Carpenter Gary & Susan Carpenter Jan Carpenter Alanna Dotson Bill Dotson Marlene Epps Kathy Gibson Rachel Hall Jerry Herman Jo Marilyn Hewitt Linda & Willie Hewitt Pastor Bill Hollar Tammie Hoyle Ken Isenhour Pat Kale	Miriam Keisler Rudy Little Gaye Morrison Kelly Morrison Norman Morrow Betty Powell Jonathan & Kathy Ray Evelyn Setzer George Setzer Carolyn Sherrill Carolyn Sigmon Johnny Sigmon Elaine Simmons Larry & Judy Smyre Betty Williams Tony Williams <u>Family & Friends:</u> Zane Albert	Brittany Bailey Caleb Beatty Mike Benfield Barry & Sheila Brake Deanna Butcher Scott Campbell Jason Carpenter Jo Ann Fox Carson Hollar William Hampton Forrest Huret Julie Jones Mike & Alice Lawson Tonya Lawson Rita Ledbetter Bill & Laura McBrayer Nicole Nimrod Betsy Roberts	Dana Roberts Mark Sepulvador Emily Schuttenberg Kathleen Sigmon Loretta Stephenson Rich Surace Michael & Rachel Swink Jo Carol Thomason Phil Williams Emory Addison Woods Baby Adaline Yang Danny Young Dylan & McKenzie <u>Active Military:</u> Matt Hall Bryant Helvie Davis Tucker

Saint Mark's Lutheran Church Ministry Financial Analysis September 30, 2025		
9/30/2025	Month	Year
General Fund Offerings	21,803.99	196,688.43
Expenses	26,490.92	237,977.09
Balance	(4,686.93)	(41,288.66)
September's Noisy Offering and Milk Pail was designated for the St Mark's Preschool Scholarship Fund. A total of \$378.50 was received. October's offering will go to Safe Harbor of NC.		
Special donations received: ~A donation in memory of Hazel Setzer was given to the Quilting Mission by Kemp & Christy Sigmon. ~A donation in memory of Hal Sigmon was given by Paul & Kathy Gibson for the Blessing Box. ~A donation in memory of Eva Cloninger was given by Libby Brown. ~A donation in memory of Jason Snyder was given by Patty Pope to St. Mark's Preschool.		

Deepest sympathy to family and friends of

Eva Mae Poarch Cloninger

Hal Lafayette Sigmon
A service of remembrance will be held
Sunday, November 9th at 1pm.



thrivent®

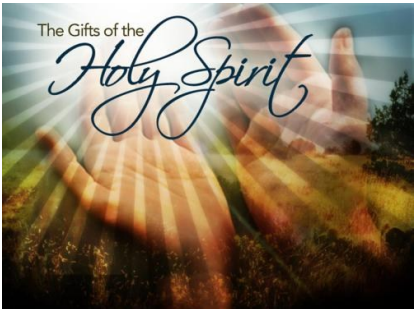
A friendly reminder that your Thrivent Choice Dollars can be redeemed every quarter (every three months).

September-October 2025 Worship Attendance		
	Present	YouTube
September 28	74	7
October 5	79	16
October 12	73	10
October 19	78	7
Total	304	40
Weekly Average	76	10

One True Meaning of Stewardship

In her passing from this world to join the Church Triumphant, Celia Hollar carried a life insurance policy on herself naming St. Mark's Lutheran Church as the beneficiary. It has been said, Celia did not want to leave this world without supporting her congregation.

Thank you Celia Hollar and the many others who have done the same as they joined the Church Triumphant for your love of God and your St. Mark's family. In this season of giving, we pray that God inspires each of us to wonder where the Triune God invites us to give back to God what is God's each and every day.



Lost and Found



Lost and found items will be on the table in the hallway between the Sanctuary and the Family Life Center.

BEWARE OF
FAKE EMAILS

Pastor Quentin will **never** email, call, or text you asking to purchase gift cards, give personal financial information, or wire money to him.

If you have received messages like these from
quentinsurace@gmail.com asking you to do so, then please report them for phishing and notify Pastor Quentin and the Church office.

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

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

<u>Church Staff</u>		<u>Congregation Council</u>			
Pastor Quentin Surace pastor@smarklc.org (704) 280-9921		<u>2025</u> Jean Cloninger Terry Hefner Jonathan Ray Nicky Setzer	<u>2026</u> Carol Schaefer Matthew Watkins Nobia Summers Cathy Sigmon	<u>2027</u> Tim Carpenter Judy Craig Jerry Herman Susan Williams	
Wendy Hefner: Family Ministries Director wendy@smarklc.org (828) 270-6008		<i>*The year denotes rotation off Council.</i>			
Emily Schuttenberg: Minister of Music emily205@icloud.org (706) 248-3323		Congregation Council meets on November 17th at 6:30pm The next newsletter mailing will be November 19th.			
Maria Wright: Preschool Director mw9268@gmail.com (828) 234-5943		<u>Church Office Hours</u> Monday - Thursday, 9:00am—2:30pm			
Randyl Abernathy: Preschool Director mimab@charter.net (828) 781-1702		<u>Follow Us Online</u>			
Deanna Butcher: Finance Secretary deanna@smarklc.org (828) 459-2161			St. Mark's Lutheran Church...Claremont, NC		
Patricia Hoke: Administrative Assistant secretary@smarklc.org (828) 459-2161				 www.smarklc.org	
Larry Smyre: Church Sexton (828) 459-2161				St. Mark's Lutheran Church, Claremont NC http://www.youtube.com/ @st.markslutheranchurchclar6483	



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God's work. Our hands.