



*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 that you all are doing well as we prepare for the season of Fall and for cooler weather. I wanted to share with you all some groovy places that I saw God at work and to share what we have going on for the month of October.

I think a groovy place that I've gotten to see God at work in this past month has been in our Sunday Fellowship group before the start of worship. In gathering with that group in the morning, we get to share good things from the week and sad things from the week around coffee, juice, and pastries. It is a nice moment where the Triune God gathers us together to support and care for one another. Then, we get to work together to "escape to the Bible," which is a faith-based activity for all ages to do together. At the end we then get to talk about the Bible passages for worship. While I don't get to stay for all of it, I've gotten to hear from Wendy and Raye how everyone in the group gathers together, talks together, and learns together, both young and old. I think that's a groovy place to see the Triune God at work in our community. If you're curious about checking it out, all are welcome.

Additionally, I got to see the Triune God gather us together for a great meal prepared by our Fellowship Team on August 24. It was a groovy time of good food and fellowship where the Triune God's love was present for all. So, I wanted to give a special thank you for those who were able to put that meal together for the congregation.

















































































































































































































So as we head into October, I wanted to lift up some groovy things that we have going on at St. Mark's Lutheran Church. One thing that I am excited for is getting set up with the Congregational Care Team on a regular visiting schedule with those in our congregation in need of visitation. In getting this schedule set up, I am excited to share the ministry that our Congregational Care Team does in sharing their time, talents, and gifts with the congregation. Additionally, I am excited that we are getting our confirmation group set up with regular meetings to learn and grow their faith relationship with the Triune God and the congregation.

So, I invite the congregation to be on the lookout as we find new and exciting ways to invite the youth of our congregation to dive deeply into the life of the congregation.

Many thanks again to the congregation of St. Mark's Lutheran Church for serving alongside one another in love and hope for what God is doing both around us and through us!

Peace and Blessings,
Fraternally Pastor Quentin

**ST. MARKS NEWSLETTER
OCTOBER 2025**



St. Mark's Women of the ELCA will host a baby shower for **Matthew & Liz Watkins** Sunday, October 12th after the Worship Service in the FLC.

Most of their wish list items have been purchased from their registry by friends and family in Florida.

Items new parents always need are diapers (various sizes), wipes, Kleenex tissue, diaper rash crème, baby toiletries, gift cards or money. Any gift will be appreciated.

Please show our warm St. Mark's hospitality to this couple at this special time in their lives.

It's a GIRL!!

PRAISE BAND/BLENDED SERVICES

We will have the Praise Band and blended services once a month on the following Sundays at our 10am Worship Service:

October 26
November 23



The Annual Quilt Sale will start Sunday, October 26th, just in time for cooler weather and the coming holidays. Check out the beautiful handiwork of the Quilting Ladies and support their efforts.



**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.



Claremont Daze

October 3 6 pm—10 pm
October 4 10 am - 4 pm

St Mark's will be hosting our **POPCORN** booth and a **BAKE SALE** (funds going to our Blessing Box).

Please sign up on Sunday mornings to volunteer your time at the booth. If you have an hour or two, plan to come out and help give out popcorn, talk to people and sell baked goods.

We also need people to donate individually wrapped homemade/homemade like items: Cakes, cookies, brownies, Chex mix, etc. Items should be cut/sliced and placed in ziplock bags. If you bring items to the church Thursday, October 1st, we will help do this.

Thank you for your help!

Trunk or Treat



Saturday, October 25th
5:00 pm - 7:00 pm

Set up begins at 4:00 pm in the front church parking lot. Sign-up on the table in the sanctuary if you plan to decorate your trunk and give out candy.

Candy Collection begins
Sunday, September 28th.
Look for bins at the doors.



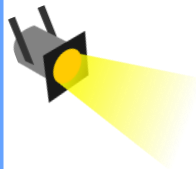
Western Themed Congregational Cookout and Entertainment

Sunday, October 26th
following Worship

Dandy Don, the Cowboy Singer,
will serenade us during lunch with
Tall Tales and Classic Cowboy
and Western Songs.

Hamburgers, Hotdogs and
Baked Beans will be served.

Come dressed in your Western Best



Preschool Spotlight



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


PRAYER LIST—MEMBERS and EXTENDED FAMILY & FRIENDS			
Members: Mike Baker Libby Brown Gail Carpenter Gary & Susan Carpenter Jan Carpenter Eva Cloninger Alanna Dotson Bill Dotson Kathy Gibson Rachel Hall Jo Marilyn Hewitt Linda Hewitt Bill Hollar Tammie Hoyle Ken Isenhour	Pat Kale Miriam Keisler Rudy Little Gaye Morrison Kelly Morrison Norman Morrow Betty Powell Kathy Ray Evelyn Setzer George Setzer Carolyn Sherrill Carolyn Sigmon Hal Sigmon Johnny Sigmon Elaine Simmons Larry & Judy Smyre	Betty Williams Tony Williams Family & Friends: Brittany Bailey Caleb Beatty Mike Benfield Barry & Sheila Brake Scott Campbell Jo Ann Fox William Hampton Forrest Huret Mike & Alice Lawson Tonya Lawson Rita Ledbetter Bill & Laura McBrayer	Nicole Nimrod Betsy Roberts Dana Roberts Mark Sepulvador Kathleen Sigmon Loretta Stephenson Michael & Rachel Swink Jo Carol Thomason Emory Addison Woods Danny Young Active Military: Matt Hall Bryant Helvie Davis Tucker

Saint Mark's Lutheran Church Ministry Financial Analysis August 31, 2025		
7/31/2025	Month	Year
General Fund Offerings	18,542.12	174,884.44
Expenses	26,944.77	211,486.17
Balance	(8,402.65)	(36,601.73)
August's Noisy Offering and Milk Pail was \$363 and was given to support Bunker Hill Football FCA Summer Camp. September's offering will go to the St. Mark's Preschool Scholarship Fund.		
Special donations received: ~A donation in memory of Clyde Fisher was given by Denise Arndt to the Blessing Box. ~A donation in honor of Betty Williams was given by Terry & Tamarah Hefner to the Noisy Offering for St. Mark's Preschool Scholarship Fund.		

Special prayer requests lifted up:

Hal Sigmon Family
Marlene Epps
Caleb Sigmon
Julie Jones
Carson Hollar

Rich Surace
Dylan & McKenzie
Phil Williams
(Nobia's Father)



August-September 2025 Worship Attendance		
	Present	YouTube
August 24	86	
August 31	65	11
September 7	77	14
September 14	77	12
September 21	<u>67</u>	<u>12</u>
Total	372	49
Weekly Average	74	12

NC Women of the ELCA 2025 Fall Conference Gathering will be held Saturday, October 4 at Sardis ELCA in Hickory. We will gather for food and fellowship, collect offerings, experience a thought-provoking Bible Study on Peter and Cornelius and hold a Candlelight Service of Remembrance for the Christine Bohr-Anderson Seminary Scholarship. A Continental Breakfast will begin at 8:30am. More information is posted at the entry ways.

*“For such a time as this,
God’s love breaks through”*



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Thrivent Choice Dollars
designated to St. Mark's:
Donations from **Thrivent** are sent to St. Mark's by wire transfer to our bank account. There is no other information sent. The Church Council would like to “clean-up” the balance sheet and disburse these funds properly.

If you request (or have requested recently) for Thrivent or any other entity to send a donation to St. Mark's, *please let the church office know*. We need to be correct in posting the donation to the proper person (giver) and where you want these funds to be used.

Any funds received that have not been specifically allotted by October 31, 2025 will by used for the General Fund.

All Saint's Day will be Sunday, November 2nd. We would like to have an insert (like Mother's Day, Father's Day) to remember our loved ones (family and friends) that have passed. Please look for the forms to fill out and return by Sunday October 26th. Cost is \$1/name and proceeds will go to the Blessing Box.

Sympathy to the Hal Sigmon Family on his passing September 17, 2025. A memorial service is being planned here at St. Mark's. Details to come.



**For filling our
Blessing Box**

St. Mark's would like to say a special thank you to Charles Murray and any others who help to keep our Blessing Box stocked with food for those in need. Charles stops by almost every day at St. Mark's and other churches that have boxes as well.

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

NON-PROFIT ORG.
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Claremont, NC

Church Staff		Congregation Council		
Pastor Quentin Surace		2025	2026	2027
pastor@smarklc.org	(704) 280-9921	Jean Cloninger	Carol Schaefer	Tim Carpenter
Wendy Hefner: Family Ministries Director		Terry Hefner	Matthew Watkins	Judy Craig
wendy@smarklc.org	(828) 270-6008	Jonathan Ray	Nobia Summers	Jerry Herman
Emily Schuttenberg: Minister of Music		Nicky Setzer	Cathy Sigmon	Susan Williams
emily205@icloud.org	(706) 248-3323	*The year denotes rotation off Council.		
Maria Wright: Preschool Director		Congregation Council meets on October 20th at 6:30pm		
mw9268@gmail.com	(828) 234-5943	The next newsletter mailing will be October 22nd.		
Randyl Abernathy: Preschool Director		Church Office Hours		
mimab@charter.net	(828) 781-1702	Monday - Thursday, 9:00am—2:30pm		
Deanna Butcher: Finance Secretary		Follow Us Online		
deanna@smarklc.org	(828) 459-2161	St. Mark’s Lutheran Church....Claremont, NC		
Patricia Hoke: Administrative Assistant		www.smarklc.org		
secretary@smarklc.org	(828) 459-2161	St. Mark’s Lutheran Church, Claremont NC		
Larry Smyre: Church Sexton	(828) 459-2161	http://www.youtube.com/		
		@st.markslutheranchurchclar6483		



Vol. 15, No. 10
October 2025



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