St Mark's Newsletter October 2026

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

Women of the ELCA

Seven Women of the ELCA traveled to Trinity Village on Thursday, September 10 to tour the new Independent Care facility. Marcheta Campbell, Administrator, provided a light supper and the group enjoyed meeting many of the residents who live there. The group enjoyed traveling there and enjoyed hearing what Trinity Village has to offer. They have one and two bedroom apartments available to rent. On behalf on the group, Tamarah Hefner, WELCA President, wants to thank Marcheta for offering the tour and our light supper.
We all had a wonderful evening.

God's Work, Our Hands

Our recent Food and Essentials Collection day yielded lots of food for our Blessing Box and others in the area. Thank you to all who came to help with the donations and to those who donated. We are already looking forward to our Spring Collection Day.

Prime Time Senior's Group

The Prime Time Seniors group hit the road recently to see the production of '*The Gospel According to Tennessee*' at the Narroway Lunch Theatre, Fort Mill, SC. Thirteen members of the group enjoyed a delicious lunch and a magnificent performance.
We are already planning our next road trip!

Everything I Learned About Life,
I Learned in Church

* When you make the choice to show up, get involved.

* Not everything is going to go your way, but you can support others.

* You have to pay the power bill. Give what you can, when you can.

* Say Hello and Smile, you don't know what someone is going through.

* You don't know what's happening if you don't read the newsletter.

* Pick a Team to be on, use the talents you were given.

* Sing the song. The Bible tells us to make a Joyful noise unto the Lord.

* Read the Road Map (The Bible). Be ready for the detours (in life).

* Make time to Rest, Reflect and Renew.

'Gifts from the Heart' Christmas Shopping Day

Saturday, November 21st 9am - 3pm

Our third annual Christmas Shopping day is fast approaching and we need everyone's help with this Inspirational Ministry Opportunity. There are over 125 shoppers registered already and we need volunteers and items to make this year as successful as the past two have been. Below is a partial list of items needed. ***New items are requested****. Also, volunteers are needed for various task: assisting shoppers, serving the meal, gift bagging, table monitoring and registration. Please sign up on the table in the sanctuary if you are able to help.*

Items Needed for the Christmas Shopping Day on November 21st

Mens *Small Tool Kits, Flashlights, Car Care Items, Grilling Items, Keychains, Head lamps*

Womens *Bath/body, Lotions, Mesh Scrubs, Keychains, Umbrellas, Comb/Brush*

Children *Crayons, Games, Coloring Books, Small Toys, Small Stuffed Animals*

Kitchen *Cookie Mix Packets, Cooking Utensils, Dish Clothes, Christmas Mugs*

Other *Christmas Socks, Toboggans, Hats, Gloves, Toiletry Items*

Food *Desserts, Sugar Free items, Soft Candies, Hot Chocolate Packets*

WE DO NOT NEED . . . Jewelry, Pictures, Wall Art, Candles, Toy Guns

Happy Birthday!

10th - Rudy Little
12th - Chris Cloninger
14th - Ron Sigmon
15th - Carrie Brown
22nd - Donna Evans
22nd - Pat Kale
25th - Liam Carpenter
26th - Mike Baker
26th - Linda Hewitt
28th - Susan Bolick
29th - Cindy Baker
29th - Tamarah Hefner
30th - Whitney Kau
31st - Linda Lytton

Happy Anniversary!

1st-Tony&Susan Williams
30th-Terry&Tamarah Hefner

Thank you to Deb Crawford for washing the heavy tablecloths in the Family Life Center. It's been a while since these were thoroughly cleaned and it was much needed. Thank, Deb, for your hard work.

St Mark's Preschool

A Donation to "St Mark's Preschool" has been given in Memory of **Melanie Stewart Cranford** (1973—2023) for her birthday, September 13th. 'Melanie collected the needy, the neglected, the hurt children of this world. Her song of giving and loving continues in the legacy she has left behind. Happy Heavenly Birthday our Beloved'
Jim and Marlene Stewart

Donations have also been given to the preschool by Sue Karen Falls and Barbara Moser in Memory of **Abbie Setzer**.

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Preschool got off to a great start this year. There are 23 students enrolled and we welcome Heather Shaffer as a new teacher on staff this year. Join me in wishing our Preschool a wonderful year!

Rest, Renew, Reconnect

A Nurturing Weekend Retreat for Wellness Within

NC - WELCA Fall Retreat
October 2 - 4, 2026

Blowing Rock Retreat Center
Full Weekend = $210
Day Commuter = $100
Scholarships available
See Tamarah Hefner for registration

St Mark's Women of the ELCA

Oct 5 (Mon) - Bible Study 11 AM in lounge.
Oct 13 (Tues) - 5:30 PM meet in FLC to assist with Gifts from the Heart shopping preparation.
Oct 18 (Sun) - WELCA Thank offering Sunday.

Nov 2 (Mon) - Bible Study 11 AM in lounge.
Nov 10 (Tues) - 'Safety First' presentation by Claremont Chief of Police, John Thomas. TBA

Noisy Offering

September Noisey Offering for the **Sipes Orchard Home** totaled $ 720.50 Here is a list of the remaining 2026 monthly Noisy Offering recipients:

October - ***Safe Harbor***
November - ***Rising Hope Farm***
December - ***Christmas meals for needy families***

August/September 2026
Worship Attendance

	Present	YouTube
August 23	69	8
August 30	59	10
September 6	61	10
September 13	63	11
September 20	46	14

Saint Mark's Lutheran Church
Ministry Financial Analysis August 2026

8/31/2026	Month	Year
General Fund Offerings	$30,765.68	$321,088.19
Expenses	$23,932.14	$208,440.13
Balance	$6,833.54	$112,648.06

Keeping our Brothers and Sisters in Christ in our Prayers

Members:
Caitlyn Austin
Mike Baker
Libby Brown
Gail Carpenter
Gary & Susan Carpenter
Alanna Dotson
Bill Dotson
Kathy Gibson
Rachel Hall
Donald & Debbie Herman
Jo Marilyn Hewitt
Linda & Willie Hewitt
Tammie Hoyle
Pat Kale
Rudy Little
Benny & Linda Lytton
Gaye Morrison
Kelly Morrison
Norman Morrow
Betty Powell
Carolyn Sherrill
Carolyn Sigmon
Larry & Judy Smyre
Tony Williams

Family & Friends:
Zane Albert
Brittany Bailey
Caleb Beatty
Jo Ann Fox
Heather Killian Forbes
William Hampton
Wayne Herman
Jack & Luke *(Per Cathy S)*
Loretta Kiesler
Tonya Lawson
Fran Little
Bill Mataya
Bill & Laura McBrayer
The Family of Dennis Null
Layne Olson
Betsy Roberts
Dana Roberts
Dianne Sain
Mark Sepulvador
Loretta Stephenson
Jo Carol Thomason
Phil Williams
Danny Young

Active Military:
Davis Tucker

Make a Joyful Noise

We don't have to have music to Praise the Lord, but it sure can help to open our Soul. There are three opportunities at St Mark's to bring the Word of God alive in music: Singing in the Choir - Playing in the Handbell Choir - Playing in the Praise Band Not everyone is musically gifted, but the Bible says to '...make a joyful noise.' So, if you would like to lend your talents to any of these, attend practice and join in. Choir Practice is held Wednesday evenings at 6:00pm; Handbell Choir practice is held Wednesday evenings at 6:30pm and Praise Band practice will be held Sunday, October 11th following worship service.

"We get nearer to the Lord through music than perhaps through any other thing except prayer." – J. Reuben Clark

Children and Youth Ministry

Activities planned for the Fall:

Sept 27th - **Confirmation Class** following worship
Children's Activity following worship
Oct 18th - **Service Project**: Highways & Hedges 3pm
Nov 15th - **Confirmation Class** following worship
Children's Activity following worship
Nov 21st - **Service Project**: 'Gifts from the Heart'
Dec 13th - **Children/Youth Christmas** Program
during worship service 10:00am

Activities subject to change due to scheduling conflicts.

!! Under Construction !!

St Mark's Ministry is ALWAYS UNDER CONSTRUCTION. New events, new activities, and things we've done for years, all make up the ministry of St Mark's. As you mark your calendars for activities and events this Fall, make sure you have these dates as well as we continue to Build on the Foundation of Christ!!!!

October 2nd - 3rd—**Claremont Daze**. Come help at the St Mark's Popcorn tent
October 4th - **Fall Thank Offering** during worship service
October 9th - **BHHS Football team** will be here for dinner before the game (3pm)
October 11th - **Congregational Council Meeting** voting on 2027 Budget and new council members
October 17th - **City of Claremont and St Mark's Trunk or Treat** 5pm—7pm
October 18th - **WELCA Sunday, Children and Youth activity** (see above)

November 8th - **Honoring Veterans Congregational Luncheon** following service
November 21st - **'Gifts from the Heart' Christmas Shopping Day**
November 29th - **Decorating for Christmas**. Lunch and decorating following worship
December 13th - **Children/Youth Christmas Program** during worship followed by **Congregational Christmas Lunch**
December 24th - **Christmas Eve Service** 4:30pm

Memorials

Recent memorials given
in remembrance of loved ones:

In Memory of Johnny Sigmon
by Ted & Janice Sigmon
by Kermit Nash

In Memory of Steve & Kay Deal
by Denise Arndt
by Kermit Nash

Worship Assistants

Please check the sign up sheet on the table in the church to see where you can help on Sunday mornings. We need greeters, acolytes, cross-bearers, ushers, readers and communion assistants. Remember: ***We Are Better Together!***

Being a Christian is like Being a Pumpkin

God picks you from the patch, brings you in, and washes all the dirt off you may have gotten from the other pumpkins. Then he cuts the top off and scoops out all the yucky stuff. He removes the seeds of doubt, hate, greed, etc. Then He gives you a new smiling face and puts His light inside of you to shine for all the world to see."

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Mark Oakley/Larry Smyre: Church Sextons (828) 459-2161

Congregation Council

2026	2027	2028
Carol Schaefer	Tim Carpenter	Jennifer Carpenter
Matthew Watkins	Judy Craig	Terry Hefner
Nobia Summers	Jerry Herman	Trey Hendren
Cathy Sigmon	Susan Williams	Tim Sherrill

**The year denotes rotation off Council at year's end.*

Congregation Council meets on Oct 19th at 6:30pm.
Items for the newsletter due by October 14th
The next newsletter mailing will be October 21st

Church Office Hours
Monday - Thursday, 9:00am - 2:00pm

Follow Us Online

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www.smarklc.org

St. Mark's Lutheran Church, Claremont NC
http://www.youtube.com/
@st.markslutheranchurchclar6483

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