



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



Children's Sermon with Pastor Quentin

It's time for **PRESCHOOL 2025-26**

St. Marks Preschool

Starts Back
September 2nd, 2025
9:00 - 12:00



ST. MARKS PRESCHOOL



**DROP-IN
OPEN HOUSE**

**AUGUST 28th
FROM 5:30-6:30 pm**

ST. MARKS NEWSLETTER SEPTEMBER 2025

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

I couldn't believe it myself to realize that it's been three months since the start of my ministry here at St. Mark's. So much has happened and I've gotten to do so much learning, listening, and watching the Holy Spirit move through this congregation in groovy ways. So, I thought I'd lift up a few highlights of mine from the last several months and lift up some groovy things that will be starting soon in September.

I think the grooviest thing that I got to witness was our Summer Camp launch off to a week of learning and fun about God's love for us and a love that we get to share with others. Each day we began with music that I played on the guitar for the youth to sing along and we'd close with a devotion written by Wendy, our Family and Youth Director. Another very special thank you to our volunteers that week to make that ministry possible. Another highlight was getting familiar with the worship life of the congregation and seeing the Spirit work in groovy ways. My favorite so far was when one of our first graders joined in assisting our assisting minister carry the offering plates to our ushers and then serve communion bread with the help of his dad. Another has been making visits with our homebound and shut ins. I haven't gotten a chance to meet with everyone yet, but I'm working with our Care Team to get on a schedule of visiting, which I look forward to too.

Now for some things we have coming up that I am excited for this Fall. The big one is that if you have a youth that is either at least 11 years old or in the 6th – 9th Grade, please be aware, and contact me, that we will be kickstarting confirmation for them to learn about the Church, Faith, and what it all means for us today, in Mid-September. Additionally, for our Worship services for the Fall, we will be having a Blended Praise Band-Organ services on Festival Sundays, which are 9/14, 10/26, and 11/23. If you'd like to participate in the Praise Band, let us know.

Again, I would like to thank the congregation of St. Mark's for a warm welcome to the start of our time here. Again, it's already been three months! Raye and I look forward to serving alongside you all as we discern and pray for the Triune God to inspire and guide us to proclaim the Gospel, to make disciples, and to embody God's love!

Peace and Blessings,

Fraternally Pastor Quentin

LEGOS August 1st



HIGHWAYS & HEDGES July 20



Udderly
Delicious for
ice cream

Youth Activity Bowling at Pin Station Sunday, Sept 7th

2:00 pm – 3:00 pm



Meet at Pin Station.
Families Welcome.

YOUTHQUAKE 2025 (3rd-5th Graders)

October 4th @ St. John's, Salisbury

Youthquake is a gathering for youth in the 3rd-5th grade from across the NC Synod for fellowship, learning, service, and worship. This year our theme is 'Our Church'.

Please reserve your place by September 1st.
Please contact Wendy for reservation info.
You can invite a friend.
(828) 459-2161 or (828) 270-6008

Helene Anniversary Service

September 27, 2025

3 p.m. at Nativity, Arden

All are invited to the Lutheran Disaster Response Carolinas' Helene Anniversary Worship Service to be held on Saturday, **September 27**, at 3:00 p.m. at Lutheran Church of the Nativity, Arden. The Rev. Emily K. Hartner, bishop of the North Carolina Synod, will preach. A reception will follow. The livestream link will be available on this page closer to the event.

[2425 Hendersonville Road](https://nclutheran.org/event/helene-anniversary-service/)
[Arden, NC 28704](https://nclutheran.org/event/helene-anniversary-service/)

<https://nclutheran.org/event/helene-anniversary-service/>

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 July 31, 2025		
7/31/2025	Month	Year
General Fund Offerings	17,613.67	156,342.32
Expenses	30,445.25	184,541.40
Balance	(12,831.58)	(28,199.08)
July's Noisy Offering and Milk Pail was \$243.75 and will support Bunker Hill Football FCA Summer Camp. August's offering will go to Sipe's Orchard home.		
Special donations received: ~A donation was made to St. Mark's Preschool in Remembrance of the heavenly September birthday of our angel Melanie Stewart Cranford (1973-2023). She was a heroine who served weak and marginalized women and children. She is always in our hearts and minds. Given by her parents Jim and Marlene Stewart ~Donation given to St. Mark's Preschool: A "Back to School" donation for supplies to help Preschool with the opening of another great new school year! Given by Barry & Kathy Whisnant		

July-August 2025 Worship Attendance		
	Present	YouTube
July 20	74	8
July 27	68	9
August 3	83	9
August 10	81	0
August 17	62	9
Total	368	35
Weekly Average	74	9

Why Grandparents are important:
Their vital role in today's families

Grandparents offer far more than babysitting and cookies.

Research consistently confirms what many families intuitively understand: grandparent relationships significantly impact children's development and family well-being. A study published in the Journal of Family Psychology found that children with close relationships to their grandparents had fewer emotional and behavioral problems (Kong et al., 2013). The positive effects were seen even after adjusting for the influence of parenting.

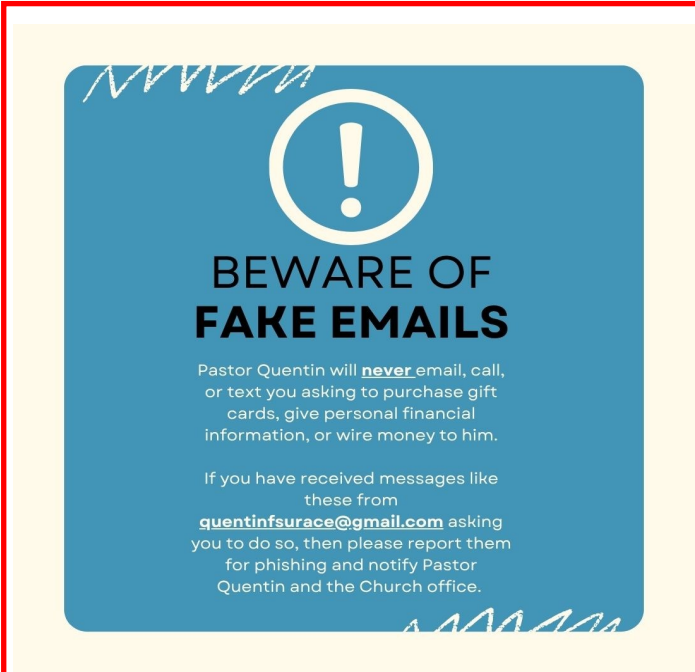
Historically, grandparents often lived with or near their adult children, providing practical support and wisdom as part of daily family life. While today's families may be more geographically dispersed, grandparents continue to offer a different kind of relationship that complements what parents provide.

Multiple studies have shown that children who have strong relationships with grandparents demonstrate greater social skills, including higher levels of empathy (Motherhood Center, 2023). The parent-child relationship is shaped by daily responsibilities and expectations. The grandparent-child relationship, on the other hand, is usually free of those constraints. This relationship offers emotional stability in several important ways:

- Grandparents often have more time and patience for one-on-one interaction
- They provide consistent love during family transitions like moves, divorces, or new siblings
- They offer a sense of family identity and belonging that extends beyond the immediate household
- They demonstrate unconditional love that helps build children's self-esteem

When grandparents share family stories, traditions, and cultural practices, they help children develop a stronger sense of identity and belonging. They serve as living links to family heritage and history—as well as a source of entertainment for the grandchildren.

To read more go to <https://www.morethangrand.com/blog/why-grandparents-are-important>



A few members have informed Pastor Quentin of receiving emails requesting you to send gift cards, personal information or wire money to him. The email address being used is fake and does not belong to Pastor.




THIS IS A SCAM!!

PLEASE REPORT IF YOU RECEIVE SUCH AN EMAIL OR TEXT MESSAGE

Be very careful if a text or email asks for personal information no matter who it appears to be from.

St. Mark’s Lutheran Church
P.O. Box 550
3216 W Main Street
Claremont, NC 28610
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<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 August 18th at 6:30pm The next newsletter mailing will be August 20th.		
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	 www.smarklc.org
Patricia Hoke: Administrative Assistant secretary@smarklc.org (828) 459-2161			St. Mark’s Lutheran Church, Claremont NC http://www.youtube.com/ @st.markslutheranchurchclar6483	
Larry Smyre: Church Sexton (828) 459-2161				



Vol. 15, No. 9
September 2025



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